

Pleasanton Weekly

Still flying high: Pleasanton Unified is still a top-ranked district in latest API ratings

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Summer, kind of wonderful: City and Tri-Valley Y offer a host of camps for kids

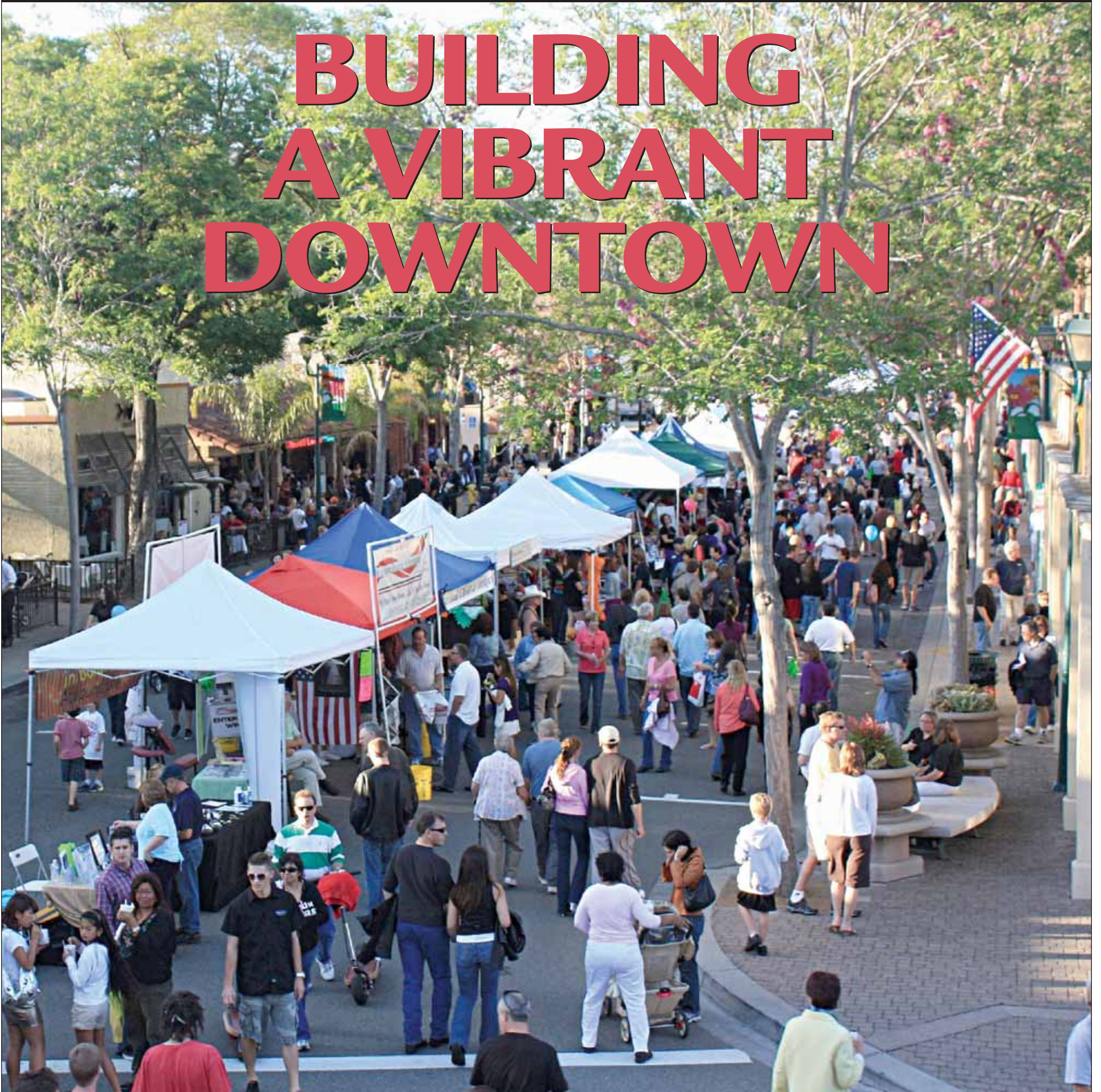
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INSIDE

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BUILDING A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN



New stores, restaurants and family programs add appeal to downtown Pleasanton PAGE 10



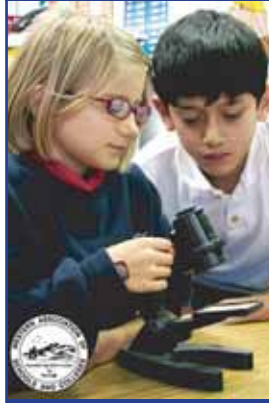
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



The flagpole circle will be the site of the Memorial Day services.

Remembering their sacrifice on Memorial Day

For a city that's known for its downtown parades, the county fair and a shopper's paradise with a regional mall and historic downtown, Memorial Day always offers a solemn side of Pleasanton that hundreds of us also appreciate. Again Monday, the city's Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion posts will conduct their annual Memorial Day services starting at 11 a.m. at the city's newly restored Pioneer Cemetery on Sunol Boulevard. This year's theme is "Remembering their sacrifice," as the war in Iraq winds down and another in Afghanistan intensifies.

More than 500 veterans are buried at Pioneer Cemetery, which was established early in the 1800s and contains the remains of many Pleasanton area pioneers and some who died much more recently than many of us knew. Each year my family walks through the grounds and the adjacent Catholic cemetery to remember those we knew and to read the markers of those who are part of Pleasanton's history. Then we walk over to the flagpole for the ceremonies that include local pageantry by the military and scout color guards, several patriotic speeches and songs and, this year, a 21-gun salute by the Air Force ROTC honor guard from UC Berkeley. Also this year, the Collings Foundation, which is exhibiting World War II planes at Livermore Airport this weekend, has agreed to provide a WWII Warbird flyover as part of the ceremony.

On deck for the commentaries Monday are Jim Lyon, commander of VFW Post 6298, as master of ceremonies; Pleasanton's Vice-Mayor Cheryl Cook-Kallio, and Army Brigadier General Nick Toolitos. Susan Stout-Pierce of the Jose

Maria Amador chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution will read a special poem written for the occasion, with "Memorial Reflections" to be read by Dee Matusiewicz of the VFW auxiliary, and the "Gettysburg Address" by Rebecca Rodriguez of Girl Scout Cadette Troop 30986. The "Honor Roll" of 20 Pleasanton veterans who died in the past year and are now buried at Pioneer Cemetery will be read by the VFW's Joe Rose. For those who enjoy patriotic music, Bob Williams will conduct the Pleasanton Community Concert Band in playing familiar tunes before, during and after the one-hour service.

Then there's more. The VFW and American Legion are inviting everyone to drive over to the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street for a free lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages, prepared and served by the Pleasanton Lions Club. At 1:15 p.m., Girls Scouts Mandy and Alyssa Hanou will be honored with the organization's highest award, the Gold Award, for completing their project on the history of downtown Pleasanton. After being presented with the Gold Award, which is the Girl Scout's equivalent of the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout award, their work will be recognized with the dedication of a bronze historical plaque to be placed in the veterans building.

My good friend Dave Ham, an ex-Marine, former commander of the VFW posts and now its chaplain, said attendance at the Memorial Day ceremony grows each year as word spreads about this special observance. Like me, he believes that this one-hour of joining together as a community around the flagpole at a centuries-old cemetery offers a special time to reflect on the history of our town, pay tribute to the men and women who defended our country and salute those from Pleasanton who are now in uniform in the service of our nation. We hope you'll join us Monday morning. ■

About the Cover

Despite a recession and growing competition, downtown Pleasanton appears to be weathering the economic storm and, in fact, gaining momentum, with new stores and events attracting record crowds to the city's center. Cover photo by Janet Pelletier.

Vol. X, Number 19

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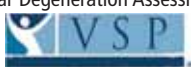
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Streetwise

AROUND TOWN

What’s the best pizza you’ve ever had?



Kristie Raycroft

The best pizza I’ve ever had (and still continue to have) is from Haystack Pizza on 24th Street in San Francisco. I like it so much because when I ask for extra meat, I get extra meat. That’s hard to come by nowadays.

Joe Locicero

The best pizza I’ve ever had was from my friend’s oven in his backyard in Alamo. We’ll go over to his house and make our own all the time. He supplies the ingredients and we do the rest. There’s nothing like a fresh pizza out of a backyard brick oven.



Jane Corpus

I love Toto’s Pizza in Daly City. They also have one in San Bruno (both are on the Peninsula). I don’t know what it is about their pizza, but nobody comes close to how good their crust and their sauce tastes. Everybody should experience a Toto’s Pizza in their lifetime.

Claudia Lawrence

My favorite pizza was from this little cafe in the Piazza Nirvana in Rome last September. I ordered the pizza margherita and it was so good. I hate to say that it was a pizza outside of this area, but I’ve never had anything like it here.



Debra Alexander

I love Gay Nineties Pizza in Pleasanton. For one, I love the atmosphere because they haven’t changed in the last 50 years, but aside from that, I just love their pizza. My favorite is the chicken with the artichoke hearts because it’s healthy and it’s not like your typical pepperoni pizza.

—Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

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

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DIGEST

Public input for TANC

Alameda County and the Tri-Valley Conservancy will host a public scoping meeting regarding the TANC (Transmission Agency of Northern California) Transmission Project from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. To learn more and to RSVP, call 449-8706 or visit www.trivalleyconservancy.org and click on TANC. Seating is limited.

Chefs Grand Tasting

Help support Open Heart Kitchen and the Dublin Rotary by attending the first ever Top Chefs Grand Tasting held from 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, May 29, at Wedgewood Banquet Center, 9430 Fircrest Lane, San Ramon. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$550 for a table of eight. Call 510-512-2145 or visit www.topchefsgrandtasting.org for more information.

Seeking host families

Teen French exchange students will be visiting the area for a month this summer and are looking for host families to teach American customs through everyday life. Students will be visiting from July 2 to 30 and July 11 to Aug. 7. For details, contact Mary Boyd at 510-427-2099

Food drive's bounty

The Pleasanton Post Office joined other mail carriers around the bay to collect food for local food banks. Pleasanton postmaster Gurjant Khosa introduced a program in which each of his 65 letter carriers supplied biodegradable bags to their postal customers to fill with non-perishable food. They collected 25,770 pounds of food—double from the year before. Throughout the Bay, 8,700 postal carriers from 145 post offices collected a record 909,812 pounds of food, about 40 percent more than last year.

TV30 summer camp

This summer, Tri-Valley TV30 will offer middle school students a 20-hour day camp at its Pleasanton broadcast facility. It will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for five days starting June 19. The program is for students considering choosing some form of video production for a future career. The fee is \$495 and limited scholarships are available. To learn more, visit www.tri-valleytv.org or call Melissa Tench-Stevens at 462-3030.

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

5 of 6 statewide measures defeated

By JEB BING

With five of six propositions defeated at the polls statewide yesterday, Pleasanton officials are conferring this morning on the possible financial impact to the city if Gov. Schwarzenegger follows through on his threat to start reducing the state's now \$21-billion-plus deficit by "borrowing" the money he needs from cities and counties.

Final vote tallies showed that Measures 1A through 1E were defeated by more than 60 percent of the votes cast with only Measure 1F passing. That measure, which will prohibit legislators and state constitutional officers from receiving pay raises when the state is running a deficit, was approved by 73.9 percent of voters statewide, with 26.1 percent voting against it.

The final results for the other measures were:

1A: Yes: 34.1% No: 65.9%. Would have sent a portion of state revenues to a "rainy day" fund

Pleasanton braces for revenue takeaways

for use in lean years and capped state spending at a 10-year average of state revenue, adjusted for population growth and inflation.

1B: Yes: 37.4% No: 62.6%. Would have required additional payments to local school districts and community colleges to offset recent budget cuts starting in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

1C: Yes: 35.4% No: 64.6%. Would have allowed state to borrow \$5 billion to address current budget deficit against projected additional lottery proceeds.

1D: Yes: 34.2% No: 65.8%. Would have temporarily redirected \$600 million in funds from California Children and Families Act (1998's

Proposition 10) to General Fund for support of health and human services children's programs, also cutting early childhood development programs funded by the act.

1E: Yes: 33.6% No: 66.4%. Would have redirected \$230 million from Mental Health Services Act funds (2004's Proposition 63) for two years to existing health programs, cutting community mental health programs.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has said that if the propositions failed, he would have to make drastic cuts to education and health care, and served notice that he may ask cities and counties for billions of dollars from their property tax and other funds.

At Tuesday night's City Council meeting, Finance Director Dave Culver said that if the governor follows through on that threat, it could force the city to send nearly \$5 million more to Sacramento to

See **ELECTION** on Page 8



VICKI SALINAS, HACIENDA BUSINESS PARK

Cyclists observe Bike to Work Day

More than 400 cyclists visited the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Energizer Station event May 15 between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. in observance of Bike to Work Day. That was up 30 percent from last year's event, according to Dublin economic development manager Linda Maurer. Throughout Alameda County, more than 9,600 cyclists took part in the one-day event, Maurer said. Hacienda Business Park sponsored the event.

Services Sunday for woman killed in motor scooter crash

Donna M. Bain-St. Germain remembered for being a 'supermom' and 'best friend'

Services for Donna M. Bain-St. Germain, who was killed Saturday in a motorized scooter accident, will be held this Sunday.

St. Germain, 45, died after crashing the scooter she was driving into a tree on Foothill Road just south of the Castlewood Country Club, according to the California Highway Patrol. St. Germain was driving northbound when she veered off the roadway at about 10 a.m. near Verona Road, according

to a CHP spokesman.

Authorities said neither drugs nor alcohol were a factor in the crash.

A mother of two, St. Germain was the loving wife of 15 years to Sam St. Germain of Pleasanton.

She was born Jan. 12, 1964 in Orange, Calif. and was described by friends and family as a "supermom" and "best friend." She dedicated her time and love to a daycare she ran for children.

She is survived by her husband,

Sam; daughters, Florinda and Ashley; brothers, Frank Bain, Jr. of Albuquerque, N.M. and John Bain of Fremont. She was the daughter of Frank Sr. and Agnes Bain of Fremont. She is also survived by former husband, Angelo Cortez of Albuquerque, N.M.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday at Fremont Memorial Chapel, 3723 Peralta Blvd., Fremont.

—Emily West, Janet Pelletier

School budget situation still uncertain

District shortfall likely to total \$16.5 million due to state budget woes

By Emily West

With Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger calling for more cuts to education after five of the six state propositions failed and Concord-area voters defeating a \$99-per-parcel tax Tuesday, there's even more riding on Pleasanton's Measure G.

The hotly contested measure on the June 2 ballot would have Pleasanton residents pay \$233 per parcel for four years in order to save programs, including small class sizes, reading and math support, libraries, counselors, technology instruction, music, and safe and clean schools. It needs two-thirds support in order to net an estimated \$4.5 million for the district.

Since the board voted to put Measure G on the ballot in March, the state's budget climate has gotten worse, with estimates of an additional \$15.3-billion shortfall. The failure of propositions 1A to 1E, which were designed to cover the \$41.6-billion state deficit, results in a loss of \$6 billion for the state.

At Tuesday night's special budget workshop meeting, Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services, said these figures would result in \$6.8 million of additional reductions for the school district, totaling about \$16.5 million in lost revenue.

As for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, Cazares said the district has received award letters for the \$2.5 million for special education, but hasn't received any cash yet. The funding is divided into two payments over two years, with the first

See **BUDGET** on Page 7

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READ MORE/COMMENT

Town Square Forum

NEWS

API scores edge higher

Testing results show Pleasanton still has a top district

By Emily West

The California Department of Education released the API (Academic Performance Index) scores this week, showing the Pleasanton Unified School District has slightly improved over last year's already high-ranking results.

These scores, the most commonly used to rank schools throughout the state, are part of the Accountability Progress Report, which includes results from the STAR (Standardized Testing And Reporting) testing and the California High School Exit Exam from the 2008-09 school year. Its goal is to measure the academic growth of a school.

Districtwide, Pleasanton schools continued the trend of exceeding the state's 800-point target standard with a score of 895, which is based out of a 1,000-point scale.

The top score this year was received by Mohr Elementary, with 956 points, which is down from last year's score of 961. Schools seeing the biggest gains from 2007-08 were Village High, up 28 points (612) from 584; Pleasanton Middle, at 931 compared to 905 in 2007-08; and Donlon Elementary, at 922 compared to 900 in 2007-08.

Districts throughout the state showed improvement as the score jumped 13 points to 741, which is still below the standard.

Nearby districts also saw improvement, with Dublin moving from 833 to 839 and Livermore from 790 to 793, both districtwide. The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is often compared to PUSD and last year the two were tied at 893 points. This year, however, SRVUD edged PUSD out with a score of 901, six points higher.

Base API scores

School	2008-09 score	2007-08 score	difference
Pleasanton Unified School District	895	893	2
Alisal Elementary	893	897	-4
Donlon Elementary	922	900	22
Fairlands Elementary	931	915	16
Hearst Elementary	936	930	6
Lydiksen Elementary	871	899	-28
Mohr Elementary	956	961	-5
Valley View Elementary	904	915	-11
Vintage Hills Elementary	920	916	4
Walnut Grove Elementary	914	922	-8
Hart Middle	906	895	11
Harvest Park Middle	924	899	25
Pleasanton Middle	931	905	26
Amador Valley High	867	870	-3
Foothill High	878	884	-6
Village High	612	584	28

Foothill band director marches on after 41 years

Hundreds are expected to celebrate the 41-year musical legacy of Foothill High School's only band director Bob Moorefield, as he retires this year.

From 3 to 7 p.m. June 6 at the school stadium, current and former students and colleagues will gather.

"It really is like a big family," said Moorefield's wife, Anne. "Some of the guests had as many as four classes a day with Bob when they were in high school. About 20 former band members have married someone he/she met in band, and they bring us their babies to hold."

Guest speakers will include Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) as well as school administrators.

At 5 p.m., current and alumni



Bob Moorefield

band members will assemble on the school's football field to all join in playing "Stars and Stripes." Some of the alumni will be lugging their musical instruments with them from as far away as Boston to be part of the musical tribute.

Bob Moorefield's final concert will be at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 26 at the

Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The performance will include Foothill's award-winning jazz band, which last month participated for their third-consecutive year in the Next Generation Monterey Jazz Festival. Tickets are \$17 and can be reserved at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

—Emily West

To learn more about the party on June 6 and to RSVP, visit <http://event>.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH UPDATE

IMMUNIZATION FACTS AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



Presented by: Yatin Shah, MD
Anamika Sharma, MD

Date: May 28, 2009

Time: 7PM

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd
2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton
two blocks west of hospital

Please join ValleyCare pediatricians Drs. Yatin Shah and Anamika Sharma for an education seminar discussing childhood obesity and immunization facts.

Dr. Sharma will discuss the prevention of childhood obesity as well as the latest in fighting this condition. Dr. Shah will discuss routine childhood immunizations with a special emphasis on recently recommended vaccines. He will also provide an overview of child and adolescent immunization schedules.

We invite you to register for this free education seminar by calling the ValleyCare Health Information and Physician Network at 1-800-719-9111 or visit valleycare.com and click on the classes link.



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Resurrected antique fair this weekend

Popular downtown event has new, local promoter

By JANET PELLETIER

The Pleasanton Downtown Association's Antiques and Collectible Street Faire returns to downtown this Memorial Day weekend and with a new, local promoter to boot.

The bi-annual show, which has been held the past 17 years, was cancelled last October when it was run by San Diego-based Frate & Associates, due to the worsening economy. But the PDA vowed the faire would return and it's followed through with that promise. The new promoters are husband and wife team Jerry and Betsy Goldman of Turn Key Productions. The pair also operate the popular Alameda Pointe Antiques and Collectibles Faire, which features more than 800 dealers who sell their merchandise the first Sunday of the month at the Alameda Point Naval Air Station.

Up to 400 vendors will set up shop along Main Street from 8 a.m.

to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. Wares include vintage, retro and antique home furnishings, clothing, furniture, jewelry, paintings and books. The show will also feature free appraisals from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. by Steve Yvaska, a noted appraiser and journalist. Yvaska will be at the information booth on the corner of Main and Division Streets and there is a limit of three items per person.

For more information, call Turn Key at 510-522-7500 or visit www.pleasantonantiquefaire.com.

Antique mall has kittens

On the same day as the antique faire, the Olde Towne Antiques Mall on Stanley Boulevard will have antique vendors set up in the parking lot selling various goods. Among them will be an adoption booth from Outcast Cats, a feral and humane cat program which adopts cats out as well as performs neutering and spaying.

Joanne Holleman, a spokeswoman for the antique dealers at the mall, said there will be a number of cats available for adoption, including some kittens that were born recently at the antique mall.

"We had a feral momma have eight kittens near a hedge right outside our store," she said.

The mother and her kittens are being cared for by Holleman and they will be six weeks old come Sunday and are available for adoption.

"They're just as cute as can be," Holleman said. "There are five of them that survived."

The kitties—and the antiques—will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at Olde Town Antiques, 3440 Stanley Blvd. Vendors will be donating proceeds from the sale of cat-themed goods to the foundation and there will be coupons for a local pet food store and a free barbecue. For information, call Holleman at 963-6679. ■

New veteran's facility OK'd in San Joaquin County

\$250-million center, championed by Congressman McNerney, expected to create 900 jobs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced last week that it has approved construction of a \$250-million veteran's facility in San Joaquin County that's expected to serve thousands of vets in need and create 900 jobs.

San Joaquin County is home to more than 42,000 veterans, and the project will include an expanded outpatient clinic and nursing home.

In the Central Valley region as a whole, there are more than 80,000 vets. Congressman Jerry McNerney, (D-Pleasanton), who has been lobbying for the facility for years, said it will be a boon to that region's economy.

"The construction and staffing of the facility is estimated to bring 900 much-needed jobs to the area," he said.

The VA had been considering San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties as possible locations. The closest veterans center to San Joaquin County is an outpatient clinic in French Camp, followed by Livermore and Palo Alto. A specific location for the new facility, which is anticipated to be completed by 2015, has not been chosen yet.

—Janet Pelletier

BUDGET

Continued from Page 5

half available to offset encroachment. The \$5.6 million to be received from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) is considered an estimate.

Cazares said they anticipate reductions in SFSF dollars because of the growing state deficit that will be accounted for in the newest budget update. Called the May revise, it is typically released in mid-May and is used by the board to adopt the final budget in June. Gov. Schwarzenegger released a copy May 14, but is expected to have another version May 28.

"The governor, in agreeing to take the federal dollars, had agreed to certain assurances," Cazares said. "One is tied to the level of base funding. He had to guarantee not to reduce funding beyond fiscal year 2005-06. [The May revise] is taking us well beyond that level of cuts."

Superintendent John Casey said the federal money will give relief for a short period of time, but won't cover the level of cuts going into the new school year.

"Measure G is relief of \$4.5 million over four years, during which we would hope the economy would start to turn," he said. "It provides stable, reliable, predictable funding

for this time of concern and supports program identified as critical by the community."

Some relief has been found through the February 2009 Budget Act. Funding items listed in the lowest priority (tier three) could be used for other purposes. Early estimates show this potentially adding \$988,197 to the general fund.

The state also allowed some modification to the class-size reduction agreement in the act. A student-to-teacher ratio of 20:1 is currently funded with \$4 million by the state and \$1.6 million from PUSD. If the ratio were increased to 25:1, the state would reduce their contribution by 20 percent, but it would save PUSD \$1.6 million in teacher salaries.

Cazares said, however, that the board approved the elimination of class-size reduction when it made nearly \$10 million in reductions in late February.

"We would be restoring [class-size reduction] if the parcel tax were to pass," she said. "We've been using the 30:1 ratio to develop the budget and didn't go beyond that because of contractual obligations."

This picture of the budget is not final, Cazares said, because there are several issues that could im-

pact it. The board will hold their regular meeting at 7 p.m. May 26 at the district offices. They are also expected to meet after the June 2 election. Casey said they hope to meet soon after the election to move forward on the budget process, which includes a June 4 deadline for teachers to receive lay-off notices. The board would need to adopt a budget at their June 22 meeting, which was moved from June 23. ■

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Planners OK General Plan update

New plan moves to City Council next month for final hearings, likely approval

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton Planning Commission has approved the city's updated General Plan, sending the several-hundred-page document on to the City Council for final action and ending five years of public hearings and staff efforts to finalize the comprehensive municipal land use and policy guideline.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said that with the Planning Commission's approval at its May 13 meeting, the General Plan will go to the council next month for a final public hear-

ing and expected approval. Once approved by the council, it will serve as the guideline for shaping future growth, land use policies and new energy and conservation planning through 2025.

It replaces the current General Plan, which was enacted into law in 1996 and amended several times to meet changing conditions in Pleasanton, which now has a population of about 67,000. The new plan projects a population growth to more than 78,000.

The new plan also pays more

attention to environmental concerns facing the city, including greenhouse gas emissions, global warming issues, future water shortages and traffic increases. Although a long-standing plan to build a freeway interchange at West Los Positas Boulevard and Interstate 680 has been stripped from the new plan, the extension of Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road and Livermore stays in and is part of the overall development of Staples Ranch, which was not part of the 1996 General Plan. ■

Cultivating character

Luncheon honoring community values held Thursday

The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative, which seeks to develop traits of responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity, is hosting its third annual luncheon and workshop Thursday.

Julie Dwyer, former national director of Character Counts, will serve as the afternoon's keynote speaker. Winners of the Juanita Haugen Civic Engagement Award will also be honored.

The luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Pleasanton at the Club, 7050 Johnson Drive. It will be followed by a workshop for business and community leaders from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for both events, and RSVPs are requested by May 22.

—Emily West

To learn more, call 846-5858 or visit www.communityofcharacter.org.

Free workshop for autism, developmental delays

Dublin's School of Imagination will host its Happy Talkers Community Outreach Fair May 30.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7625 Ridgeline Drive in Dublin, parents can have their children screened for developmental delays and autism, as well as receive immediate referrals to onsite agencies. Experts in the field—including pediatricians, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, child development special-

ists and more—will also serve as a resource in planning, if necessary.

SOI began as a Happy Talkers in a Pleasanton home and has since served more than 3,000 students since it was founded in 2000.

"We launched the Happy Talkers Community Outreach Fair as part of our mission to ensure that every child receives help as early as possible," said Charlene Sigman, speech therapist and founder of SOI.

Early screening, diagnosis and intervention for children between 18 months and three years are critical because they need to begin services and therapies during this period to try to meet developmental milestones, according to Sigman.

—Emily West

To register and for information, call 877-KIDS-TLC or visit www.schoolofimagination.org/outreach.

ELECTION

Continued from Page 5

help pay down the state deficit.

That would come from sending 8 percent of the city's property taxes for fiscal 2009-10 which starts next July 1—or about \$4.7 million—to the state. To do that, Culver said the governor would suspend 2004's Proposition 1A, which protects local funds from being used by the state, and to borrow 8 percent of local property-tax revenues.

In addition, the state could seize another \$640,000 Pleasanton receives from Proposition 42 local sales taxes on gasoline, which the city uses for capital projects.

Schwarzenegger's action is allowed under Proposition 1-A, a constitutional amendment written by the League of California Cities and the California Association of Counties and approved by voters in 2004.

Under Prop. 1-A guidelines, the

state is allowed to "borrow" twice from cities, counties and special taxing districts within a 10 year period, but any money borrowed must be repaid before a second takeaway could occur. The state also must repay borrowed funds at 7 percent interest within three years.

Prop. 1-A came as a result of years of takeaways by the state that started in 1993 when Pete Wilson was governor, with money being taken by Sacramento on an as-needed basis for the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Those funds are still being siphoned off from cities and counties, with more than \$90 million so far stripped from Pleasanton's General Fund.

Although the funds were designated to help the state meet its obligation to finance education throughout the state, there's never been any accounting of how the money is disbursed based on city and county

contributions, Culver said.

"If the \$90 million Pleasanton has paid into this fund had actually gone to the Pleasanton school district, I wouldn't complain," said City Manager Nelson Fialho. "But clearly, our school district has not gotten the benefit of that money."

Tuesday night, Culver said that Pleasanton appears to be in better financial shape than many other local agencies that will have to give up 8 percent of their property tax revenue to the state.

Anticipating a state grab for local revenue, Culver recommended last fall that \$3 million sitting unused in the city's capital improvement fund be added to the \$7.9 million already in a temporary recession reserve, boosting it to \$10.9 million. If Schwarzenegger seizes \$4.7 million from Pleasanton, the money will be disbursed from these reserves. If that never happens, the money will be transferred out of

the temporary reserve back to the capital projects fund.

"Right now, we have completed most of our capital projects and can wait a few years before needing the funds," Culver said.

Besides the possible takeaways, which would occur next January and April, when the city receives its property tax payments, Pleasanton is also losing vehicle license fees gradually as the Department of Motor Vehicles takes more to pay increased administrative expenses.

Culver said the city received \$400,000 in those fees in 2006-07, then just \$300,000 the following fiscal year, and projects receipts to total only \$160,000 this year.

"Fortunately, we anticipated the state's financial problems and put money aside to prepare for it rather than spend it," Culver said. "Many other cities are not in such good shape. ■"



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A vertical collage of various furniture items. From top to bottom: a yellow armchair with black casters; a wooden desk with a blue office chair, a floor lamp with a white shade, and a red book; a green sofa with three dark green cushions; a wooden coffee table with a lower shelf; a blue bookshelf with books and drawers; a wooden stool with a blue seat; a green office chair with a five-star base and casters; and a light blue sofa with a wooden coffee table in front of it.

A vertical collage of various furniture items. From top to bottom: a brown leather armchair; a wooden easel holding a painting of a landscape with a sun; a tall wooden bookshelf with a desk and drawers; a blue upholstered armchair; a red upholstered armchair; a tall rectangular mirror on a stand; a small wooden side table; a beige upholstered armchair with a matching ottoman; and a brown leather sofa.



www.TheHomeConsignmentCenter.com



Little Valley Winery owners Bill Webster and his wife Sandi Bohner (behind counter) pour wine for Dick and Roberta Stafford and Nicole Melton.



Lisa and Johnny Weimas show one of their creative tops at their Passionate Athlete store on Main Street during Spring Fling earlier this month.



At Brenda Dronkers' family-owned and managed business, Brenda Dronkers, Matt Dronkers, Ron Dronkers.

BUILDING A VIBRA

New stores, restaurants and family programs

BY JEB BING

Despite a recession and growing competition, downtown Pleasanton appears to be weathering the economic storm and, in fact, gaining momentum.

In recent weeks, new stores have opened downtown, including clothing shop Thriving Ink on Angela Street, yogurt shop Yolatea on Division Street, which is open into the late evening hours, and the Berry Patch, which moved across Angela Street into the prime corner space vacated by toy store G.R. Doodlebug.

Little Valley Winery opened to large crowds just before Mother's Day and more than 200 turned out for Thriving Ink's grand opening.

More stores are on the way, including a Vietnamese restaurant on Main Street near Angela and Farmers Restaurant, a family eatery that will open around July 1 inside the Pleasanton Hotel.

Also in July, Rick Hirshberg will open a Pleasanton branch of his popular Rick's Picks on Hartz Avenue in Danville, a store that offers deep discounts of brand name merchandise for nearly everything for homes, kitchens, gardens and even upscale toys for children.

The business frenzy is the result of a close working relationship of the Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA), a new merchants group and City Manager Nelson Fialho and Economic Development Manager Pamela Ott to buoy the prospects of downtown Pleasanton after a dreary start to 2009. The team set into motion searches for new businesses and expansion by others, and now the group is developing a longer-range business strategy to keep the momentum going.

The effort is being helped by special events that are bringing thousands into the downtown. Spring Fling, a merchant-sponsored evening of treats and music on the Friday before Mother's Day, saw hundreds walking the downtown streets with gifts in hand. That came just two days after an estimated 9,000 jammed the downtown for the PDA's launch

of its First Wednesday Street Party May 6, the largest crowd ever for a kick-off May event.

This Sunday, Betsy and Jerry Goldman of Turn Key Productions will bring their Spring Antiques & Collectible Street Faire to Main Street, an event back after a one-year hiatus that is expected to attract 8,000 to 10,000 antique fanciers.

Another First Wednesday is scheduled for June 3 with the CoolTones returning to Lions Wayside Park June 5 to launch the PDA's "Concerts-in-the-Park" series of Friday night music.

"With all the new stores and activities, I think this summer will be a very vibrant one for Pleasanton's downtown," said Christine Salidivar, executive director of the PDA. "People are excited about what we will be offering both in the shops and on the street."

The downtown turn-around is not by accident. Melanie Sadek, owner of pet-themed Murphy's Paw on Main Street and a marketing guru with years of experience in developing business opportunities, rallied other merchants who were concerned by store vacancies and economic stagnancy. The group now numbers about 20, meets every other Tuesday, and has already sponsored programs to bring more people to downtown Pleasanton.

One program a few months ago provided 10 percent discount coupons to those making retail purchases for meals at downtown restaurants. The restaurants did the same, and for the first-time retailers and chefs worked to help each other gain more customers.

Spring Fling was another program developed by the group of maverick merchants, with hundreds of shoppers shopping at downtown stores late into the evening for special discounts, tasty free desserts and appetizers, street bands and special gifts for purchases. Last week, the merchants agreed to hold more of these kinds of events during the summer, including a shopping spree for buyers on a Saturday night, again with music and treats, and a "Boardwalk" event that will have special appeal to the younger crowd and their parents. There



Members of the downtown merchants group and their businesses are (standing from left) Mary C. Bohner, Little Valley Winery; Judy Wheeler, Towne Center Books; Alexis Gass, Clover Creek; Linda Stoneworks; and Jaime Zile, J'aime Bridal. In front (from left) are Cyndi Frazier, All About Me & M



Thriving Ink store on Angela Street are (from left) Zoe, Jenelle Dronkers and Angelica Pitsos.



Sharon Mattern (left), owner of American Harvest, and Debbie Thibault (right) join customer Kathy Pierini who is wearing a Thibault necklace.



Alexis Gass, owner of Clover Creek, wraps a gift for a customer at her Main Street gifts and home decorating store.

PLASANT DOWNTOWN

Programs add appeal to downtown Pleasanton



PHOTOS BY JEB BING

Costello, Rising Loafer; Brenda Dronkers, Thriving Ink & Co.; Kathy Starkey, Gourmet Works; Sandy Wyner, Pans on Fire; Robin Ehman, Sincerely Yours Cards and Gifts; Linda Bourland, Serenity Girls; Dena Westfall, Stork's Nest; Melanie Sadek, Murphy's Paw; and Lori Barnes, Me & Emmi.

might even be a dunking tub on Main Street with opportunities for Pleasanton residents to "dunk" the mayor or another city official and free outdoor movies are planned for summer evenings starting next month in Delucchi Memorial Park at Angela and First streets.

"Walk downtown these days and you'll find a vibrancy among the merchants that we didn't have only a few months ago," Sadek said. "By working together, we're making downtown more lively and with merchandise and activities that people are enjoying."

The PDA has long championed major activities, such as the street fairs and night-time concerts, but it's the merchants who seem to be better at deciding how best to attract business to their stores.

"This isn't just about getting more business in our stores, although that would be nice," Sadek said. "We want to make downtown a destination for families that want to have fun while also seeing what we have to offer. So we're talking about having more live music downtown, maybe once a week, about filling up all the vacancies that we still have and keeping the momentum going."

Although new stores and others that are expanding have moved into most of the vacant properties downtown, the large empty building that once housed Domus is still empty, leaving what some merchants' views as an eyesore to prospective shoppers driving by. Also empty is the lot where the Union Jack Pub once stood and where a two-story restaurant was planned, but that prospect withdrew its plans.

Next door, though, Al Bronzini is reworking his building that once housed antiques. Half of it will soon be occupied by Rick's Picks with another tenant considering the other side.

Judy Wheeler, owner of Towne Center Books on Main Street and now serving again as president of the PDA, said that marketing is key to attracting shoppers from beyond Pleasanton, but that people who live here should be encouraged to shop locally.

"I know that customers have a choice and can shop all over the area, but I hope they'll spend their money in their own backyard to strengthen our community and downtown Pleasanton," Wheeler said.

She pointed out that many downtown businesses are family-owned and truly mom-and-pop stores, such as her own. That's different than the businesses in Hacienda Crossings in Dublin or in Walnut Creek.

"Those who shop in Pleasanton also tell me they run into their friends and neighbors here," she added. "That doesn't happen in other areas."

Thriving Ink, one of the newest downtown businesses, is truly family-owned and operated. An independent clothing and art boutique, the store at 55 W. Angela St. is owned by Brenda Dronkers, who started the Pump It Up entertainment center for children in 2000. She took the business national in 2003 and later sold it to start her own clothing line. After a successful venture online, she started building the brand that today is Thriving Ink.

Besides her husband Ron, their children also work at the store and handle the selection of artists and stylists for the clothing they sell. Thriving Ink also offers music and art shows during the week, with trunk shows and art classes every week.

"Our focus is wholly on making downtown Pleasanton more vibrant," Dronkers said. "We're working with other merchants to make coming downtown an incredible experience."

Along with the special summer programs, Sadek and her group and the PDA also are planning shopping links for those skating at the Sharks outdoor ice rink during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

"We might offer ice skating tickets at a discount to those who come downtown and take them to the ice rink near the library by a horse-drawn carriages," Sadek said.

Next year, the PDA, merchants and city officials will tie downtown shopping and dining into the new \$10-million Firehouse Arts Center that is now under construction at the end of Division Street on Railroad Avenue. ■

Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Budget surpluses: How Pleasanton does it

Back in the 1990s when economic times were good, Pleasanton's leadership adopted a fiscal conservative policy that started setting city revenue surpluses aside for a "rainy day," just in case there ever was a time that financial conditions changed. About the same time, the leaders in Sacramento moved in a different direction, celebrating soaring tax and other state revenues with new and costly ongoing programs, larger payrolls and government expansion. On Tuesday, those two vastly different policies were clearly in focus as voters overwhelmingly rejected Gov. Schwarzenegger's plate of measures to partly pay down a looming \$21-billion state deficit. Tuesday night, even before polls closed, Pleasanton's Finance Director Dave Culver won the City Council's praise for a two-year budget starting July 1 that is balanced, debt-free and includes a rainy day fund that is now more than \$13 million strong.

Because of Culver, his predecessor Sue Rossi, City Manager Nelson Fialho and his predecessor Deborah McKeenhan, with the support of the city councils they reported to, Pleasanton never wavered from its commitment to keeping year-to-year surpluses despite occasional pressures to dig into those funds for capital expenditures. Today, however, with sales tax revenue down 10 percent, a zero percent projected increase in next year's property tax revenue and development basically at a standstill with almost no developer fees—once the cash cow of Pleasanton municipal revenue in the late 1990s and early 2000s—the good times are over. Last year's \$100-million operating budget has been pared to \$89 million with budget constraints in place, including holding vacant positions open, making fleet cars and trucks last longer and reorganizing and eliminating department positions.

Yet as well positioned as Pleasanton is today, unless the fiscal nightmare in Sacramento is resolved, no city, including ours, will escape financial damage. Culver observed this week that with the governor's planned takeaway of up to 8 percent of property tax revenue from California cities and counties to help reduce the state deficit, which Schwarzenegger is permitted to do for up to three years without paying it back, many municipalities that are already facing financial shortfalls may be pushed over the precipice. Vallejo already has declared bankruptcy. Alameda County's Administrator Susan Muranishi said Wednesday that the county could lose more than \$70 million in state takeaways, which will force drastic reductions in services to children, the elderly, the poor and disabled.

Pleasanton's municipal finances are a byproduct of the economy and state budgetary issues. If conditions don't change, if the state continues to borrow money on the backs of local communities, this city will face adversity, too. Other cities, large and small, are meeting their budget shortfalls by reducing services, cutting back on staff, shutting down libraries and fire stations. That's not what we want to see happen here, or anywhere, for that matter. The governor now has to revise his already-revised May revise and find common ground with a legislature that has yet to deal with its financial problems and do it before more damage is done. A constitutional convention that could address the two-thirds majority vote requirement in the legislature that's been most of the problem should also be on the governor's agenda. The fiscal leadership shown by Pleasanton's Culver, Rossi, Fialho and McKeenhan has worked well for this city for more than a decade. Perhaps it's a dream team Schwarzenegger should invite to Sacramento to lead the way again. ■

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LETTERS

Why I voted 'no' on Measure G

Dear Editor,

I voted "no" on Measure G for the following reasons:

The school district just received confirmation that an over \$6-million bailout from the federal government in confirmed. More is to follow. This covers the deficit if no raises (including step and column raises) are given. The parcel tax will cost taxpayers \$18 million over four years—\$15 million of that will go to salary increases (step and column raises).

The school district mismanaged facility funds. They have borrowed over \$145 million and just recently went to the city for a loan to help pay interest due.

The school district is using scare tactics threatening loss of class size reduction if you don't add this additional parcel tax. Don't fall for it! Look at your last property tax bill and you will find the average homeowner pays \$833 to the school district already. Enough is enough.

A special election on June 2 is costing the school district \$300,000. Money wasted again. This election should have been combined with the May 19 state election. We cannot continue this lifestyle of spending, taxing and borrowing.

Measure G is the wrong tax at the wrong time.

Kay Ayala

former city councilwoman,
school/city liaison member

I'm a frequent graffiti hotline caller, remover

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the article regarding graffiti ("The writing on the wall," Cover Story, April 24, page 12). It has been my feeling that removing it as soon as possible is the best defense. I have been using the Graffiti Hotline for the past two years.

When I am bicycling through the city I am able to notice it more than someone in a car. I have, at times, come by the next day with a spray can of solvent and a rag to remove it myself. When the graffiti is painted on a smooth surface it is fairly easy to remove when it is only a few days old. On the porous concrete surfaces it is more difficult, and I leave that up to the city. Just before they opened the new section of the Iron Horse Trail two years ago, I went through there with a garden sprayer full of paint and covered up the Graffiti. I have also notified businesses of Graffiti on their buildings.

I also, do not want our city to look like "Stockton, Oakland or San Jose."

Nick Vallerga

63 cents a day isn't much to ask

Dear Editor,

Can you imagine taking your child to his first day of kindergarten

and you arrive and there are 30 students in his class and only one teacher? Your child's teacher then informs you that there is only a part-time librarian on campus, so kids can only go the library once a month. There are no counselors and no school nurse. There is only a part-time tech person available to help with computer problems. Oh by the way, the instrumental music program has also been cancelled.

Would you feel comfortable leaving your child at this school? This is the question you must ask yourself before you vote on Measure G on Election Day (June 2). If you don't have children, do you remember the schools you went to when you were growing up? Would you have liked to attend the school that I just described? If you vote "no," Pleasanton elementary schools will be just like the school I described. A "yes" vote will ensure that Pleasanton schools continue to be the best in the state. Please vote "yes" on Measure G. After all, it's only 63 cents a day. Pleasanton's children are worth much more than that, don't you think?

Leah Perez

Valley View
Elementary School teacher

Inconsistency in garbage changes

Dear Editor,

I just received my garbage bill and it has a \$12 increase in rate, nearly 20 percent.

Based on the announcement a couple weeks ago, I was under the impression that, 1) rates would not increase until the new recycling program was actually rolled out and 2) I'd have the option to select a combination of the recycling container and smaller garbage can, in order to reduce the impact of the overall rate increase to only \$1/month.

In fact, PGS increased the rate as fast as they could fire up their bill printers. I just called to ask about the new recycling container, but the billing person I spoke to said that they won't be rolling out that program and rate reduction option until at least this summer. Furthermore, she said there would be another rate increase at that time. What?

To top it off, she rudely ex-

plained that the owner of the company is "rarely there" and wasn't available to discuss the discrepancy between the Weekly story and what PGS is actually doing. When I said I'd instead complain to the City Council about this, she said "you go do that" and hung up on me.

Why have we given this company a monopoly on garbage service in Pleasanton and allowed a 20 percent increase in rates on top of whatever more is coming this summer? The rest of us are struggling through this recession and trying to do more with less. I see no reason why PGS should be entitled to these egregious rate increases while simultaneous treating their customers the way I was treated on the phone. Surely we can do better.

Bill Bennett

'No' on parcel tax would be leaving kids behind

Dear Editor,

When I became a teacher, I didn't have any idea how diverse the abilities in one classroom could be. It's been many years and I'd like to think I can now accommodate most kids' needs but it takes time. The number of children who need special attention seems to be growing each year. Our goal is to "leave no kids behind," but obviously we are. Twenty percent of any classroom needs special attention of some sort. Class size reduction

has allowed us to accommodate these kids.

Whether or not you have children, no one can say they would like to see children suffer, and suffer they will if class sizes grow to 30 students. With cuts in reading specialists, librarians and counselors too, the increased class size is just the tip of the iceberg. Kids who do not get the attention and resources they need to accommodate learning styles, disabilities, attention deficits and social-emotional issues will fall even further behind in school. In correlation, their self-esteem will plummet which could result in behavior problems, lack of concentration and possibly depression. I am not exaggerating. I have seen it happen. We will be leaving more kids behind than ever.

Pleasanton Unified School District's motto is that "Kids Come First." We can support that slogan by voting "yes" on Measure G on June 2.

Vicki Stephens

No more taxes, bailouts—'no' on G

Dear Editor,

We are in a recession and we have yet to hit bottom. People continue to lose their jobs, their homes, their communities. Yet, PUSD is asking for a handout.

Food prices are escalating and gas prices are climbing. Yet, PUSD is expecting a bailout. DMV rates are up and our local sales tax is up. Yet, PUSD doesn't conduct its business as though it was a business. PUSD doesn't need or deserve a bailout.

No more taxes. No more bailouts. Vote "no" on Measure G.

Marty Lamonica

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

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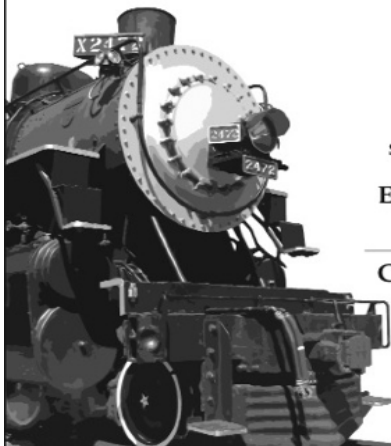
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Catch the train just minutes east of the I-680/880 interchange.

All trains arrive and depart from the Sunol Depot, located at 6 Kilcare Road, Sunol. Sunol is between Fremont and Pleasanton on SR-84, just west of the I-680.
Map & directions: www.ncry.org/map.htm.

For tickets, directions and more, visit www.ggrm.org

Golden Gate Railroad Museum

Sponsored by the Golden Gate Railroad Museum and the Pacific Locomotive Association to support the continued restoration of our historic artifacts and rail line.

Transitions

OBITUARIES

Barbara Jane McWilliams

Barbara Jane (Metcalf) McWilliams, wife of former Pleasanton mayor, the late John L. McWilliams, died peacefully at Pleasanton Convalescent Hospital May 3. She was 91.

A resident of Pleasanton since 1943, Mrs. McWilliams was born June 27, 1917, the youngest of seven children born to Alice (Taylor) and Arthur Metcalf of Loman, Minn.



Mrs. McWilliams' ancestors came from Hull, England and were one of the first European families to settle in northern Minnesota. She grew up on the family farm next to the Rainy River, which borders Canada. When she was 16 she won a Minnesota State Declamatory Speech contest and was awarded a trip to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933. She was a top student in high school and also president of a local youth group for the Lutheran League. She turned down an offer from a family friend for a college education in order to stay and help her widowed mother on their farm.

She married John ("Jack") McWilliams in 1938. In 1943 they moved to Kilcare Woods in Sunol with their young daughter Lynne. Soon after they moved to an apartment in Pleasanton above Edgren's Auto Dealership. In the late 1940s, the family moved to a home on Rose Avenue where they became more involved at St. Augustine Catholic Church. During that time, she joined the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and remained a member for over 50 years.

Mrs. McWilliams was a very dedicated mother. She was an excellent homemaker with boundless energy

who always promoted a positive attitude. She was cheerful, helpful to others and always had a twinkle in her eye. Her children never heard their mother speak ill of anyone, nor repeat a secret told to her in confidence.

During the years her late husband John served two terms on the Pleasanton City Council (1958-1966; two as mayor), she supported him with style and grace. Her husband predeceased her on their 42nd wedding anniversary in 1980.

She is survived by her five children, Lynne, Janis, John, Lee and Barbara Ann; six grandchildren, Christopher, Catherine, Jill, Erin, Mallory and Megan; and one great grandchild, Cooper. Her eldest grandchild, Tifani, preceded her in death in 2002.

Services were held May 9 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Alameda County Meals on Wheels, 6955 Foothill Blvd, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94605 (www.feedingseniors.org), or to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, c/o St. Raymond Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin, CA 94568.

Clifford Alan Cowan

Clifford Alan Cowan died peacefully May 16, surrounded by his family, at the age of 75.

Mr. Cowan was born March 23, 1934 in Berkeley and was a resident of Pleasanton.

He belonged to the Masonic Lodge No. 321 and was a Shriner with the Novkep Unit. He worked as a conductor for the railroad for 42 years and was very proud to be president of the UTU Local No. 239.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; four daughters and sons-in-law, Carole and Glen, Vicky and Dave, Linda and Eric Suzanne and Gary; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A private family celebration will be held.



ENGAGEMENTS

Megan Loperena & Travis Ratliff

Megan Loperena and Travis Ratliff have announced their engagement to be married.

They met at the University of Oregon in the fall of 2002, and moved to San Diego in the fall of 2006. They will be married in July 2009 at Valley Community Church in Pleasanton. A reception will follow at Castlewood Country Club.

Megan is the daughter of Bob and Gail Loperena, formerly Pleasanton residents for 17 years and now residing in Marina del Rey, Calif. She graduated from Amador Valley High School in 2002, from the University of Oregon School of



Music in 2006, and from San Diego State University's School of Teacher Education in 2007. She currently is a middle school band director in San Diego, Calif.

Travis is the son of John and Sandy Ratliff of Junction City, Ore. He graduated from Willamette High School in Eugene, Ore. 2001, from Grossmont College in 2007, and is currently a business student at the University of Oregon.

The couple plans to honeymoon in Jamaica and live in Eugene, Ore. following their July wedding.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

Woman crashes into Workout Express

A 49-year-old Pleasanton woman jumped a curb and crashed into the front window of Workout Express in the Raley's shopping center around 11 a.m. Sunday, police said.

Sgt. Michael Collins said the woman was intending to park and mistakenly hit the accelerator instead of the brake.

In the process, the woman ran over a bike rack, destroying it, and hit the window of the store. Collins said there didn't appear to be any structural damage to the building.

Police said there was no mention of anyone else in the car, but it is possible that a child was in the car at the time. The woman was said to have minor injuries

to her wrist, Collins said.

Neither alcohol nor drugs appeared to be involved in the crash, according to Collins.

Enrollment open for Teens Citizens Academy

Applications are now available for the summer Teen Police Academy. Starting June 23, the three-week class teaches teens about law enforcement procedures from the officers. Topics covered include patrol, SWAT, narcotics, traffic issues, K-9 and more.

The free class is offered to local high school students, ages 14 to 18. Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m.

Applications are available at the police department or by calling 931-5100.

—Emily West

POLICE REPORT

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

May 9

Theft

- 2:55 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 6:09 p.m. in the 5200 block of Crestline Way; grand theft
- 8:56 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

Vehicular burglary

- 4:27 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- 4:48 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

- 2:04 a.m. in the 5000 block of Woodthrush Road
- 7:08 a.m. in the 5400 block of Black Avenue
- 8:36 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive
- 10:29 a.m. in the 5400 block of Montalvo Court
- 6:09 p.m. in the 5200 block of Crestline Way

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:32 a.m. in the 600 block of Main Street; public drunkenness
- 11:09 p.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Parkway and Valley Avenue; DUI

Battery

- 3:31 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Santa Rita Road

May 10

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:46 a.m. at the intersection of Siena and Lucero courts; public drunkenness
- 3:34 p.m. at the intersection of Vine Street and Mavis Drive; DUI, under the influence of a controlled substance
- 10:28 p.m. in the 1800 block of Harvest Road; public drunkenness

May 11

Theft

- 11:49 a.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Drive; petty theft
- 10:46 a.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; forgery
- 2:37 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; grand theft
- 12:01 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 10:37 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; vehicular
- 11:05 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road
- 12:05 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; vehicular

Vandalism

- 10:01 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Vervais Avenue

Under the influence of a controlled substance:

- 5:19 p.m. in the 400 block of Sycamore Road

Disturbing the peace

- 4:28 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Lewd and lascivious acts by force

- 6:09 p.m. in the 2200 block of Goldcrest Circle

May 12

Grand theft

- 8:52 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; conspiracy

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:57 p.m. at the intersection of West Angela and First streets; paraphernalia possession
- 9:34 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness

Battery

- 2:34 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

May 13

Theft

- 8:18 a.m. in the 1500 block of Ridgewood Road; identity theft
- 3:47 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 5:05 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft

Vandalism

- 11:16 a.m. in the 3900 block of Appian Street
- 3:27 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue, disturbing the peace

Controlled substance possession

- 3:38 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Mall Road and Canyon Way

May 14

Theft

- 8:21 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 11:37 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:47 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; riding a bike while intoxicated, non-narcotic controlled

substance possession, paraphernalia possession, under the influence of a controlled substance

- 1:59 p.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue; controlled substance possession, underage tobacco purchase

- 3:23 p.m. at the intersection of Muirwood Drive and Elmwood Circle; driving with marijuana

May 15

Vehicular burglary

- 10:17 p.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive
- 11:09 p.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive
- 11:33 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Vandalism

- 12:54 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Ruby Hill Boulevard

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:44 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; public drunkenness
- 8:56 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Dudley Court; DUI

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PRZ-27, City of Pleasanton**

Review and consideration of amendments to Sections 18.20.010 and 18.84.090, and various sections of the Pleasanton Municipal Code regarding fencing.

- **PRZ-41, City of Pleasanton**

Review and consideration of amendments to Section 18.68 and various sections of the Pleasanton Municipal Code regarding PUD Planned Unit Development District.

- **PRZ-46, City of Pleasanton**

Review and consideration of amendments to Section 18.104 and various sections of the Pleasanton Municipal Code regarding home occupations.

Trails Ad Hoc Committee

- The May 25, 2009 regular meeting of the Trails Ad Hoc Committee has been cancelled.

The next regularly scheduled Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2009, 6:30 p.m., in the Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue.

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 member, 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 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**

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Auditions

YOUTH ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS

Youth Orchestra of Southern Alameda County (YOSAC) will be holding auditions for the 2009-2010 season (Sept.-May) Saturday-Sunday, May 29-30. For more information, visit www.yosac.org or call (510) 483-1163.

Author Visits

SANDRA KAY A book release party honoring local author Sandra Kay's new book "Eat, Write and Exercise" will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 23, at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826.

Book Clubs

GREAT BOOKS OF PLEASANTON The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie at 846-1658.

Events

ELLISTON MYSTERY DINNER

THEATRE Join us for an evening of fabulous food and wine and watch the mystery unfold from 7-9:30 p.m., Friday, May 29, at Elliston Vineyards, 463 Kilkare Rd., Sunol. Tickets are \$69. Call 862-2377 or

visit www.elliston.com.

GOODGUYS 16TH SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

The summer's hottest car show featuring over 2,500 American powered hot rods, customs, classics and more will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, May 30 and from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$15 for adults; \$6 for children ages 7-12. Visit www.goodguys.com.

PLEASANTON CULTURAL ARTS

COUNCIL ANNUAL BANQUET This annual awards banquet will be held to honor Diane Wardin as the Arts Supporter of the Year and eight young artists at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 3, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Tickets are \$35, including dinner. For reservations, call Rebecca Bruner at 426-3218 or e-mail r.bruner@comcast.net by May 29.

SWEET 16TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION FOR SINCERELY YOURS CARDS AND GIFTS Enjoy two fun days at Sincerely Yours Cards and Gifts by celebrating its 16th anniversary from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday, May 29 and from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at the store, 711 Main St. There will be games, prizes, raffles and tasty treats.

THOMAS COYNE WINERY SPRING

OPEN HOUSE This winery will host an open house by releasing seven

new wines and serving fine fruits and cheeses from noon-5 p.m., Saturday-Monday, May 23-25, at the Historical Tasting Room, 51 East Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. "Bottle Your Own Wine" for \$5.50 with your own clean bottle; \$6 for new bottle on May 23 only. Call 373-6541.

Exhibits

ART IN THE VINEYARD The Livermore Art Association presents the 37th Art in the Vineyard from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, May 24, at Wente Vineyards, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. A group of 42 multimedia artists will provide a day of beautiful art, music and fine wines. This event is free. Visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE 40TH

ANNUAL ART SHOW Pleasanton Art League will host its 40th anniversary art show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Sunday, May 29-31, at the Alviso Adobe, 3465 Old Foothill Rd. A reception and awards ceremony will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 30. Admission is free. Call 462-8263 or visit www.pal-art.com/events.

Film

'THE CENTURY OF THE SELF' Parts 3 and 4 of "The Century of the Self" will be shown at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village

Pkwy., Dublin. A short discussion will follow and refreshments will be served. A donation of \$3 will be requested. Call 462-3459.

FREE HEALTH DOCUMENTARY Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Quit all the useless health gimmicks and find out how simple it is to achieve optimum health by viewing a health documentary at 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 209-9871.

Fundraisers

WALK FOR HUNGER Lynnewood United Methodist Church will host its second annual Walk for Hunger commencing at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at the church, 4444 Black Ave. Cost is \$10 for registration, plus sponsors for their walk. Proceeds benefit Open Heart Kitchen and the Alameda County Food Bank. For information, call 846-0221.

Kids & Teens

FREE KAPLAN'S ACT/SAT TEST

A free Kaplan's ACT/SAT Combo sample test is available for teens to take from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Registration is required; visit www.kaptest.com/practicetest.

FREE MOVIE PARTY PartyBees

will host a free movie party from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at PartyBees inside Spark Dance Studio, 3550 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Other movie parties are held on the second Saturday of every month and are free for first time attendees. Call 202-9077 or visit www.partybees.com.

Lectures/Workshops

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS 101 Hear about the top ten college admissions myths from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, at the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Learn how colleges really evaluate applicants, how to find "best fit" colleges and how to prepare for the college application process. This event is free. Call Diane Keller at 963-2392.

FREE VOICE LESSONS Pride of the Pacific, a women's cappella chorus, will offer free voice lessons from 6:15-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, beginning May 27 for four weeks, at Aahmes Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. Call 426-0266 or visit www.pridepacificchorus.org.

Miscellaneous

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10-Buck-Tee of the Week

"My Broseph"



Francisco East Bay's technology based community and will be held from 5-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, at Faz, 5121 Hopyard Rd. This event is free for eBig members; \$20 for non-members. Visit www.ebig.org.

Seniors

SENIORS AGAINST INVESTMENT

FRAUD Come learn about the red flags of investment fraud, how to avoid becoming a victim, and how to protect your loved ones from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The presentation will include informational material on different types of investment scams. Cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Sports

MINI-CLINICS AND BASKETBALL

CAMP Las Positas College will be offering basketball mini-clinics and a week-long basketball camp this summer for boys and girls grades 3-8. Different clinics will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 16-July 23 and camp will be held July 27-31. Cost for the camp is \$79. To register, call 424-1467 or e-mail commed@laspositascollege.edu.

STONERIDGE WATERPOLO Sign-ups for Stoneridge Waterpolo are underway for summer leagues for boys and girls. Pre-season begins May 18 for grades 9-12 and regular summer season for all levels runs June 15-July 30 for elementary through 12th grade. Practices are held at various locations in Pleasanton. For more information, call 484-0172 or visit www.stoneridgewaterpolo.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 drivers. For information, call Jennifer at 931-5387.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRACK AND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS

Volunteers are needed for the Special Olympics East Bay Regional

Track Meets and Volleyball Tournament Saturday, May 30, at Amador Valley High School. Various assignments are available and are on a first come basis. To register, send an e-mail to avboosters@comcast.net.

TV30

OAKLAND A's 40TH ANNIVERSARY

TEAM SHOW TV30 will host Joe Rudi, Vida Blue, Rollie Fingers, Campy, Dave Steward, Richy Henderson and more at the Oakland A's 40th Anniversary Team Show May 29-June 11 on TV30.

TRI-VALLEY SPORTS FINAL The latest in area high school sports reporting with hosts Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr. B" Baljevich and Dennis Miller will be covered on Channel 30. Commentary and footage covering baseball, softball, lacrosse and volleyball at 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; noon and 7 p.m., Saturday; and at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday.



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www.vicsallstar.com

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

Bridges

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

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

United States, Old World Hospitality, and hand crafted artisan cocktails. www.eddiepapas.com

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.

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

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.

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.



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ON THE TOWN



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!

Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

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.

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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1 1/2 pound	\$25.99
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Slab-and-a-Half of Ribs	\$28.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Chicken	\$32.99
Full Slab of Ribs & Whole Chicken	\$32.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Slab	\$36.99

Sides

Small Side Salad
French Fries
Roasted Corn Salad
Potato Salad
Creamy Cole Slaw
Santa Maria Style Beans
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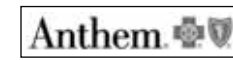
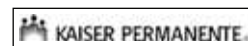


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Vote YES on Measure G on June 2nd

Measure G needed NOW more than ever!

State Budget Consequences for Pleasanton Education

Feb 2009 Budget Act	<\$9.7 million>
Governor's May Budget Revise	<\$6.8 million>
One-Time Federal Stimulus	\$8.1 million
MORE Cuts to OUR schools	<\$8.4 million>

Measure G will raise \$4.58 million annually for 4 years and help provide the education our students & our community deserve!

Measure G:

- Guarantees reliable, **stable**, **local** revenue for **our** exemplary school system
- Preserves critical education programs for Pleasanton students
- Invests in our students for only \$233 per parcel per year for 4 years
- Funds must be spent on the 7 critical educational programs specified in the ballot language
- Ensures accountability - separate account; citizen's oversight committee; independent annual audit
- Funds cannot be used for administrators' salaries
- Offers optional exemptions for senior citizens and for SSI disability recipients

***Protects our great schools and
great schools protect our property values!***

OUR SCHOOLS



OUR COMMUNITY

www.SavePleasantonSchools.org