

# Pleasanton Weekly

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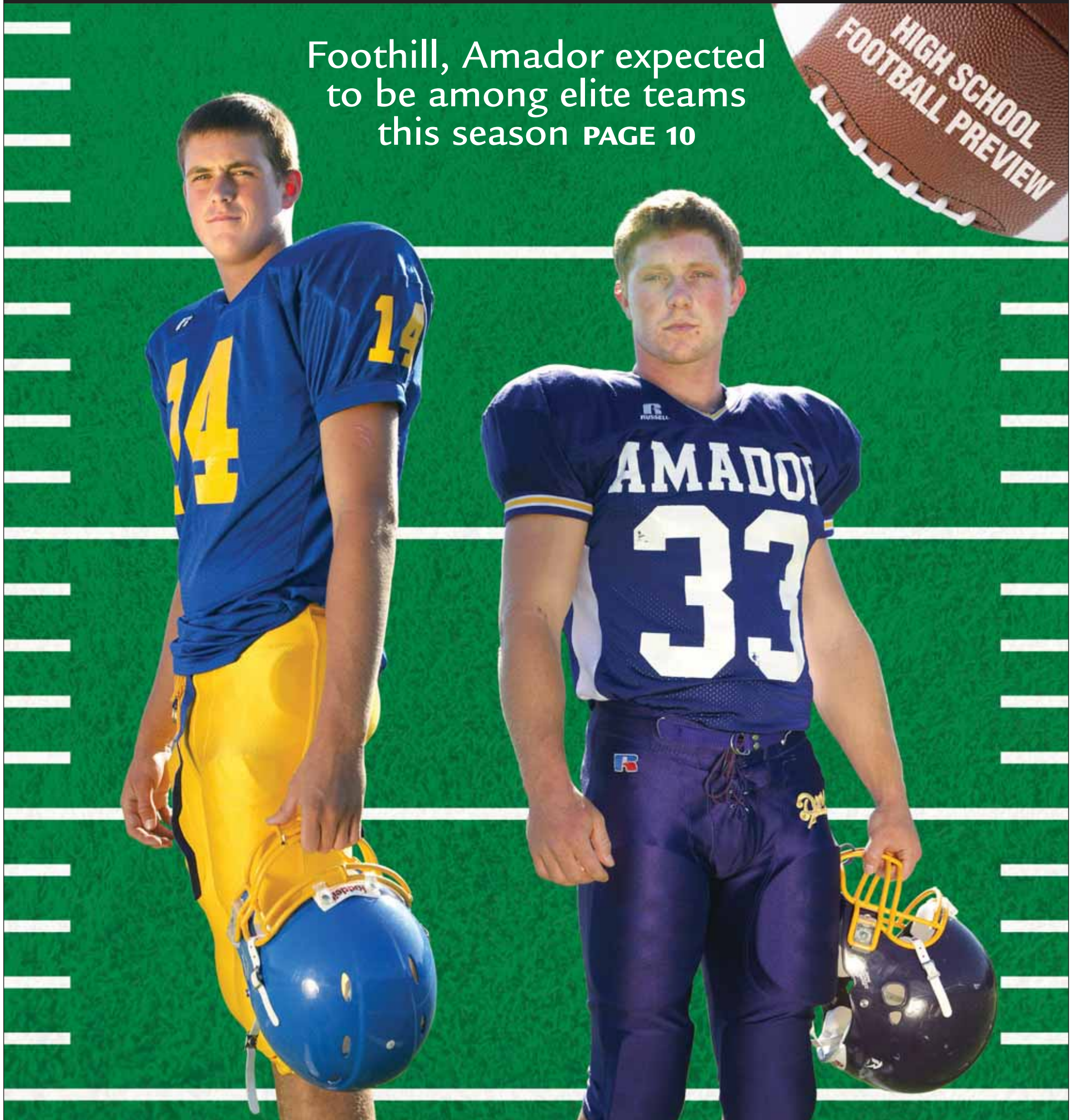
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Foothill, Amador expected to be among elite teams this season PAGE 10

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW



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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## High-tech street lights beef up safety on Foothill Road

It's likely that the 18 new street lights to be installed on Foothill Road just outside the Golden Eagle gated community will be the costliest and most debated ever. And, no doubt, the longest project on the Pleasanton engineering staff's books, dating back to the late 1980s when the three subdivisions that make up the Golden Eagle development were approved. Since Golden Eagle Estates, with the gates, and Golden Eagle without them are on both sides of Foothill, the street was widened a bit to accommodate bike lanes and turning lanes and street lights were installed, all paid by the developers. It wasn't long before the phones started ringing at City Hall asking that those unsightly tall, silvery poles and powerful fixtures that were illuminating Golden Eagle backyards be taken down because they were not in character with the "rural nature" of the upscale community. City workers complied but fortuitously left the concrete and metal footings in place just in case someone changed their minds.

Someone did, in the name of the leaders of the Golden Eagle Homeowners Association. Concerned that deer from their rustic neighborhood were getting run down by motorists on Foothill, they asked the City Council on April 7 to put the lights back up. Since the developers had gone away, this would be at the city's (a.k.a. taxpayers') expense. But before the work crews could get started, protests came in from others in Golden Eagle, mainly those whose homes back up to Foothill, who said they hadn't been contacted by the association and in no way wanted street lights beaming down on their homes. After all, they said in emails and public statements before the council, they moved to the gated community to get away from conventional city streets where tall, overhead, high pressure sodium vapor street lights illuminate entire blocks. Don't spoil one of the last rural areas of Pleasanton with "illumination pollution," they asked the council.

At last Tuesday's council meeting, City Engineer Jim Kelcourse offered a compromise which, while more expensive, spares backyards from the street lights. With the coun-



cil's approval, he'll now install 18 LED lighting fixtures, an alternative light source that Kelcourse promises will keep light focused on the road below. These LED fixtures are actually made up of multiple lights that allow each light source to be individually directed and focused. Consequently, there is much less light pollution to the surrounding neighborhoods and night sky. Kelcourse also believes that with this new generation of street lights and the mature trees along the Golden Eagle corridor that there should be little light getting into the homes of residents who oppose the lights.

Although more expensive — \$56,209 just for the Golden Eagle project — the LEDs require less electricity and last years longer than conventional high pressure sodium lights. Eventually, these are the types of street lights Kelcourse plans to install throughout Pleasanton as the old lights and poles come up for replacement.

Speaking of deer, those who spoke at Tuesday's meeting told of deer deaths on Foothill. Police reported that there've been numerous calls about injured or killed deer on Foothill in the vicinity of the Golden Eagle development, ranging from a high of 20 in 2007 to six last year and four between last Jan. 1 and July 26. Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio said she was driving behind another car a few nights ago and a deer came running out of Golden Eagle, leaped over the trunk of the car ahead and headed east. Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, who lives on Longview Drive near the Golden Eagle entrance, said she spots deer frequently as they make their way across Foothill to the Arroyo de la Laguna for water. The new lights may not stop these nightly trips but at least motorists might see the deer in time to avoid hitting them. ■

## About the Cover

Amador Valley and Foothill high schools are gearing up for the 2009 football season, and both teams figure to be among the elite, not only in the EBAL, but in the North Coast Section as well. Playing for the Dons is linebacker Dalton Turay, a three-year varsity player, and for the Falcons, quarterback Sean Mannion is leading the offensive attack. Photos by Jay Flachsbarth.

Vol. IX, Number 34

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# Streetwise

ASKED AT THE GOODGUYS CAR SHOW

## What do you think about Michael Vick being back in the NFL?

### Jesus De la Torre

Elk Grove

I think they let him in a little bit too early. I think it's a money and greed thing. He's talented but it's not showing the youth the morals a role model should.



### Jeri Craig

San Francisco

I'm kind of undecided. I feel one way for the animals and the other way for him, because other people get another chance.



### Brett Brill

Castro Valley

Everyone deserves a second chance. This is America. It's that simple.



### Isa Rodriguez

Oakland

I don't understand why people get paid so much money. Athletes are getting paid to put their full potential out there. If they aren't doing it what are they doing? And I don't agree with animal cruelty, so there's that. But he's taking all that money and doing what with it? Gambling on the side?



### Frank McKinney

San Jose

I think he's done his debt. Actually, more than most NFL players have done, especially since one player killed someone and got two months. I believe he has a fair shot, but I hope he regrets what he's done and it changes his life.



—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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## DIGEST

### Bay Bridge to close this weekend

The Bay Bridge will be closed this weekend, meaning travelers will need to use alternate routes to get to the other sides of the Bay Area. The closure has taken place the last two years in order to complex seismic retrofit work. The closure began at 8 p.m. Thursday and will continue through 5 a.m. Tuesday. While BART typically ends service around midnight, they will run overnight service to 14 stations today through Sept. 7. For more information visit [www.bart.gov](http://www.bart.gov) or [511.org](http://511.org) for alternate transportation.

### Last concert in the park

The popular Concerts in the Park series comes to an end at 7 tonight, with music from Steve Marvel and the Public Eye. The four-piece band plays top-40 hits that will encourage dancing at Wayside Park, at the corner of First and Neal streets. Blankets and chairs can secure space, but should not include tarps and rocks. For more information, visit [www.pleasanton-downtown.net](http://www.pleasanton-downtown.net).

### Ride on ACE to Raiders games

ACE Train has teamed up with the Oakland Raiders to help fans get to home games. The ACE Train 50 Package includes one Raiders game ticket to the Denver Broncos game Sept. 27, one round-trip ticket on ACE and one meal package valid at the Oakland Coliseum for \$50. Riders will enjoy Raiders-themed ACE Train travel, with appearances by former players and contests. Purchase online at [www.raiders.com/ace50](http://www.raiders.com/ace50).

### Work to begin on Arroyo Mocho

The Arroyo Mocho Trail, which runs south of West Las Positas Boulevard, will be closed from the end of Sutter Gate Avenue and Lin Gate Street weekdays through Sept. 25. Zone 7 Water Agency, which owns the roadways and grants the city access under contract, will be conducting road and drainage reconstruction. Anyone with questions regarding the maintenance activities can call Dexter Yee at 454-5080.

### 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](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

## Barone's can extend hours, add entertainment

By JEB BING

It took another 2-1/2 hours of public debate but the City Council Tuesday voted 3-2 to accept the unanimous decision of the Planning Commission last month and allow Barone's Restaurant to open earlier, stay open later and offer outdoor music from as many as three stages six days a week.

There was one modification to the Planning Commission's decision: Joseph and Maricela Barone, owners of the restaurant at 475 St. John St. said they will build an eight-foot-high, 40-foot-long wall along the western edge of their spacious backyard patio where wedding receptions and nighttime entertainment occur to help

### City Council votes 3-2 to accept recommendation of Planning Commission

soften the noise level for those living in townhouses on the other side.

An estimated 100 filled the council chambers, mostly in support of the Barone's bid, to speak in favor of downtown music and entertainment and against an appeal of the Planning Commission's decision by Councilman Matt Sullivan. He said that while he supports the effort to boost downtown business with music, dancing and

other entertainment opportunities, he wants more protection from the increasing noise and traffic for residents who live nearby.

Most of the opposition to the special use permit the Planning Commission authorized concerned the proposed extended hours of the restaurant and entertainment, allowing the Barone's to serve food and alcohol from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily with live outdoor entertainment permitted through 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and through 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Ed and Diane Churka, who live near Barone's, said the hours are too much and the noise too loud for their residential neighborhood.

See **BARONE'S** on Page 7



JANET PELLETIER

### Ready, set, harvest

The hustle and bustle of the wine harvest season got under way at Retzlaff Vineyards in Livermore earlier this week. Above, field workers pick sauvignon grapes that were later dumped into a machine that separates the fruit from the vine and placed in a press that extracts the juice. The juice is then pumped into steel barrels where yeast is added to start the fermentation process. As workers work furiously out in the fields, Livermore Valley wineries are making their last-minute preparations for this weekend's Harvest Wine Celebration, which will be held Sunday and Monday. For details on that, visit [www.lwine.org](http://www.lwine.org).

## Pleasanton's bid to dismiss housing cap lawsuit rejected

Urban Habitat case moves to trial later this year

An Alameda County Superior Court judge has rejected a bid by the city of Pleasanton to dismiss legal challenges by an affordable housing coalition and the state of California to the city's 1996 voter-mandated housing cap.

The ruling by Judge Frank Roesch means that the three year old suit by Urban Habitat, recently joined by Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown, will move forward to trial later this year. Urban Habitat, represented by attorney Richard Marcantonio of Public Advocates, is asking the court to invalidate the housing cap, which currently limits the number of home and apartment units that can be built in Pleasanton to 29,000.

The coalition and, now, Brown's office claims that the cap unfairly blocks the construction of a sufficient number of affordable and even market rate housing to meet the city's rapidly growing workforce population. The restriction limits the number of affordable and workforce housing units that developers might otherwise build here and, with approximately 27,000 housing units already built or approved, discourages developers from even

considering seeking those kinds of additional developments in Pleasanton.

Urban Habitat's attorney Christopher Mooney, an associate in the litigation practice with the San Francisco office of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, told Roesch that state laws that prescribe housing growth requirements based on workforce housing and other needs pre-empt Pleasanton's housing cap ordinance, which is part of the city's General Plan. Therefore, state law should prevail over the housing cap.

Pleasanton's outside counsel, Thomas B. Brown, a partner with the law firm of Hanson Bridgett, in San Francisco, argued that the Urban Habitat claims are irrelevant because there's no evidence that any decisions made by city planners or the City Council have violated any state laws. He said the city is in full compliance with all state provisions and that the housing coalition's claims are wrong if not premature.

Pleasanton's plea actually was to dismiss both the Urban Habitat suit on the basis that it lacked

See **HOUSING CAP** on Page 9

## DA to investigate possible hate crime

By EMILY WEST

Two men were arrested Aug. 27 for allegedly beating a local taxi driver in what appears to be a racially-motivated crime, police said.

Detectives found and arrested the two suspects, Jacob Billingsley, a 27-year-old Alamo resident, and Michael Goldstein, a 33-year-old Danville resident, at Goldstein's home.

Pleasanton Police Lt. Mike Elerick said the victim, Jaswinder Bangar, received about 10 stitches to his lip and a broken tooth after the suspects were said to have repeatedly kicked

### Two Danville men arrested in beating of local taxi driver

and punched him.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a national civil rights group, has called for state and federal hate crime charges against Billingsley and Goldstein.

"Whenever racial, ethnic or religious slurs are used by the perpetrators, additional hate crime charges should be considered," said Zahra Bil-

loo, programs and outreach director for CAIR's San Francisco Bay area chapter. "Without considering the additional penalties imposed by hate crime charges, we send the message that we as a society are indifferent to intolerance and bigotry."

Bangar reportedly picked up the two men at 12:55 a.m. Aug. 27 from Redcoats British Pub and Restaurant in downtown Pleasanton and was taking them to Danville.

Det. Larry Cox said the suspects allegedly

See **ASSAULT** on Page 7

# Bernal baseball fields to open Sept. 12

Public ceremonies planned for dedication of \$8-million complex

By JEB BING

Pleasanton will dedicate its new \$8 million lighted baseball fields in the Bernal Community Park next Saturday, Sept. 12, turning on the lights and fielding two youth baseball teams for the first game in the park during the 5 to 9 p.m. festivities.

The fields and lights, clearly visible from Bernal and Valley avenues and from I-680, are on 13 acres that include bleachers, playgrounds, parking lots and landscaped surroundings. Featured at the opening day ceremony will be inflatable games for the kids and refreshments. Carpooling is encouraged because parking is limited.

The baseball fields are part of a 50-acre sports complex that will be developed in phases on Bernal, along with the remainder of the full-318 acre central park to come later. The land was given to the city of Pleasanton in 2000 by Greenbriar Homes who with its partners paid \$126 million to acquire the 510-acre Bernal property from the city of San Francisco, which had owned the acreage since the 1930s. At that time, Greenbriar and KB Home received approvals to build 530 homes and apartments on Bernal, most of which have been completed and are now occupied.

The first phase of the new Bernal sports park that will be dedicated next Saturday includes two lighted baseball fields, one unlighted informal baseball field, a paved parking for 105 vehicles, public restrooms, a field supply and storage building, landscaping and irrigation, lighted pathways, a children's play area and miscellaneous site furnishings.

The Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail which circumvents the park, has



JEB BING

The city will celebrate the opening of two new baseball fields at Bernal Community Park Sept. 12. A new trail that runs near the park opens next month.

been paved and landscaped and will be officially dedicated in October.

Three years ago, voters approved a tentative plan to develop the Bernal Park in five phases over the next two decades, one that features groupings of sports fields within a forested framework of open space. All park elements will be interconnected with the outlying Bernal property "grand park" through a coordinated system of mounded landforms, plant communities, a dog park, 1,000-seat amphitheater, picnic grounds, trails and public art.

City spokeswoman Joanne Hall said the planned multi-use program of active sports facilities and activities will remain flexible in order to respond to changing community recreational needs over time.

Unlike Pleasanton's main Sports Park off Hopyard Road that caters

to a variety of sports each year, the new complex on the Bernal property will have single-use fields for baseball, with plans for at least one more lighted baseball diamond and also lighted fields for soccer, football, lacrosse and rugby. At least one of those fields will include bleachers for tournament play.

"Bernal may not be the largest complex of baseball fields among cities, but it has to be among the best," said Mike Fulford, city landscaper, who with Parks and Community Services Director Susan Andrade-Wax has been in charge of planning, designing and engineering the new Bernal complex.

From the bleachers, fans will have a sweeping, uninterrupted view of the Pleasanton Ridge.

For more information, call the Parks and Community Services Department at 931-5340. ■

# Oak Grove developers take legal battle to state Supreme Court

Seek review of appellate court rejection of bid to block protest petitions

By JEB BING

Attorneys for developers Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic have asked the California Supreme Court to review a decision by the state Court of Appeal last month that they believe was wrong with regard a legal battle over the Lins' plan to build at 51-luxury home community in Pleasanton's southeast hills, a development called Oak Grove.

In a lengthy brief, Atty. Andrew B. Sabey of the San Francisco law firm of Cox, Castle & Nicholson, who represent the Lins, claims that former Pleasanton Councilwoman Kay Ayala and a citizens group she organized failed to follow proper procedures in circulating petitions in late 2007 seeking to block the proposed Oak Grove development, which the City Council approved two years ago. More than 3,700 registered Pleasanton voters signed the petitions, enough to qualify the

measure for a referendum to overturn the City Council's 4-1 vote approving the project.

The Lins successfully filed a suit before Judge Frank Roesch in Alameda County Superior Court who agreed with their claim and ordered the county Registrar not to certify the petitions. It was that decision that the Court of Appeal reversed on an appeal by Atty. Benjamin G. Shatz of the law firm of Manatt, Phelps and Phillips, which represent Ayala and the citizens group.

Shatz has until Sept. 14 to file an answer to the Lins' request to the Supreme Court, which has until Oct. 24 at the latest to decide if it will accept the petition. Only about 3 per cent of petitions for review of Court of Appeal decisions are granted by the Supreme Court.

"We are confident the petition will be denied," Shatz said.

If the Supreme Court rejects

the review petition, the Alameda County Registrar would then complete the certification of the Ayala petitions, which the Lins' action has delayed, and send them to Pleasanton City Clerk Karen Diaz.

The City Council would then have approximately one month to consider the petitions and decide if it wants to reverse its 2007 ruling and deny the Lins' Oak Grove project, or send the issue to voters in a referendum.

If the project goes to voters, it's likely the measure would be a separate issue on the state primary ballot next spring.

Besides building 51 custom home in the hills above Kottinger Ranch, the Lins would also give 496 acres of the land they own there to the city free of charge for public and recreational use under an agreement approved by the City Council. ■

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# Schools take on swine flu scares

District to monitor absences, encourage prevention measures

By EMILY WEST

Often when kids head back to school, so are the germs that can lead to illness. The Pleasanton Unified School District is focused on prevention as talk of a return of the H1N1 virus, or the swine flu, circulates.

"We are making sure to stay in contact with the city and we have somebody assigned to participate in the county's meetings on the swine flu," said district spokes-

woman Myla Grasso.

Prevention is the key, she added, saying elementary schools will soon launch a hand-washing campaign and most district classrooms currently provide hand sanitizer.

The district has said they will monitor absences and students who complain of flu-like symptoms, which may involve following up with families to encourage them to see healthcare providers.

Grasso said the availability of staff is also a concern, but that schools wouldn't be closed unless there was an attempt to control transmission.

Parents should take note the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention when sending children back to school. It recommends having children return after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-suppressing medication. ■



JEB BING

Joseph and Maricela Barone were all smiles as they left the Council Chamber Tuesday night, where the City Council approved their bid for longer hours, more late-night entertainment at their downtown restaurant.

## BARONE'S

Continued from Page 5

But First Street resident Kevin Gallagher reiterated what he said at the Planning Commission hearing: "(Pleasanton) is losing customers to Livermore, Walnut Creek. The positive aspects far outweigh the negatives of living downtown."

Representatives of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, the Pleasanton Downtown Association and 30 others who addressed the council Tuesday said added entertainment and longer restaurant hours are just what the downtown business district needs.

In the end, the council voted 3-2 to accept the Planning Commission's decision and to deny an

appeal of that decision by Councilman Sullivan. Joining Sullivan in voting against the Barones' bid was Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, who objected to the extended hours when alcoholic beverages could be served.

Sullivan said he is concerned about the steady increase in nighttime activities in the downtown area and wants the council to take a look at how they are impacting the nearby residential areas.

"With all this effort to help businesses downtown, we can't forget that our downtown is also a place where people live, too," Sullivan said. "I think we need to do a better job of balancing activities there." ■

## ASSAULT

Continued from Page 5

called Bangar derogatory names, including "Taliban" and "terrorist," and punched him in the back of the head. He also said that the case will be reviewed by the District Attorney to determine if it is deemed hate crime.

Bangar then reportedly pulled into the 7-Eleven parking lot on Valley Avenue to call police on his cell phone when police said the suspects took the phone and broke it. The victim then exited the car where police said the suspects followed and continued punching and kicking the man before the two ran away on northbound on Valley Avenue.

The men were booked at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and face charges



Jacob Billingsley



Michael Goldstein

of felony battery and obstructing a phone call to police. They have since been bailed out and are expected to appear before a judge Tuesday at the Pleasanton courthouse at 9 a.m. in department 701.

Elerick said it's not unusual for intoxicated people to get into arguments with taxi drivers, but that he didn't recall an injury like this taking place in the recent past. ■

## Garamendi, Harmer headed to runoff in 10th District

With no candidate over 50%, general election will be Nov. 3

Lt. Gov. John Garamendi topped a crowded field in a special primary election Tuesday for an open congressional seat in the East and North Bay and has earned his way onto a general election ballot in November.

Garamendi, a Democrat, had the highest overall vote totals in the election for California's 10th Congressional District, which includes much of Contra Costa County, as well as parts of Alameda, Solano and Sacramento counties.

The election was scheduled to fill the seat previously held by Democrat Ellen Tauscher, who was nominated in March for a State Department position that she accepted in June.

Because no one got more than 50 percent of the vote, a special general election for the seat will be held Nov. 3, and will feature the top vote-getter from each party. The winner will serve the rest of Tauscher's term, which ends in January 2011.

With all 176 precincts reporting, Garamendi took in 26.15 percent of the overall vote, while Republican David Harmer finished second with 20.58 percent and Democratic state Senator Mark DeSaulnier finishing in third place with 17.55 percent, according to the unofficial results. State Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan and Iraq War veteran Anthony Woods, both Democrats, rounded out the top five with 12 percent and 8.48 percent, respectively.

Garamendi said the difference in the campaign was that he was "the only candidate that has represented every part of the district," and that "people know my work, and my history."

— Bay City News

## OF NOTE



Kirin Rajagopalan, right, volunteered with Amigos de las Americas in Oaxaca, Mexico, where he helped with service projects.

## Working with Amigos

Kirin Rajagopalan, 16, a junior at Amador Valley High School, spent this past summer in Oaxaca, Mexico where he volunteered with Amigos de las Americas, an international nonprofit organization that sends high school and college students to various Latin American countries for the summer to live with host families and partner with local community members to carry out service projects. Kirin worked on a nutrition project, in the small town of Santa Inez del Monte, promoting the growth and use of amaranth, a high protein grain. He learned a great deal about the food, culture, and way of life in another country and his Spanish language skills have improved. He will continue to work with Amigos and plans to go to another country next summer.

## AVHS grad awarded Delta Kappa Gamma grant

Caitlin Mellberg won a \$500 Delta Kappa Gamma Recruitment Grant. The 2006 Amador Valley High School graduate has been attending Sonoma State University and is working towards a degree in liberal arts and her teaching credential. She has participated in many summer children's activities in Pleasanton, has been a Girl Scout, a lifeguard at the Aquatic Center and has been very involved with planning children's programs through the city's parks and recreation department.

## Kanakis graduates from West Point

Nicholas Kanakis, a 2003 graduate of Foothill High School, recently graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was nominated to West Point by both Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman Pete Stark.

Kanakis majored in history and his senior thesis on the impact of West Pointers on the development of army aviation received the Col. Roger H. Nye Award for the graduating cadet who demonstrates excellence in historical research in military affairs.

Kanakis has always been passionate about flying and his goal has never wavered from that of becoming a military aviator. During his time at West Point, he was Cadet in Charge of the Flying Club and received his private pilot's license last summer. Now, as a newly commissioned second lieutenant in the army's aviation branch, he reports to Ft. Rucker, Alabama to begin flight training. ■



# Holiday ice rink moved back to Civic Center lot

Delucchi proves too controversial for November opening

By JEB BING

Pleasanton's outdoor ice skating rink planned for the coming holiday season has been moved from Delucchi Park on First Street back to a portion of the Civic Center and public library parking lots along Old Bernal Avenue.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said the move was made to avoid delays in obtaining new City Council approvals that might have been required after homeowners on the east side of First Street complained about possible noise and traffic congestion at Delucchi, which is located close to their homes.

The ice rink, to be installed and operated by San Jose Arena Management (SJAM), a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks, will be placed on a platform to be built on top of the parking lanes closest to Old Bernal Avenue. SJAM will pay all costs of building and operating the rink with the city contributing about \$20,000 for added power and lighting, costs that will be reimbursed from SJAM profits from ticket sales and sponsorships.

The rink is scheduled to open the weekend before Thanksgiving and close in early January. It would be open to skaters from noon to 10 p.m. daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. School and corporate groups could also reserve ice time in the morning.

Fialho said that when SJAM first approached the city about operating an outdoor ice skating rink in Pleasanton, his hopes were to put the rink in the parking lot next to Round Table Pizza or in another lot next to the now-vacant Domus store, both on Main Street. However, the property owners rejected the request and SJAM, Fialho and his staff started looking at other options.

Although the Civic Center parking lot is farther from centrally-located downtown stores than Delucchi Park, Fialho said it's a suitable site for the first year of the rink. The city and SJAM have signed a five-year contract for a holiday rink and Fialho hopes to persuade Domus or Round Table property owners to allow the rink on one of

their parking lots next year.

"The Civic Center was a last choice location, doable," Fialho said, "but not preferred from the standpoint of being less centrally located and visible.

Although the Delucchi Park site was preferred by Fialho and many downtown merchants, several on the City Council indicated they would insist on public hearings and possibly an environmental impact report before agreeing to the park site. Fialho said that could have taken too long to get the ice rink built and operating this year, so he moved the site back to the Civic Center which the council had already approved.

A downtown merchants group has indicated it will sponsor horse-drawn carriage rides from their stores to the ice rink. An estimated 20,000-25,000 skaters and their families are expected to make use of the ice skating rink during the 60-day period it's open. More than 40,000 signed on for skating last year at a similar rink in downtown Walnut Creek. ■

## McNerney insists that health plan must benefit small business

By JEB BING

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) told a Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce luncheon audience last week that any federal health care measure that he supports in the coming weeks will provide benefits to small businesses who are struggling to provide benefits for their employees.

McNerney said the federal government's plan has to lower health care costs and make health care available to people who now are left out of adequate health care.

"We're talking about a lot of people that want to change jobs or to work for small businesses or move or have a health condition that prevents them from getting health care at another place," McNerney said.

He told of a Danville man who has brain cancer and went through a half-million-dollars in savings for treatments because he lacked health insurance. He moved in with his brother who now takes care of him and wonders if he, too, will go bankrupt paying for his brother's medical care.

"We should not allow this to happen in our country," McNerney said.

McNerney called for a "uniquely American system, a system that reflects the best of what this country has to offer in health care."

"And that includes competition," he explained. "We have some of the finest providers, some of the

finest physicians, some of the finest hospitals right here in the Bay Area. Health care here is absolutely second to none."

"So what we need to do is find a way to introduce competition into that system, matching private enterprises with public programs to make sure we get the best possible performance out of our system," he added.

McNerney said he has toured his 11th Congressional District during the current August recess and earlier, talking to hospitals, doctors, nursing home providers, hospice centers and health care recipients to get information on problems they see in the current health care system and listening to suggestions for how to improve it.

He said he has read every page of the voluminous health care measures before Congress and is convinced that the bill when finalized will close the gaps that leave millions of Americans uninsured.

"We have to do it in a way that benefits small businesses," he said. "I was a consultant for many years and created a number of start-up companies. I know how businesses struggle with these things and it's important that we take into account what's going to work for small businesses."

On other issues, McNerney said he expects a transportation reauthorization bill will be approved next year that should provide additional federal money for the Tri-

Valley, including finding funding assistance to extend Hwy. 84 to I-680 and for improvements to the I-580/I-680 interchange.

"Pleasanton is at corner of 580-680, the crossroads of people and commerce in the Bay Area and also the major route between the Port of Oakland and all points east in the country," he said. "We have to bring federal money here to make sure that this corridor moves freely."

On education, McNerney said he was able to bring \$60 million in federal funds into local districts and knows that more is needed. He said the situation is critical in Pleasanton, citing two teachers near his Val Vista home who lost their jobs in Pleasanton. They have since found positions in neighboring districts.

"We have to be aware of how important our schools are and how valuable an addition they are to our community," McNerney said.

"Whenever I meet a business leader and try to promote Pleasanton and try to get them to move to our community or any of the communities in my district, the very first question is what are your schools like?" McNerney said. "They ask: 'Are my executives going to want to send their kids to your schools?' I know that question personally. The reason my wife and I chose to live in Pleasanton is because of the excellent reputation of schools here." ■



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PHOTOS BY JAY FLACHSBA

Foothill's varsity squad runs plays against blocking bags to make sure each player knows who to block and which shoulder to hit with. Note offensive lineman runs with ball behind line to avoid being tackled.



**Above left:** Amador Dons work on their offensive, defensive techniques during double-sessions (morning and afternoon) practice last week with a little one-on-one action in the pit.  
**Above right:** Backup quarterback Patrick Gibbons runs with ball during preseason practice at Amador Valley High School. Gibbons is expected to play both defense and offense this year.

# AMADOR-FOOTHILL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

BY DENNIS MILLER

**W**hen Rick Sira and Matt Sweeney, the respective football coaches at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools, began their varsity coaching careers, none of their current players was even close to being born.

In fact, the duo, who have a combined 47 years of East Bay Athletic League coaching experience between them, have seen things come full circle, as many former players or students now have their children suiting up for the Falcons and the Dons.

And as has been the case for all those years, the programs at Amador and Foothill are among the elite in Northern California. While some credit goes to the local Pleasanton Junior Football League, in large part, the accolades go to the two head coaches and their staffs.

"They both have had great programs through all those years," said Monte Vista coach Craig Bergman, who is entering his 13th season at Monte Vista. "You look at all those games and titles they have won and it's amazing. The passion they have for their teams after all those seasons is incredible. I don't think I could keep going that long."

This season, once again, both the Dons and the Falcons figure to be among the elite, not only in the EBAL, but in the North Coast Section as well.

Following is a break down of the two Pleasanton football powerhouses.

## Amador Valley

Sira welcomes back 14 starters from last season, when the team went a deceptive 4-6, with five of the losses coming in the tough EBAL.

But following a season where the Dons entered play with little returning experience, they come into this year with as much as anyone in the EBAL.

"We went into last year with two returning starters," Sira said. "But we felt the progression we made was great last year. We were very pleased with the way we came along last season."

Leading the way this season for the Dons is a pair of three-year varsity starters in Dalton Turay and Kean Stancil. Stancil is back at quarterback for the Dons, with his pure athletic ability as good as any player in the EBAL.

"He's one of the most competitive players we have ever had here," Sira said. "He's worked very hard on everything – running and passing."

Stancil has the uncanny ability to turn a bad situation into a good one, but should he need a break, he'll only have to look no further than a simple handoff away, where Turay will be waiting for the ball. Turay, who built up a legendary career in the PJFL ranks, is back for his third year as a running back and linebacker, and figures to be among the elite in both spots.

Under Sira's watch, the Dons have gone through a series of fitness tests in the weight room each season, with Turay's total this year among the top five all time at Amador Valley.

"He's among the best in the 25 years I have been here," Sira said of Turay. "He's just a great, great leader."

If Stancil has to go through the air to move the ball, the Dons appear well stocked there as well. Matt Banahan earned his stripes last year as an elusive kick returner, who also got some time at receiver. Joining Banahan out wide is another senior in Tyler Christensen. Christensen's work ethic in the off-season set the standard for the rest of the team.

"Tyler has really progressed over the summer," Sira said. "His work this summer has just been great."

With the skill positions apparently in good hands, the offensive line will be charged with providing protection for Stancil and opening holes for Turay. Adam Bailey, a 4.0 student, returns as a two-way starter for the Dons and will be joined by another returning starter on the line in Spencer Smith.

On defense, Amador figures to be extremely strong as well. Turay will be joined at linebacker by Danny Petros. Petros, who will also play some running back, is labeled as a great football player by Sira, with great physical skills.



Foothill player makes a run for a layout in effort to fall on the ball and block the punt without running into the kicker.

The defensive line is paced by Bailey and Josh Parr, who Sira described as having a "million mile-per-hour motor," when he plays.

The defensive backfield is solid and very athletic, paced by safety Garrett Worsley and cornerback Hakeem Dyson. Dyson qualified for the California State Track Meet last year in the hurdles.

Overall, it looks to be a good season for the Dons, but Sira knows playing in the EBAL means no rest week in and week out.

"I think the only thing which makes you feel better, is that everyone is in the same situation," Sira said of playing in such a tough league. "Every week you have to go against a team which has put in the time and has the same numbers."

## Foothill

With only four starters back from a team which went 9-4 and advanced to the NCS semifinals before falling to De La Salle, it would appear the Falcons are in for a rebuilding year.

But as any coach around the EBAL would tell you, never expect anything less than great football from Foothill and this year should be more of the same.

Don't let the low number of returning starters fool you, as there is a load of juniors back for their senior season and the group has taken a sense of ownership in the program.

"Our (method of operation) over the years has been that the seniors always step up," said Sweeney, who is the co-head coach along with John Mannion for the second straight season. "This group started as freshmen and sophomores. Then a lot of them sat last year. They don't want to sit again. They have been extremely unselfish and very accountable in getting

See FOOTBALL on Page 12

## Foothill schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sept. 12	Novato High School	Novato	2 p.m.
Sept. 18	Logan High School	Foothill	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	Miramonte High School	Miramonte	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	Granada High School	Foothill	7 p.m.
Oct. 9	San Ramon Valley High	San Ramon	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	Livermore High School	Foothill	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	Monte Vista High School	Monte Vista	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	California High School	California	7 p.m.
Nov. 6	De La Salle High School	Foothill	7 p.m.
Nov. 13	Amador Valley High School	Foothill	7 p.m.

## Amador Valley schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sept. 4	Freedom High School	Freedom	7 p.m.
Sept. 11			bye week
Sept. 18	Mt. Eden High School	Chabot College	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	Del Norte High School	Amador Valley	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	De La Salle High School	De La Salle	7 p.m.
Oct. 9	Granada High School	Granada	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	Monte Vista High School	Amador Valley	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	California High School	Amador Valley	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	San Ramon Valley High	San Ramon	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 6	Livermore High School	Amador Valley	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	Foothill High School	Foothill	7 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

Continued from Page 11

ready for this season.”

The Falcons are also getting a boost from one of the top incoming junior classes the school has had over the course of Sweeney's tenure.

“This is a real strong junior class,” Sweeney said. “They have won the most starting jobs ever for a junior class at this point.”

Add into the mix that the Falcons boast one of the top quarterbacks in all of California in senior Sean Mannion and things are nowhere near as bleak as losing 18 starters may lead one to believe. Mannion, a three-year starter, who is headed to Oregon State next season, has the total quarterback package, with the ability to throw deep, as well as underneath with deadly precision. Having a talent such as Mannion in your arsenal is certainly a good starting point for building the offense.

“You just feel like you are so much further ahead with a player like Sean,” Sweeney said.

In addition to Mannion, the offense should get some big play out of a number of solid skill players. Junior Colin Kacinski has been solid at running back, with another junior, Bobby Killian looking good at full-back.

On the outside, seniors Jake Bussani and Garrett Moore will be joined by juniors David Camerena and Cameran Rowland as Mannion's main targets.

The tight end spot, always key in the football passing game, has seen senior Pat Berrigan emerge as the leader.

“We've been real happy with the play of the skill guys so far,” Sweeney said. “They've been working hard all summer and we're hoping it pays off.”

The offensive line looks solid again, keyed by two-way, senior starter Zach Buen and Kevin Phiengsai, who was on the varsity last year as a sophomore. Also being counted on to get it done in the trenches are senior Jake Rubinson and juniors Nico Tornaghi, RJ Anderson and Dawson Graham.

The kicking game is in good hands, or feet, as James

Langford returns for his senior season. Last year, the Falcons were almost too reliant on the running game, something which Sweeney hopes will be a little more balanced this season.

“I thought last year our run game was almost a trick-em run game,” explained Sweeney. “This year, our emphasis will be more on not having to trick them when we run the ball. We want to be able to run the ball any time.”

On defense, the line will be anchored by Buen at nose guard, as well as Dawson and Tornaghi. Key players at linebacker include Rubinson, Kacinski, Killian, Anderson and Phiengsai.

The defensive backfield, as is the case with Amador Valley, looks very athletic with Bussani, Moore, Camerena and Rowland leading the way.

The lone sophomore on the varsity roster this year is CJ Dennis, who has shown incredible athletic ability at a number of spots.

“That kid's a player,” Sweeney said of Dennis.

## One game at a time


It's a long time before Amador and Foothill hook it up again, and there's certainly plenty of work to do before the teams meet on Friday, Nov. 13, but be sure the date is circled on their calendars for the day when the Dons make the trip across town to take on the Falcons.

And while both coaches always take one game at a time, it's exciting to know what's waiting at the end of the season.

“I know it sounds like a stupid cliché, but that game is always a dog fight,” said Sweeney. “Our league is set up as such, that a great natural rivalry occurs the last game of the season. It's just a great thing about high school sports.”

Sira agrees.

“It's a unique rivalry,” said Sira. “Everybody in the community gets into it. Our kids want to beat Foothill every year and I know their kids want to beat us. But these are kids who are friends, have grown up together and played junior football together. It's a friendly, good and healthy rivalry. It's special.” ■



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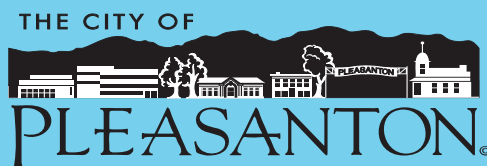
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## GUEST OPINION



By DAVID MILLER

### Health care can be solved without rushing to socialized medicine

Regarding Congressman Jerry McNerney's opinion piece published Aug. 28, "Reform must be built on current system, let people choose," I must take issue with Mr. McNerney on several points in the article.

The congressman states: "People who are pleased with their health care — whether it is through Medicare, an employer, purchased individually, or from another source — must be able to keep their coverage." During Mr. McNerney's two telephone town halls, I heard Mr. McNerney express support for the current house bill (HR 3200) and also repeat the same mantra as president Obama of "if you like your insurance, you can keep your insurance."

However, if one looks at the current house bill, this statement is clearly untrue. Section 102 of the House bill states: "for plan years beginning after the end of the five-year period beginning with Y1, an employment-based health plan in operation as of the day before the first day of Y1 must meet the same requirements as apply to a qualified health benefits plan." I know this is a mouthful. To put it in plain English, you can keep your current plan for five years, after which it must change to meet government insurance mandates. Moreover, factcheck.org, a respected fact-checking organization, has confirmed this five-year window limitation. Factcheck.org also goes on to point out that this legislation will motivate many employers to change their existing employee coverage or drop coverage altogether. Factcheck.org even cites an estimate that anywhere from 88 million to 103 million Americans currently covered by employer

insurance could be forced onto the public option. This doesn't sound like keeping my insurance to me.

McNerney, Obama and the Democrats know these facts and the current legislation was specifically drafted in order to force as many Americans onto the public option as possible. With the public option that does not need to make a profit and will certainly get government subsidy if needed, the competitive playing field is not level and private insurance is unable to compete. As a result, the private insurance companies will have no choice but stop providing health insurance. Then the Democrats will have what they wanted all along — a single payer/socialized health care system. Their plan has worked, and the "public option" has become the "only option." Government can now control your life even more and there is no turning back.

The current problems in the health care system can be fixed without this headlong rush toward socialized medicine. There have been three bills proposed by Republicans in Congress that really do not affect those who like and want to keep their current insurance. Additionally, John MacKey, CEO of Whole Foods Market, Inc., penned an op-ed piece in the Aug. 11 edition of the Wall Street Journal laying out seven very specific and rational changes that will address the current health care issues. Unlike the proposal McNerney supports, MacKey's plan is not a Trojan horse for socialized medicine. I ask that your readers do not believe me and do not believe Jerry McNerney. Do your own research and form your own conclusion based on the facts. Go read Section 102 of the bill. Go read the factcheck.org analysis. Inform yourself.

*David Miller, 44, lives in Pleasanton with his wife and three daughters. Director of engineering program management for a Silicon Valley semiconductor company, Miller is managing editor of GoMcNerney.com, a conservative watchdog group for District 11, and is a member of the grassroots PleasantonTeaParty.com movement.*

## LETTERS

### President, congressman on our side

Dear Editor,

Health care costs are out of control for many families and seniors. The cost of prescription drugs is skyrocketing. As a senior on a fixed income I have personally experienced it. It seems that insurance companies have been the biggest beneficiaries of the recent "reforms." The average person has had little

influence against the drug insurance lobbies.

I am grateful that at last we have a president and congressman that are on our side. Congressman Jerry McNerney is looking for the best solutions to the current health care system. I hope and pray that he and similar thinking congressmen are successful.

Elva Cooper

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### See you at the Scottish games!

Remember the good old days when Labor Day rallies at the local fairgrounds marked the start of the political campaign season? Well, the rallies are gone and so are any limits on when political campaigning starts and ends. This year, the only politicians at the Alameda County Fairgrounds where top state Democrats and union leaders used to gather will be ticket-holder fans of the Scottish Games which have become a favorite Labor Day event in Pleasanton.

That's not to say this isn't a weekend for politics. Fresh off his triumph Tuesday over his Democratic competitors in the special 10th Congressional District primary, Lt. Gov. John Garamendi is already planning strategy meetings to make sure his voter strength in the heavily Democratic district continues to grow. On Nov. 3, he will face Republican challenger, Dougherty Valley attorney David Harmer, who won by a substantial margin among the field of six Republican candidates. The winner will succeed former Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, who was appointed by President Obama as the Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security in the U.S. State Department. Harmer is also holding strategy meetings this weekend to assess the primary results with an eye toward taking advantage of polling results that show the Democratic president's declining popularity and increased public angst over health care reform.

In the Tri-Valley, except for the 10th Congressional District meetings, this Labor Day comes without politics. Even Livermore is calm now that the city's Nov. 3 municipal election has been cancelled since no one signed on to run against Mayor Marshall Kamena or other incumbents on the council. Even San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and state Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown, who are jockeying to lead in next June's Democratic Party primary for governor, have been low-keyed in political campaigns.

Without the Labor Day political rallies, perhaps we can all enjoy a much-needed day of rest. A recent statewide study by Harris/Decima finds that, no surprise to us, we're working harder, toiling longer hours and worrying more over job security, our 401Ks, the national debt and the war in Afghanistan. That said, the study also shows that Labor Day serves as a welcome unofficial end of summer, a sort of bookend to Memorial Day, and a time when we generally start focusing on the cheery months of fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Of course that leads to 2010, another major election year that will be filled with politics in the Tri-Valley and across the nation. So, contrary to its name, Labor Day may be a day all of us can take a break and enjoy. See you at the Scottish games. ■

### Public works department attentive with sprinkler repairs

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Pleasanton, I wanted to post a positive comment for the public works department.

Living in Birdland, we are undergoing the sidewalk reconstructions at the corners to accommodate strollers, skate boarders, wheel chairs and such.

In the course of the project, three of my sprinkler heads were damaged. Ignorant of the process, I emailed the maintenance department and I received a response within the hour. An inspector, Ken Maxwell, was dispatched to the site the same afternoon and a temporary fix was in place within hours. The final resolution took place the following week.

I want to thank the public  
See **LETTERS** on Page 14

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## LETTERS

Continued from Page 13

works department for their attentiveness to citizen concerns. This is just another example of why it is great to live in Pleasanton.

**John Buckley**

### Let's make a difference in our community

Dear Editor,

I am very grateful and humbled to be one of the recipients of the 2009 Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award, along with Ken Mano and Jerri Long.

I want to thank Jan Davies of The WiMe Group, Inc., for nominating me and the nominating committee for bestowing this special honor on me. I have lived in Pleasanton for 28 years and am happy to see this committee is jointly supported by the City of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Unified School District and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce as well as various service and faith organizations.

The mission of the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative is to create a community culture built on values, goodwill, and community accepted traits of responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity. If you have or know of a company that demonstrates these characters encourage them to apply to become an Organization of Character. Applications are available at The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, City of Pleasanton or online at [www.communityofcharacter.org](http://www.communityofcharacter.org).

All of us can make a difference in our community and planet in our own way. I believe it is up to each of us to figure out what our special contribution is going to be. The truth is, by doing so, we also make a difference in our own life.

**Sue Evans**

### Thank you for providing handicap parking

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my sister, Sharon Laumeyer from Arizona, I wish to thank Bernie Billen, Vera Revelli, Christine Saldivar, and the entire Pleasanton Downtown Association; Nelson Fialho, Daniel Smith, Craig Higgins and the City of Pleasanton for their assistance in my request to provide additional handicap parking in downtown.

Sharon was visiting last summer when we decided to go downtown for dinner. To our surprise, we could not find handicap parking near the restaurants. The private spaces are behind businesses and not visible from the street. The public spaces are in the old railroad right-of-way and were neither obvious, nor convenient for those with walking disabilities.

Although these parking arrangements met the state and federal ADA laws, they did not meet the needs of a handicap person wanting to enjoy downtown. ??

This effort has added two new handicap parking spaces, one on Old Bernal Road by the Veteran's Hall, the other on Division Street by the museum, both clearly visible from Main Street. The city has also designated additional twenty-minute parking spaces on Main Street that can be used for handicapped parking by displaying the appropriate placard.

Pleasanton can proudly say it is more handicap-friendly. Thank you again to everyone who made this a reality.

**Richard Endean**

### Where is McNerney's concern for

Dear Editor,

Veterans for Common Sense and Veterans United for Truth appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in S F They sued in 2007: VA has a dysfunctional mental health system, made mental health care virtually unavailable to thousands of veterans through perfunctory exams, delays in referrals and treatment and a bewildering benefits system.

They cited 18 suicides a day among all veterans and 1,000 suicide attempts a month among 30 percent of veterans under VA care. VA's backlog of 1,000 disability claims, averages four and a half years to decide veterans' appeals and doesn't allow lawyers to represent veterans' initial claims. VA emergency rooms put veterans on a treatment waiting list for mental trauma. Lawyer for veterans, Gordon Erspamer, said sometimes "they go back and kill themselves."

Judge Stephen Reinhardt said when the government doesn't follow the law, "it's not novel for a court to tell an agency to comply."

Congressman McNerney, a member of the VA Committee, touts himself as a champion of veterans with mental trauma, and when handed the article, said he knew nothing about this. McNerney didn't say he'd look into this issue, or do anything about it in Congress. Also handed to him on Aug. 16 was a request to meet in his Pleasanton office to discuss this and other veteran issues

while he was on hiatus from WDC. I've had no response.

Congressman McNerney, this must be acceptable to you as you don't seem to care.

**Michael Grossman**

### Coverage on McNerney, health care is biased

Dear Editor,

In an age where a neutral media does not exist and MSNBC and Fox News are embraced by their respective audiences, it should be no surprise to consistently witness the blatant bias in our own community newspaper.

Now more than ever, the Pleasanton Weekly demonstrates its preferential viewpoint as it has throughout polarizing public issues such as the Oak Grove development, the Stoneridge extension and the school parcel tax.

Now, it has seen fit to carry its bias into the national health care debate. Last week's Guest Opinion space was granted to Congressman McNerney to tout his role in health care reform and to brag about how much he is doing to serve his constituency, yet the large and peaceful gathering that was held outside the Congressman's Pleasanton office on Aug. 22 to protest his lack of availability for face-to-face town halls or public debate on the subject was left without mention. Coverage of the protest was found on YouTube rather than in the newspaper that supposedly represents our entire community. Furthermore, four out of six printed letters to the editor promoted the Congressman and his agenda. Apparently it is more important to the Weekly to favor particular viewpoints in its coverage and fill the remainder of its pages with large pictures of slain residents and redundant coverage of crime cases than to present a balance of views from within our diverse community.

Unbiased media coverage does not exist...not even in our local paper. That long lost art was called reporting.

**Robert Allan**

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## YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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

# Community Pulse • Transitions

## POLICE REPORT

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

### Aug. 23

#### Vandalism

■ 6:42 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive

#### Drug/alcohol violations

■ 1:44 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public intoxication, drugs

■ 8:08 p.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

#### Battery

■ 1:37 a.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Aug. 24

#### Grand theft

■ 5:55 p.m. in the 2200 block of Norton Way

#### Burglary

■ 8:58 a.m. in the 5900 block of Owens Drive

■ 10:56 a.m. in the 2700 block of Calle Ricardo

■ 3:50 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; vehicular

■ 7:42 p.m. in the 7200 block of Johnson Drive; vehicular

■ 10:18 p.m. in the 7200 block of Johnson Drive; vehicular

#### Vandalism

■ 3:24 p.m. in the 3700 block of Stoneridge Drive

#### Drug/alcohol violations

■ 12:29 a.m. at the intersection of Nevada and Wyoming streets; public drunkenness

■ 9:21 p.m. at the intersection of First and Spring streets; DUI

### Aug. 25

#### Theft

■ 11:48 a.m. in the 3900 block of Salvador Court; identity theft

■ 2:49 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue; identity theft

■ 10:13 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft

#### Burglary

■ 11:48 a.m. in the 3900 block of Salvador Court

■ 1:53 p.m. in the 400 block of Puerto Vallarta

#### Drug/alcohol violations

■ 5:20 p.m. at the intersection of River Rock Hill Road and Oak Creek Drive; under the influence of a controlled substance

■ 2:09 a.m. at the intersection of Frog Hill Lane and Old Vineyard Avenue; underage alcohol possession

#### Weapon possession

■ 8:55 p.m. in the 2700 block of Hopyard Road

### Aug. 26

#### Theft

■ 1:31 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery

■ 1:42 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; identity theft

■ 6:30 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; stolen property possession

■ 7:29 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement

#### Burglary

■ 12:39 a.m. in the 3800 block of Appian Street; vehicular

■ 8:38 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Drug/alcohol violations

■ 10:27 a.m. in the 3100 block of Montpelier Court; underage alcohol possession

■ 8:23 p.m. at the intersection of Linda Way and East Angela Street; driving with marijuana, driving with an open alcohol container

#### Recovered vehicle

■ 1:05 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

### Aug. 27

#### Theft

■ 9:05 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; grand theft

■ 2:20 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft

■ 4:54 p.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane; petty theft

#### Vandalism

■ 7:43 p.m. in the 400 block of Adams Way

#### DUI

■ 12:29 a.m. at the intersection of First and Neal streets

#### Disturbing the peace

■ 4:35 p.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane

#### Obstructing call to police

■ 1:00 a.m. in the 4300 block of

Valley Avenue

### Aug. 28

#### Theft

■ 9:42 a.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft

■ 11:36 a.m. in the 3200 block of Touriga Drive; grand theft

■ 3:00 p.m. in the 3900 block of Pimlico Drive; identity theft

■ 9:34 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft

#### Vandalism

■ 9:32 a.m. in the 5000 block of

Hopyard Road

■ 4:56 p.m. in the 2400 block of Raven Road

#### Public drunkenness

■ 4:54 a.m. in the 200 block of Kottinger Drive

■ 6:18 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Christina Court

#### Exhibit of deadly weapon

■ 12:24 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

#### Loitering with intent to prostitute

■ 5:35 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Drive; solicitation



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Visit the City of Pleasanton website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us) to view the agendas for the following meetings.

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

#### PCUP-247, Snap Fitness

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a fitness facility at 6654 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 355

#### PCUP-248, Kevin Butler

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a recreational facility at 1040 Serpentine Lane in the Valley Business Park.

#### PCUP-252, Louis Yihmin Liou, Summit Tutoring Center

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate an academic and music tutorial school for Grades 6 to 11 at 4430 Willow Road, Suite C.

#### PCUP-253, Muslim Community Center of East Bay

Application to transfer an existing Conditional Use Permit (PCUP-97) for a religious community center from 1279 Quarry Lane to 1249 Quarry Lane, Suite 150, in the Valley Business Park.

#### PRZ-46, City of Pleasanton

Review and consideration of amendments to Chapter 18.104 and various related sections of the Pleasanton Municipal Code regarding Home Occupations.

### Youth Commission

Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

### Library Commission

Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

### Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

### Civic Arts Commission

The September 7, 2009 meeting of the Civic Arts Commission has been rescheduled to September 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue.

### General Information

The offices at City Hall will be closed Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Labor Day.

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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

## OBITUARIES

### Carl W. "Bill" Carlson

Carl W. "Bill" Carlson died Aug. 21 due to complications from an infection. He was 87.

Mr. Carlson, a 44-year Pleasanton resident, was born Nov. 15, 1921 in the Sacramento area. He was raised with seven sisters and one brother during the Great Depression. His rural life gave him good sensibilities, a good work ethic, and a good sense of humor. He enjoyed mispronouncing words as a form of witty banter.

Mr. Carlson served in World War II, then worked all of his life in the automotive industry rebuilding transmissions until he had a mild heart attack at the age of 84.

He was a social guy in the industry who liked to fish and hang out with the guys. He was a big fan of NASCAR and other motor sports. He was easygoing and liked to tell jokes.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Billie and Andy Jensen; grandsons, Russell and Tyler; stepdaughter, Diane; her sons and "Ginger," the bird dog who was named after his mother-in-law. He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Polly in 2002.

No services or memorials will be held at his request.



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### Sides

- Small Side Salad
- French Fries
- Roasted Corn Salad
- Potato Salad
- Creamy Cole Slaw
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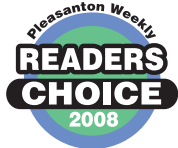
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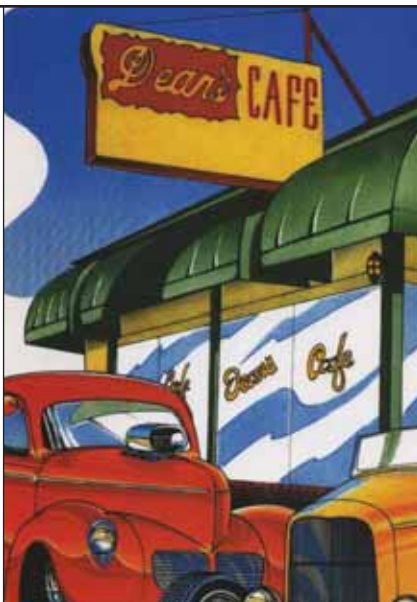
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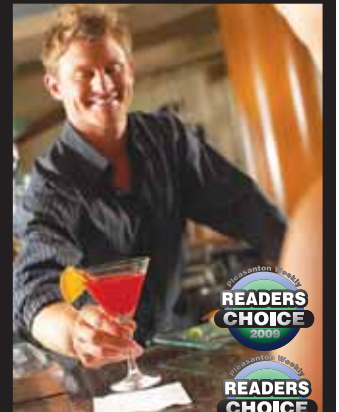


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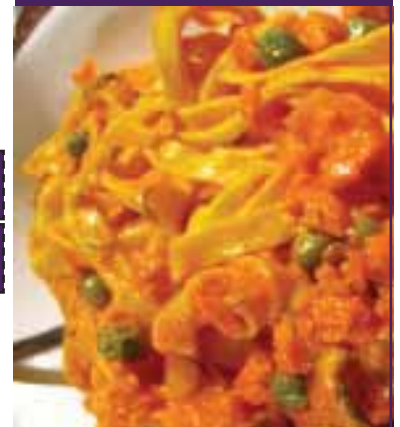
**20% OFF**  
Expires 9-23-09

**Early Bird Specials**  
5pm - 6:30pm Everyday!

270-0500 • 425-0099  
680 Main Street  
Downtown Pleasanton  
[amaronepleasanton.com](http://amaronepleasanton.com)

**What a surprise!**

An Italian restaurant with an Italian Chef and Italian Management



Something to crow about!

**Now Open!**

**THE FARMER RESTAURANT**  
At The Historic Pleasanton Hotel



- **Homemade Family Recipes**
- **A Lovely Garden Patio**
- **Serving Inside and Out**
- **Sunday Brunch**
- **Big Screen TVs in our Lounge for Sporting Events!**

**DINING • TAVERN • DANCING • BANQUETS • WEDDINGS**  
Down home cooking in a fun and comfortable atmosphere

855 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton  
**925.399.6690**  
[www.thefarmerrestaurant.com](http://www.thefarmerrestaurant.com)

**LIVE MUSIC at The Farmer!**

- FRI 9/4 ★ **Stiff Kick** ★ Dance Music
- SAT 9/5 ★ **LOUIE MOON BAND** ★ Jazz, Blues & Rock
- SUN 9/6 ★ **TIM VOLPICELLA** ★ Guitarist
- FRI 9/11 ★ **BAY AREA HEAT** ★ Dance Band
- SAT 9/12 ★ **BILLY MARTINI BAND** ★ 70's Tribute Band
- SUN 9/13 ★ **BLUES BOTTLE BAND**
- FRI 9/18 ★ **BELL BROTHERS** ★ COUNTRY ROCK
- SAT 9/19 ★ **BUMPY ROAD**
- SUN 9/20 ★ **KENNY BLUE RAY & FRIENDS**

**FREE**  
Mom's Homemade Fruit Cobbler  
Peach or Berry  
with any full Dinner Entree  
(\$6.00 Value)  
Exp. 9-13-09



**Chinese Szechuan RESTAURANT**  
**Szechuan & Mandarin Cuisine**  
**Since 1987**  
 NO MSG • TAKEOUT & CATERING

**LUNCH SPECIAL**  
 OVER 50 ITEMS STARTING AT **\$6.25!!**  
 SERVED WITH SOUP, SALAD, EGG ROLL, FRIED WON TON & RICE (BROWN RICE AVAILABLE)

3059 Hopyard Road #G Pleasanton (in Hopyard Village)  
 846-5251 • www.chinesesr.biz  
 BANQUET ROOM AVAILABLE • CLOSED ON MONDAYS

**Girasole GRILL**  
 "Fresh Italian with a California Attitude"

**LUNCH-TIME CATERING**  
 Bring our Excellence to you!

◆ Sandwich ..... \$5.95 to \$6.95  
 ◆ Entrée Salads... \$7.95 to \$9.95  
 ◆ Pastas..... \$6.95 to \$9.95

**Take-out or Delivery**  
**925-484-3503**  
 www.GirasoleGrill.com  
 3180 Santa Rita Rd.

  
Shrimp Salad

  
Absolut! Prawns

**AUTUMN STEAM WEEKEND**  
 September 12-13, 2009

Treat yourself and your family to an affordable steam train outing on a segment of the original transcontinental railroad through scenic Niles Canyon.

Trains depart both days at:  
 10:30 a.m., 12:00, 1:30, 3:00 p.m.

**THREE CLASSES AVAILABLE:**

**COACH CLASS**  
 \$25 Adults, \$10 Children (4-12); under 4 free.

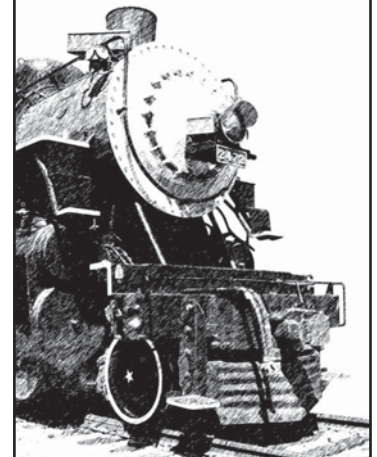
**FIRST CLASS**  
 \$40 - Art Deco lounge car Deluxe service. Includes a complimentary glass of wine or soft drinks.

**EXECUTIVE CLASS**  
 \$79 - SP executive car 21 and older only; includes wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets are limited - order early. Don't stand in line, buy tickets online!

All trains arrive and depart from the Sunol Depot. Sunol is between Fremont and Pleasanton on SR-84, just west of I-680.

For tickets, directions and information, visit [www.ggrm.org](http://www.ggrm.org) or call 650-365-2472.



**Golden Gate Railroad Museum**

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

**BOSCO'S BONES & BREW**  
 Elegant Dining of the 1800's  
**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!**  
 Prime Rib • Seafood Pasta • Fish Dish • Sandwiches

• Lunch & Dinner 7 Days a week! 11:30AM - 9:30PM  
 • Breakfast Saturday & Sunday 8:00AM - 11:30AM  
 • Banquet Room available for all events!  
 • Live Band DJ Friday & Saturday 8 pm - 12 pm

**20% OFF**  
 your next visit...  
 exp 9-15-09

www.boscobonesandbrew.com

**Happy Hour**  
 All Beer & Cocktail \$1.00 off  
 All Appetizers 20% off / 3 pm - 6 pm

11922 Main St. • Sunol • 925.862.0821

**Stacey's cafe**  
 "A fun place to eat"  
 Downtown Pleasanton's Favorite Local Eatery!

**Join Stacey's Wine Club**  
 For information: [winewithstacey@staceyscafe.com](mailto:winewithstacey@staceyscafe.com)

310 Main Street  
 Pleasanton, California  
 www.staceyscafe.com

**For Reservations: 925-461-3113**

VOTED BEST COSMO by Diablo Magazine

READERS CHOICE 2009

**CELEBRATE SUNDAY BRUNCH AT FAZ!**  
 EVERY SUNDAY 10:30AM TO 2:30PM  
 ...COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE ...

• FINE CARVED MEATS  
 • ICED SEAFOOD DISPLAY  
 • PASTA & SALADS  
 • EGG & OMELET STATION  
 • BREADS AND PASTRIES  
 • FRESH HOUSE MADE DESSERTS

Adults ..... \$23.95  
 Seniors ..... \$20.95  
 Children  
 12 & under ..... \$15.95  
 under 3 ..... FREE

RESTAURANT & CATERING AT THE FOUR POINTS SHERATON  
 5121 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton • 925.460.0444

**BUY ONE SALAD & DRINK & Receive Another Salad FREE**  
 Offer Good 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Daily

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 925-463-3090



**BE INDEPENDENT!**  
 Proud to bring the best films in the world to the Tri-Valley!  
 Serving Beer & Wine Starting Sept. 11

**(500) Days of Summer**      **Paper Heart**  
 Fri - Mon: 2:45 5:10 7:20 9:20      Fri - Mon: 12:45 5:00  
 Tues - Thurs: 2:45 5:10 7:15 9:10      Tues - Thurs: 5:10 9:05

**ADAM**      **Get ready for a whole new movie going experience!**  
 Fri - Mon: 12:30 2:20 7:10 9:15      Starting Fri 9/11, the Vine Cinema will be serving Food, 8 Beers on Tap and Local Wines.  
 Tues - Thurs: 2:30 7:10

**IT MIGHT GET LOUD - Starts Fri Sept. 11**  
 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30 11:30

**VINE CINEMA**      447-2545      VineCinema.com  
 1722 First St.      Downtown Livermore

Since 1981 in Downtown Pleasanton

**Emilio's**  
 El Portal Mexican Cafe

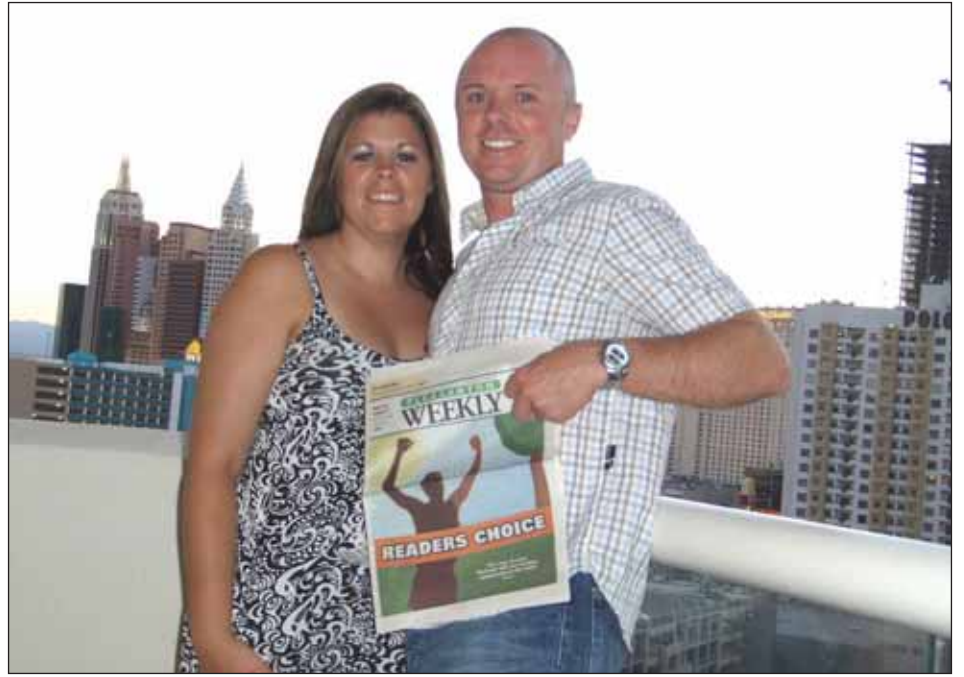
• Made Fresh From Family Recipes  
 • Unlimited Choices Combination Platters  
 • Weekend Specials Include: Fish Tacos, Chicken Mole and Don Pedro Dishes

**FREE LIGHT LUNCH**  
 with purchase of any luncheon platter or dinner  
 exp 8-30-09

(925) 931-1901  
 828 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton  
 Coming Soon! Livermore Location  
 580 and Airway in the Kittyhawk Plaza



**A Grand Weekly:** Jacy and Scott Rasnick took the Weekly along to the Grand Cayman Island, and we weren't complaining! On that particular day, Jacy reports the family planned to snorkel, swim and relax on Seven Mile Beach next to the warm ocean. Sounds like a good plan to us!

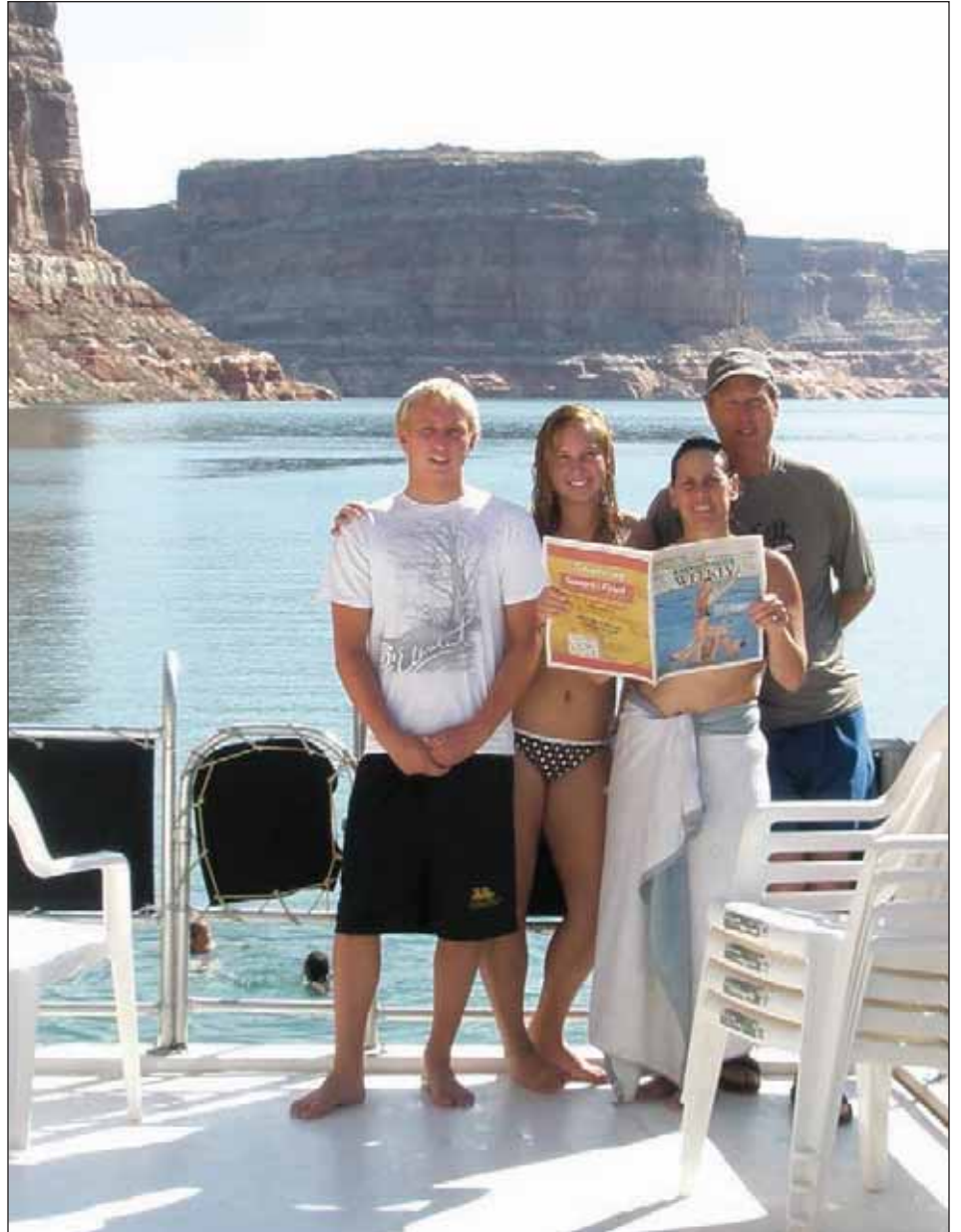


**Weekly anniversary:** Zachary and Kate Hilton packed the Weekly with them on their trip to Las Vegas, where they were celebrating their first wedding anniversary. The couple lounged poolside every day and watched the sunset nightly behind the New York, New York buildings from their condo at the MGM Grand. Not too shabby!

# TAKE US ALONG



**Lean on the Weekly:** The Pletchers: Carlee, Jared, Ken and Susan took the Weekly with them to a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Italy, Greece and Turkey. Here they are in front of the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy. Poor Jared broke his thumb playing kickball two days before the trip, but we think his red cast looks pretty stylish!



**Boating with the Weekly:** The Seitz family: Andrew, Jessica, Chris and Cameron traveled with the Weekly for a houseboat trip on Lake Powell. The lake is a reservoir on the Colorado River that runs through Utah and Arizona.

More Take Us Along photos on PAGE 31

# GRAND OPENING

*Weekend* A Unique Blend of Two New Schools in One Convenient Location  
VIP MMA Muay Thai & Guerrilla Jiu-Jitsu in Pleasanton, CA.

**SATURDAY**

**September 26, 2009**

**Schedule of Events:**

1:30pm - 4:30pm Demo:

- \* Dave and Dan Camarillo
- \* Grand Master Joe Bannon
- \* Steve Del Fierro  
4 time Muay Thai Champ
- \* MMA Sparring
- \* Judo with Matt Darcy
- \* John Simons & Emily Dawson
- ... and more to come

4:30 - 6:30: Book Signing with:

- Dave Camarillo Guerrilla Jiu Jitsu
- **UFC / Strikeforce Fighters**

\*Accepting donations for the **Special Olympics**



**GUERRILLA JIU-JITSU**

**SUNDAY September 27, 2009**

**Free Open Mat**  
*Coaching session with* **Dave Camarillo**

All members and non-members  
**Welcome!**

12pm - 2pm  
RSVP Today

Space is limited email:  
shumei@davecamarillo.com

Guerrilla Jiu-Jitsu HQ  
5627 Stoneridge Drive Suite 318  
Pleasanton, Ca 94588

**UFC Fighter**



Jon Fitch

**StrikeForce**



Champion  
Josh Thomson

**UFC Fighter**



Cain Velasquez

**UFC Fighter**



Mike Swick

**UFC Fighter**



Josh Koscheck

... more to come



... with Entertainment,  
Food and Music!

Info Call **209-836-8888**

... also "Car Show" by Moda Auto Lounge

Promotional Discounts available if you sign-up on the day of  
the **GRAND OPENING!**

Come and Join the Fun! Info Call **925-416-7701**

... and don't forget to stop by



For more details:  
[www.davecamarillo.com](http://www.davecamarillo.com)

For more info please visit:  
[www.vipmma.net](http://www.vipmma.net)

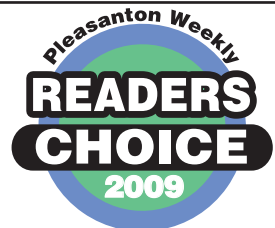
**MANA STORM**  
PRODUCTIONS LLC

5627 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 317 & 318, Pleasanton, CA 94588

\*On the corner of Stoneridge Drive and W.Las Positas

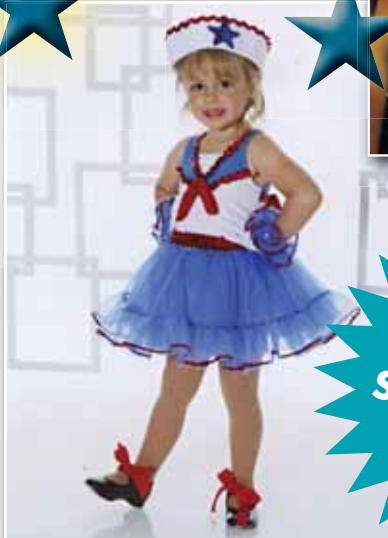


1270 Quarry Lane, Pleasanton  
See our website for the Fall Schedule  
[www.Jazzntaps.com](http://www.Jazzntaps.com) 484-0678



- Professional dance training and education for the recreational and competitive dancer.
- We focus on developing coordination, confidence, teamwork, and a love for dance.
- New students: Try your first class **FREE!**

Tap ★ Jazz ★ Ballet ★ Hip-Hop  
Modern ★ Tumbling ★ Ages 3-Adult



**Classes Begin September 2nd!**

