

# Pleasanton Weekly

Uncle Sam invites you to the Fourth of July celebration in Pleasanton » 28

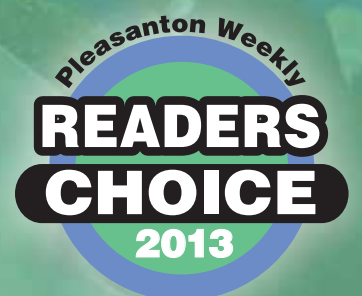


VOL. XIV, NUMBER 22 · JUNE 28, 2013

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**READERS CHOICE:**  
The votes are in **PG 13**



**5 | NEWS**  
Same-sex couples celebrate Supreme Court decision

**5 | NEWS**  
Consultant, arts community updating city's cultural plan

**5 | NEWS**  
33 staff members retiring from school district

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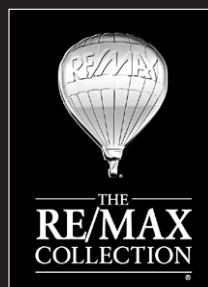
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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



DAN HALL

Joe Rodondi (left), deputy fire chief of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, listens as fire engineer David Bardsley tells Rotary Club of Pleasanton about his rescue last year of Josh Larson, 15, who was crushed in an accident.



Pleasanton Planning Department manager Janice Stern laughs as Community Development Director Brian Dolan describes her "unflappable" ability in handling sometimes gruff permit, rezoning and housing applicants.

## Heroes, 'unflappable' city planner earn service awards

Described as unflappable in her dealings with the public, Pleasanton Planning Department Manager Janice Stern joined with two firefighters called heroes last week in earning community service awards from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton. The awards were presented by City Manager Nelson Fialho, a member of the club, who said the three exemplified the dedication of city employees who serve the community.

Two firefighters with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department were honored for their efforts in rescuing and providing urgent care to Josh Larson, who was critically injured on Boulder Court in the Valley Business Park on May 5, 2012. Larson, who was 15 years old at the time, was crushed when a chain holding a tractor that he and his father were moving into a storage unit broke, pinning Josh underneath. The accident occurred at 10 a.m. just as Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Lund and Fire Engineer David Bardsley were completing a training exercise nearby

next to the city's Operations Service Center on Busch Road. Notified of the accident by a dispatcher, the two rushed to Larson's side, giving immediate aid to stabilize his breathing and then staying with the victim as an ambulance sped him to the Eden Medical Center trauma center in Castro Valley, where emergency room doctors took over. Larson, his family and the doctors credited Bardsley and Lund for "providing the highest quality of pre-hospital care," which they believe saved the young man's life.

Fialho also presented an award to British-born Stern, who has lived in Pleasanton since 1994 and has two daughters (one, in fact, named Pippa and the other Emma). Even though she moved to the U.S. in 1975, she still speaks with a strong accent, which Fialho cited as bringing a bit of British civility to a city planning job where "civility" is not always a description given to those seeking zoning changes and building permits. "She's so unflappable that I swear that if a group of naked clowns would walk through her office, that wouldn't stop her," Fialho said. That alone makes her deserving of special recognition that city planners seldom receive. ■

## About the Cover

Concerts in the Park, held every Friday evening at Lions Wayside Park, was voted Best Place for Live Music in the 2013 Readers Choice contest. Photo by Jeb Bing. Design by Kristin Herman.

## PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Our website has become the place residents turn to for breaking local news, to post their own stories and photos, and to discuss news and events in the community.



**FRIDAYS 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**  
**JUNE 7 - AUGUST 30**  
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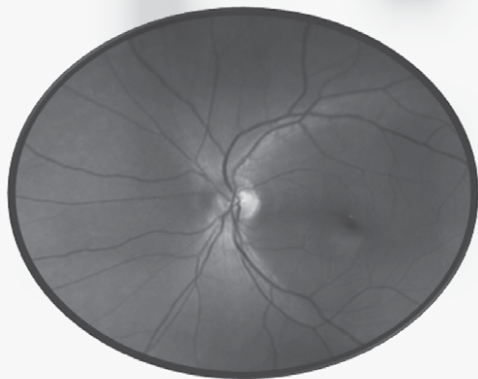
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# Streetwise

ASKED AT PLEASANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AND AROUND TOWN

## June is National Audiobook Month. Do you enjoy listening to audiobooks?



**Lindsey Hill**  
*Elementary school student*

I do sometimes listen to books on tape because I read a lot for school, so my eyes get tired. I like to give them a break, so a good book, especially a mystery, that I can listen to on CDs, is so perfect.

**Steve York**  
*Physical therapist*

I like to listen to audiobooks while I'm running, because it makes the run easier and more enjoyable. I often choose books by George Carlin, the comedian, because they are so funny. I'm sure that people who drive past me in their cars must think I'm a little strange because I laugh while I run.



**Caroline Cox**  
*Mom/blogger*

I only read audiobooks that are narrated by the actual author, because I find it very meaningful to hear the story in the author's own voice. For example, I just listened to Ray Bradbury read his book "The Martian Chronicles." It was terrific.

**Brenna Hill**  
*Special ed teacher*

We listen to audiobooks when we go on long family roadtrips. And we listen to the same audiobook every single time. It has become a family tradition to listen to "11 Birthdays" by Wendy Mass whenever we travel, and we all always enjoy it, regardless of how old the children get.



**Bonnie Brown**  
*Retired*

I enjoy books on tape because I can listen and pay attention to them, even though I'm doing other things, like folding laundry or going for a nice walk. It's a very efficient way to spend time. When I sit down to read an actual book, I can't accomplish anything else; all I can do is sit and read. Listening to a book on tape, while accomplishing other things, is one of the few instances where I am a good multi-tasker.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

## CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

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The community is invited to attend the 52nd Annual Meeting of ValleyCare Health System. This is an opportunity to learn what's happening in health care today, as well as future plans for ValleyCare. Please join us.

ValleyCare Health System  
**52nd ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

6:00pm Reception  
7:00pm Meeting

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

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## DIGEST

### Special day at the races

Pleasanton resident Kay Huff is holding her 22nd annual Ladies Day at the Races today at the racetrack at the Alameda County Fair in the Upper Grandstand, Section F. Women are invited to attend and bring their daughters, mothers, sisters, girlfriends and grandkids. The first race is at 1:15 p.m.; the annual group photo will be taken at 2:30 p.m.

Also today, Pleasanton attorney Michael Hosterman, president of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, is hosting Mike's Day at the Races, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Upper Grandstand, Section G. He hopes to offer a short course in handicapping. The theme will be Hawaiian with Hosterman providing prizes for best outfit, including hats. Both men and women are invited.

### This Wednesday is 1st Wednesday

The 1st Wednesday Street Party on July 3 will be "Red, White and Blue" and feature the Department of Rock band in the beer and wine garden. In June, the Pleasanton Downtown Association for the first time welcomed a live DJ, who proved so popular he will return in August.

Other 1st Wednesday features are ArtBlock, with artists, sculptors and jewelry crafters; a farmers market near the intersection of Main and St. John; and Green Scene, a place to explore energy efficiency. These new features complement the array of vendor booths, food and live music.

### Calling all songwriters

A new singer-songwriter category has been added to the second annual Acoustic Guitar Competition to be held in September as part of the fifth annual IVPAC Guitar Fest LIVE!, a weekend-long celebration of guitars and guitar music in Livermore.

In 2012, the Acoustic Guitar Competition attracted competitors from around the Bay Area as well as Southern California. Entrants must be 18 and non-professional. The top eight will perform before a panel of expert judges and a live audience on Sunday, Sept. 8. Applications for the competition are due July 31 and are available at [www.guitarfestlive.com](http://www.guitarfestlive.com).

### Correction

The June 21 story on Free Shakespeare in the Park should have said performances of "Macbeth" will take place at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, June 29-July 14, at Amador Valley Community Park.

## Consultant, arts community developing updated cultural plan for Pleasanton

Survey shows residents want more of an arts scene

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

A public workshop on updating Pleasanton's Cultural Plan was held Monday evening in a classroom at the Firehouse Arts Center, with about a dozen arts supporters participating in a brainstorming session.

David Plettner-Saunders and Jerry Allen, partners with Cultural Planning Group, reported on results of their survey of approximately 500 residents and the conclusions they have drawn.

"We are asking, 'Did we get it right?'" said Plettner-Saunders. "Once we find out, we will develop a fully fleshed out plan."

The city hired Cultural Planning Group late last year for \$77,480 to develop an update of the 1998 Cultural Plan that resulted in the creation of the Firehouse Arts Center. The updated plan is to summarize trends and priorities, assess resources, review demographics and provide strategies for cultural planning, along with a 15-member ad hoc steering committee.

Those surveyed said they are supporters of the arts and would like more opportunities in Pleasanton — more galleries, arts and live music events, and more activities for youths.

They would also like existing venues, such as the Amador Theater, the library and the museum, to be improved, and they would like "enhanced quality and sophistication" in Pleasanton arts.

Residents also voiced a desire for a larger arts venue to enliven downtown.

"This says to me that people want communal events, community sharing," Plettner-Saunders said.

A question on children showed that 46% participate in arts in school and 45% outside. For sports, it's 46% in school, and 66% outside.

"I'm an arts education person," Allen said. "Education must interface with the arts community."

They have met with school district officials as

part of their study.

"Where do cinemas fall?" asked Victoria Emmons, a former board member of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation.

"People do want to see more movies in town," Plettner-Saunders said, but added this does not necessarily mean bringing a theater to town.

The last Pleasanton movie theater was the Galaxy in the Rosewood Pavilion shopping center; it closed in 2002 after showing independent films for about six months after the Regal Cinemas Hacienda Crossings opened in Dublin.

"There really aren't any hangout spots," said Jill Vellinger, president of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, explaining that gathering places on Main Street can "lend themselves to slam poetry" and similar events.

Cultural Planning Group recommends enhancing the arts and cultural programming in

See **CULTURAL** on Page 10



CHRISTINA GRAY

### Young ribbon cutters

First-graders from Mohr Elementary School cut a ribbon opening a new playground at Amaral Park next door to the school. Teacher Beth Patock received so many questions about construction at the park and its opening that she turned it into a writing assignment — students wrote their questions on a butterfly-shaped piece of paper and mailed them to the city's Planning Department. In turn, the department invited them to cut the ribbon opening the park, which has a new jungle gym, slides and more. The park reopened early this month, just in time for kids from Mohr to enjoy it before school let out for the summer.

## Second-grade teacher recalls 35 years in the classroom

33 staff members retiring from school district

Among the 33 staff members who retired from the Pleasanton school district at the end of the school year is Carol Wolfe, who's retiring after three decades as a teacher.

"I was surprised to learn it's been 35 years," Wolfe said. "The time has just flown."

Wolfe had a unique opportunity in Pleasanton. She was on teams that opened two different schools: Pleasanton Middle School and Hearst Elementary.

She called the 1991 opening of PMS "amazing."

"It was very exciting, people from all over coming to the school to see it because at the

time it was the best school ever. It was more like a business park than a school," Wolfe said. "It's really exciting to open up a school — it's quite a phenomenon. They're getting new mascots, everything. It's all new."

After a year at PMS, Wolfe transferred to Valley View Elementary, where she went back to teaching second grade.

"I got to teach science and math and social studies. I have a science background, so it was really exciting to get back and teach those things," she said. "All my students know me from raising silkworms in the classroom."

See **RETIRING** on Page 8

## Same-sex couples celebrate in Pleasanton

Supreme Court blocks appeal of Proposition 8

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Some of Pleasanton's same-sex couples are celebrating the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that once again makes their marriages legitimate.

"My partner Tim and I have been together 18 years," said Roy Cook, a longtime Pleasanton resident. Cook and Tim Roach have been married twice, once in 2004 when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom permitted gay marriages, and again in 2008 when gay marriage was permitted briefly after an earlier Supreme Court ruling. That was stopped by Proposition 8, a 2008 voter-approved initiative that banned same-sex marriages.

Cook said the Supreme Court decision, which blocked an appeal of Proposition 8, is only one step.

"I'm very aware that the ruling today only affects 12 states including California, so there's more work to do, but we're very happy as it pertains to our personal situation," Cook said.

The court also overturned the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited the U.S. government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

"I'm looking forward to hearing details about the ruling, specifically how our domestic partner benefits would be taxed," Cook said.

He's also waiting to hear how the ruling will affect income tax returns. He said he and his partner have had to file separate income tax returns.

Sandra J. Wing said she was glad she and her partner Gracie Santos would "receive the 1,100 federal benefits that were denied us."

Wing also said she worried about immigration issues surrounding same-sex couples.

See **COUPLES** on Page 10

## Former pro boxer indicted in string of bank robberies

'Button-down bandit' struck Pleasanton, 5 other communities

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

A former boxing champion has been indicted by a federal grand jury for robbing six banks, including a March 12 holdup at Wells Fargo on Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.

James Quindale Page, 42, of Pittsburg was indicted June 20 for taking \$670 from that bank and five others in a four-month period.

Page, whom the FBI dubbed the button-down bandit, was indicted for a March 6 robbery at Case Bank in Walnut Creek, where \$1,856 was taken; the March 12 Pleasanton holdup; and a May 29 robbery at Bank of America in Oakley, where \$1,507 was taken.

He's also charged with three June robberies: a June 3 holdup at Chase Bank in Emeryville, where \$7,033 was taken; a June 7 robbery at 3636 Lone Tree Way, Antioch, where \$1,280 was taken; and a June 8 holdup at Wells Fargo in Lafayette, where \$5,450 was taken.

The suspect in the Pleasanton holdup was described as a man with a Jamaican accent. He entered the bank at about 11:10 a.m. and presented a note stating he was robbing the bank and demanded cash, police said. No weapon was displayed and no one was injured.

Page, a boxer, turned pro in 1990 and was nicknamed "Mighty Quinn." He beat Andrei Pestriev in 1998 to win the World Boxing Association Welterweight title. He retired after losing a bout to Andrew Lewis in 2001.

In December of that year, Page was arrested about 45 minutes after he robbed a Bank of America Branch in Atlanta when police said they saw his 1999 Cadillac — which he bought with his championship earnings — parked outside a bar four miles from the bank.

Page was still on probation after serving more than 10 years in the Atlanta robbery when he was arrested earlier this month for the Oakley holdup. The additional charges were filed June 20.

He'd also tried to rob another bank earlier that day, court records said, indicating he had robbed another Georgia bank a week earlier.

Page was arrested on the latest charges June 10, following an FBI investigation. He made his initial appearance in federal court in Oakland on June 13 and his next appearance was set for June 27.

He has been in custody since he was arrested on June 10 in the May 29 Bank of America robbery in Oakley.

The FBI called the suspect in the six robberies the "Button Down Bandit" because the perpetrator wore long-sleeved, button-down collared shirts. FBI Agent Todd Dorman wrote in an affidavit accompanying the criminal complaint that witnesses at the May 29 robbery in Oakley said that the suspect had a tattoo on the front of his neck that was partly obscured by the button-down collar of his shirt.

Page faces up to 20 years in prison for each count of robbery. ■



MIKE SEDLAK

### Fun at the Fair continues

The Alameda County Fair broke records on opening day last week with 31,389 fair-goers passing through the gates, and attendance has been strong ever since. Tomorrow special features are Hippy Hop Races for kids 7-10 to hop to the finish line on bouncy balls on the racetrack after the fourth race; and a Kissing Contest at 6 p.m. at the amphitheater, where contestants Kiss for 101 Seconds for a chance to win a weekend getaway. In the evening, the concert will be "Baby-face" Edmonds, beginning at 7 p.m. in the amphitheater. The Fair, which is closed Monday, runs through July 7.

## BART workers authorize strike

Walkout could occur Monday

BART's two biggest labor unions have voted to authorize a strike against the transit agency.

Members of Service Employees International Union Local 1221, which represents 1,430 mechanics, custodians and clerical workers, and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555, which repre-

sents 945 station agents, train operators and foreworkers, voted Tuesday. The votes give union leaders the power to call a strike, but they don't necessarily mean that one will occur.

The unions' contracts with BART expires Sunday, so a strike could potentially begin as soon as Monday morn-

ing. Key issues in the talks, which began April 1, are wages, health care costs, pension contribution costs, work rules and safety.

The last time BART employees staged a strike was in September 1997. That walkout lasted six days before a settlement was reached.

—Glenn Wohlmann

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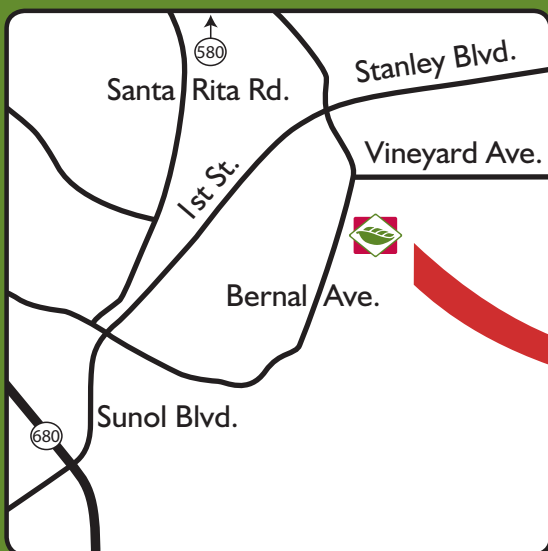


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COURTESY CAROL WOLFE

Carol Wolfe (right), shown with her UCSB college roommate Karen Johnson, is retiring after 35 years teaching in the Pleasanton school district where students remember her raising silkworms in the classroom. They and their husbands still vacation together.

## RETIRING

Continued from Page 5

One tradition she had was to give out rocks — pyrite, crystals, fossilized trilobites and shark's teeth — when students completed a project. She took that tradition with her when she moved to help open Hearst in 2000.

"Once again it was exciting, deciding on school colors and a mascot," Wolfe said. "It was a real privilege to be at another school."

She said departing after so long in the district was sad, leaving not only her last class, but all the students that came back to see her.

"I had fifth-graders come in after school to help grade papers," she said. "High school students

would come back and ask if I'm still giving out rocks and raising silkworms."

Her advice to an incoming teacher?

"Don't be afraid to show your passion, what you like to do — the kids pick up on that passion," Wolfe said "Make learning fun, so kids get hooked into it."

She said she's planning on doing some traveling and spending time outdoors.

"I'll take advantage of off season discounts that you can't do when you're a teacher — and playing lots of golf," she said.

But, Wolfe added, she hasn't ruled out returning to the district, this time as a volunteer.

—Glenn Wohltmann

### Other retirees from the district are:

- Jacqueline Albano, resource specialist at Hart Middle School
- Keith Averell, third-grade teacher at Vintage Hills Elementary
- Judith Beebe-Vargas, speech therapist at Walnut Grove Elementary
- Laura Bennett, first-grade teacher at Donlon Elementary
- Karen Buchanan, administrative secretary at PMS
- Cella Ermina, child nutrition assistant at Amador child nutrition
- Leslie Dannis, deaf/hard of hearing teacher for special education
- Gregory Davis, music teacher at Lydiksen and Donlon elementaries
- Dan Diep, custodian at Foothill High
- Susan Di Girolamo, resource specialist at Mohr Elementary
- Patricia Esser, special education assistant at Foothill
- Joyce Frye, business services administrative assistant at the district offices
- James Hansen, principal, Amador Valley High
- Gary Hicklin, technology director for the district
- Rebecca Hintze, campus monitor at Foothill
- Paula Jenkins, resource specialist at Lydiksen
- Robert Loew, math teacher at Foothill
- Linda Olbrycht, counselor at Vintage Hills
- Dee Osborne, business services coordinator at the district offices
- Dane Post, science teacher at PMS
- Paula Richter, second-grade teacher at Walnut Grove
- Kelly Sandler, resource specialist at Foothill
- Francisco Santos, math teacher at PMS
- Janet Sears, third-grade teacher at Mohr
- Susan Snyder-Johnson, second-grade teacher at Vintage Hills
- Vicki Stephens, first-grade teacher at Vintage Hills
- Theresa Sullivan, second-grade teacher at Hearst
- Ellen Talbot, second-grade teacher at Fairlands
- Ellen Waskey, reading specialist at the district offices
- Nancy Wedge, math teacher at PMS
- John Whitney, principal at PMS
- Lee Zachariades, PE/social studies/leadership teacher at Village High

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## 24 appointed to key Pleasanton commissions, committees

City Council praises service of outgoing members whose terms expire this month

By JEB BING

Mayor Jerry Thorne and the Pleasanton City Council welcomed 24 Pleasanton residents who have been appointed or re-appointed to four-year terms on key committees and commissions.

At swearing-in ceremonies held in the council chambers last week were Justin Brown and Richard Duffy, new members of the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee; Stephanie Wedge, John Loll, Sandra Jellison and Olivia Scrivner, Civic Arts Commission; Bryan Bowers, Richard Gross and Jay Galvin, Economic Vitality Committee; and Sophia Holbrook, who will serve as the youth member of the Energy & Environment Committee.

Also sworn into office by City Clerk Karen Diaz at the June 18 council meeting were Varsha Clare, Susan Hayes and Alison Bowell as members of the Human Services Commission; Kellene Cousins and Ria Vyas, Library Commission; Deborah Wahl and Brad Hottle as members, Sophia Brown as youth member, and David Lambert as alternate member of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Also accepting appointments and sworn in

as members of the Pleasanton Youth Commission were Meghna Sinha, representing Amador Valley High School, Dianne Hadley of Foothill High School, and Kaitlyn Mallie, a commission member-at-large.

Newly installed members of the Planning Commission are Herb Ritter and Nancy Allen.

The council also recognized the service of Kathy Narum on the Planning Commission, who was elected to the City Council last month, and Herb Ritter, installed last week as a member of the Planning Commission, for his longtime service on the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The council also thanked individuals whose terms of membership expired this month on various committee and commissions.

They were Elizabeth Kolar and Deborah Wahl, Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee; Claudia Hess, Civic Arts Commission; Thom Kato and Howard Royer, Energy & Environment Committee; Don Wilson, Human Services Commission; Kurt Kummer, Parks & Recreation Commission; Philip Blank, Planning Commission; and, Shan-non Malindzak, Youth Commission. ■



JOANNE HALL

Mayor Jerry Thorne (center) with members of the City Council standing in the back greet new members of city commissions and committees who were sworn in at a June 18 council meeting.

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Just for children age 3-8!

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Kids Dash: \$11/\$15 race day

Online registration closes at 11 p.m. on 7/4.  
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## TAKE US ALONG



**Prime Meridian, Longitude 0.00'00":** Kim Spencer takes her Pleasanton Weekly to London. With a foot on either side, she stands in both halves of the world at once.

## COUPLES

Continued from Page 5

Under the ruling, gay and lesbian couples would be able to get visas for their spouses.

"Immigration was a concern for us years ago," Wing said. "It is so delightful to know those in the future would not have the same concerns."

The ruling is also welcome news for couples who could not get married during the fight over Proposition 8.

Gov. Jerry Brown, state Attorney General Kamala Harris, San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera and lawyers for the two couples who challenged Proposition 8 all say they believe same-sex marriage will resume statewide in California in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling.

Brown announced he has advised state officials that a federal trial court injunction requiring them to license and register gay and lesbian marriages will apply throughout the state.

In a letter released Wednesday morning, Brown directed the California Department of Public Health to instruct all county registrars and recorders to allow same-sex marriages as soon as the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifts the stay that kept Proposition 8 in effect.

"The effect of today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling is that the 2010 federal district court's decision that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional is left intact and the law cannot be enforced," Brown said in a statement.

Harris said all 58 counties in California will be informed they have to follow the law and permit gay and lesbian marriages.



FILE PHOTO

Gracie Santos and Sandra Wing, together 18 years; Regina Stoops and Diane Berry, together 22 years; and Roy Cook and Tim Roach, together 18 years, are shown in a 2008 photo when the three couples renewed their commitment to each other in a small private civil marriage ceremony. That ceremony followed the State Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage. The couples, long-time residents of Pleasanton, planned a celebration Wednesday night.

The fight isn't quite over. Proposition 8 sponsors have 25 days to ask the Supreme Court for a rehearing, plus several days for a federal appeals court to issue a mandate dismissing the appeal.

There could also be further litigation about the scope of the trial court ruling striking down Proposition 8.

Herrera and lawyers for the two couples who challenged Proposition 8 say the injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Vaughn R. Walker requires California officials

to license and register same-sex marriages statewide.

The sponsors of Proposition 8 have said in court filings, however, that they think Walker's ruling, which blocked Proposition 8 from taking effect, would apply only to the two individual couples who challenged it.

The couples, who filed a federal civil rights lawsuit in San Francisco in 2009, are Kristin Perry and Sandra Stier of Berkeley and Paul Katami and Jeffrey Zarrillo of Burbank. ■

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## CULTURAL

Continued from Page 5

the city. The Amador Theater could be used more fully although it needs some improvements, Plettner-Saunders said.

"We get frequent requests to use the Amador Theater and the Firehouse Theater, there's absolutely a demand," said Community Services Manager Michele Crose. "The community is dying to get into both facilities."

The difficulty, she explained, was the need for technical assistance and staff to set up.

"There's not enough for the two theaters and all the other city events," Crose said.

Plettner-Saunders said the historic Century House on Santa Rita Road is a lovely place, but it is not good for performances. The city could use an outdoor amphitheater, preferably in the center of town.

Pleasanton also should consider producing a signature festival, which could be held over a season, not just in one weekend or day, Plettner-Saunders and Allen said.

In the survey, 65% said they believe the city should support or play a major role in the arts.

Luckily, Allen noted, city officials understand that it might take time to build an audience for new arts offerings.

Plettner-Saunders said the survey showed a strong interest in learning opportunities for children and adults.

"Now it's mostly the introductory level," he said. "We'd like to see that augmented."

Other recommendations for the arts were:

- Celebrate cultural diversity
- Evolve the public art program
- Improve marketing and visibility
- Develop the capacity of local arts and cultural organizations and artists
- Address cultural facilities needs
- Leverage the economic impact of the arts

"Pleasanton's arts and culture scene is under-recognized," Plettner-Saunders said. "There needs to be an effort to make it more visible to the community."

Other places have had poetry on the buses, which is something Pleasanton's new Poet Laureate Sandra Kay might explore, he said.

Plettner-Saunders and Allen noted that arts consumers are oblivious to city boundaries, and they've suggested the various groups get together to discuss and coordinate their seasons.

"How do we differentiate ourselves?" Vellinger asked. "Maybe a dinner theater."

The next night, Plettner-Saun-

ders and Allen met with members of the Cultural Arts Update steering committee.

"They didn't take official action, but the tone was very supportive, and they made some suggestions and refinements," Plettner-Saunders said afterward.

"There was a lot of discussion about public art," he said. "The direction is they're enthusiastic about a public art master plan."

The next step is to unveil the draft Cultural Plan Update in July. It will be posted on the city's website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us) or people can contact Community Services Manager Crose at [mcrose@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:mcrose@cityofpleasantonca.gov) to be on the email list. Call her at 931-5347.

The plan will unfold as resources are available, Plettner-Saunders said.

One question in the survey asked if respondents would be willing to be taxed \$5, \$10 or \$25 annually to support the arts, and 76%, 69% and 53%, respectively, said yes.

"It's another perspective on support," Plettner-Saunders said, although he noted that such a tax could not be added in California due to Proposition 13.

"The City Council decides," he told the arts supporters at Monday's meeting. "It will be up to you to advocate for the plan." ■

# Business News

Edited by Jeb Bing, [jbing@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:jbing@pleasantonweekly.com)

## How to dispute a credit card charge

Federal Billing Act outlines process for contesting charges made to your account

By **JASON ALDERMAN**

Have you ever ordered something online that was delivered damaged — or never arrived at all? Or been double-billed by a merchant? Or spotted a charge on your credit card statement you didn't make? Most of us have.

Fortunately, the 1975 Fair Credit Billing Act (FCBA) protects your rights during such credit card billing disputes. It also outlines the process for contesting charges made to your account. Here's how it works:



**Jason Alderman**

First, FCBA protection applies only to "open-end" credit account transactions — those involving credit cards or revolving charges (e.g., department store accounts). It doesn't cover installment contracts you repay on a fixed schedule, such as car loans.

Billing errors that are covered by the FCBA include:

- Fraudulent or unauthorized use of your credit card, whether it was stolen or merchants charged unapproved items to your account.
- Charges that list the wrong date or amount.
- Charges for goods or services you either did not accept or that weren't delivered as agreed.
- Math errors, such as being

charged twice for a transaction.

■ Failure to post payments or other credits.

(Note: Report suspected fraud immediately. By law, you're only liable for the first \$50 in unauthorized charges; however, most card issuers waive that liability if you report the charges quickly.)

Review all billing statements carefully upon receipt because in order to be covered under FCBA rules, most disputed transactions must be reported within 60 days of the statement date on which the error appeared.

First, contact the merchant and try to resolve the dispute directly with them. If this good-faith resolution attempt doesn't work, you can escalate the process by filing a written report with your credit card issuer within the 60-day window.

The card issuer is then obligated to investigate the dispute on your behalf. They must acknowledge your complaint, in writing, within 30 days of receipt and resolve the dispute with the merchant within two billing cycles — but not more than 90 days.

Send your letter via certified mail to the card issuer's billing inquiry address, not the payment address. Include your name, address, account number and a description of the billing error. Include copies of sales slips or other documents that support your position.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), you may with-

hold payment of the disputed amount and related charges during the investigation. In fact, many card issuers may voluntarily remove the charge until the matter is resolved since they are representing you, their client, in the dispute.

If it turns out your bill contains a mistake, the creditor must explain, in writing, the corrections that will be made. In addition to crediting your account, they must remove all finance charges, late fees or other charges related to the error.

However, if the card issuer's investigation determines that you owe part — or all — of the disputed amount, they must promptly provide you with a written explanation. If you disagree with the investigation's results, you may further dispute your claim with the creditor, as outlined by the FTC at [www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0219-fair-credit-billing](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0219-fair-credit-billing). (That site also contains a sample dispute letter and other helpful FCBA information.)

If you believe a creditor has violated the FCBA, you may file a complaint with the FTC or sue them in court.

Hopefully, you'll never have a billing dispute that goes to these extremes. But it's good to know how consumer laws protect you, just in case.

*Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney](http://www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney).*

## Safeway cashes out of Canada

Pleasanton-based company gaining \$5.8 billion (Canadian) in selling stores to Sobeys

By **JON SPRINGER**

In a move seen as a bold strike for both parties, Pleasanton-based Safeway Corp. has agreed to sell its lucrative Canadian business to Sobeys operator Empire Cos. for \$5.8 billion in Canadian cash.

The deal provides Stellarton, Nova Scotia-based Sobeys with a leading position in Western Canada and Safeway with around \$4 billion after taxes, half of which will be used to reduce debt, officials said.

But while financial leverage on Safeway will ease, pressure to improve its lower-margin and slow-growing U.S. operations will rise, analysts said last week. The deal follows Safeway's \$230 million spinoff of its Blackhawk gift-card business this spring.

Sobeys will acquire 213 grocery stores under the Safeway banner, including 199 with pharmacies and 62 with gas stations. Ten liquor stores, four distribution centers and 12 manufacturing facilities are also in the deal, which is subject to customary closing conditions

including regulatory approval in Canada. Officials said they expect the sale to close this fall.

The stores being sold generated \$6.7 billion in sales and operating profits of \$428 million in Canadian dollars for the 12 months that ended March 23. That's approximately 12% of Safeway's store fleet but more than 50% of its profits, some analysts pointed out.

"We estimate that what is left will be a fraction of Safeway's existing earnings base and a 1.3% operating margin business in the U.S.," Ajay Jain, an analyst for Cantor Fitzgerald, said in a research note.

"We have felt for some time that any steps by Safeway to monetize Blackhawk and the Canadian businesses would serve to expose the U.S. operations in a much more negative light," he added. "We think that reality has taken shape now that Safeway has spun off its main growth vehicle (Blackhawk) and sold its largest and most stable earnings stream (Canada)."

Andrew Wolf, an analyst with

BB&T Capital Markets, Richmond, Va., praised Safeway for unlocking value from its assets at a good price, and cited new momentum in its U.S. business in recent quarters.

"At the end of the day they have to get their U.S. operations turned around to make investors happy," Wolf told Supermarket News. "But they realized value from two assets that were undervalued. And the biggest asset is still the U.S. operations, and this is where they can fully focus."

Robert Edwards, Safeway's chief executive officer, said assets from the sale would also be used to buy back stock and invest in initiatives to grow its core U.S. grocery business, including its Just For U loyalty, Fuel Rewards and Wellness programs. Safeway officials have said these initiatives could each add 2% or more to identical sales, although the programs are all in their early stages.

*Jon Springer writes for Supermarket News. This article appeared June 17.*

## KITTEN BONANZA THIS WEEKEND!!!

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### Commission Vacancies Recruitment

The City Council is accepting applications for the following Commission Vacancies:

#### Committee on Energy & the Environment

##### Economic Vitality Committee

for the following groups:

Green Economy/Environmental Industry

Medical Technology

Residential Real Estate Developer

#### Youth Commission

Village High School (by fall 2013 freshman through junior)

Thomas Hart Middle School (entering 6th or

7th Grade by fall 2013)

#### City representative to the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/newcommapp.pdf>.

For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

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 completing an interest card on our website at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)

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)

# Opinion

## LETTERS

### Adobe park turning 5

Dear Editor,

Just a note to tell you how much I appreciated and enjoyed the June 21 editorial on the Alviso Adobe. As you likely know, a group of Alviso Adobe advocates has formed "Friends of the Alviso Adobe" to promote improvements to the park to allow more interactive cultural opportunities. We lobbied hard to get the City Council support to add the park to its two-year work plan and were pleased it did so. With the East Bay Regional Park District pending purchase of the adjacent property it is timely to review the needs of the park and determine its future.

Several of our group are docents of the park and understand only too well the shortcomings of this beautiful facility. We are pledged to work with staff and decision makers to help in any way we can to help the park reach its potential. Our group will be helping staff plan for the fifth anniversary celebration of the park's dedication in October. We are hopeful the event can demonstrate to the community what the park could be if modest but important changes or additions are made to the park and to the guidelines governing its use.

Again, thanks for highlighting that this unique and underutilized city resource can use some attention.

**Dolores Bengtson**

### Construction frustrating

Dear Editor,

The construction signs still read that work on Vineyard was to be completed on May 30. At this point I think they left off the year on purpose and it is 2014. As a resident of north Mavis Drive I am getting tired of the construction that was supposed to end weeks ago.

It is not that I am against improvements. Actually I am all for them. What bothers me is the one thing that has been missing since the beginning of the project: communication.

I am sure I am not the only Pleasanton resident that learned of the construction from an article in the Weekly after the work had already begun. When it was to last 60 days it seemed reasonable. What is not reasonable is that some days there

is work and others there is not.

Currently on a daily basis one has to maneuver the work on Vineyard. Today will the road be one lane? Will north Mavis be blocked and closed? Are they going to update the sign with a new end date? Might the cement truck driver actually look before he pulls out and almost hits me?

How hard is it in a world full of technology to let residents know what is going on? The crew could put out a sign that states Vineyard will be closed tomorrow in a west bound direction or that Mavis will be closed to traffic. It would just be common courtesy.

By the way, does anyone really know when this project that now is past due going to be completed?

**Kirstin Litz**

*Editor's note: City Engineer Stephen Kirkpatrick agrees. He says, "There is no good excuse for the dates not being changed. The message was supposed to be 'Expect Delays' during the work, and please go another way for the benefit of motorists and the safety of the workers. A valid message still, but the dates were overlooked. Regardless, the city regrets the inconvenience the project has caused and understands that frustrations such as those stated in this letter to the editor may be alleviated through better communication. It will be a goal on future projects."*

### Priority of Alviso Adobe

Dear Editor,

As a member of the "Friends of the Alviso Adobe," I thank you for your June 21 editorial and support of the Adobe. You characterized very clearly the issues that have kept the Park fairly static since 2008.

For several years, Dolores Bengtson and others, including myself, have been urging the city to develop and implement a complete plan for this beautiful place, "the park that Pleasanton forgot." In reaching its full potential eventually, the beauty and historical importance of the Adobe will be preserved, its programs will be enhanced, and it will become a true community park.

We are pleased that the City Council has placed Alviso Adobe on its priority list, and invite those interested to join with our informal group in moving the process forward.

**Jim Bowe**

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY



CITY OF PLEASANTON

Architect's sketch shows 345-unit apartment complex to be built on 16-acre site at Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard, across from McDonald's and next to Congregation Beth Emek. Multi-story, high density buildings will face Bernal with small grocery store and coffee shop, possibly a Starbucks, at corner. Home Depot once sought approval to build second Pleasanton store on site.

## 2013 proving to be banner year for Pleasanton

In his report on Pleasanton at mid-year in 2013, City Manager Nelson Fialho reports that everything is coming up roses when it comes to municipal finances, new and expanded businesses, housing development and even with more parkland and sports fields.

In fact, with the payoff three weeks ago of the \$13 million in remaining bonds used to build the Callippe golf course in 2005, the city of Pleasanton saved taxpayers \$10 million in interest payments and, starting in fiscal 2014, will be free of any construction debts for the first time since 1950.

Municipal revenues are up across the board as the recession ebbs away. In 2007, when the recession hit, the city saw a dramatic decrease in annual revenue, shrinking down to \$84.7 million. Last year, it started rebounding and projections indicate it should be back to \$94.5 million in general fund revenue in the 2013/14 fiscal year. The city is also seeing dramatic increases in the market value of properties and in assessed value. The combined assessed value in Pleasanton stands at \$17 billion, generating \$50 million a year in property taxes. About 50% of that property tax comes from the corporate side of the ledger, including companies like Kaiser, Oracle, Safeway, Clorox and Stoneridge Shopping Center. By comparison, Union City, which has a bigger population, has combined assets of \$2 billion, which generates about \$14 million in property taxes there.

Along with city revenue increases, Pleasanton's business community has also regained post-recession momentum. Workday now has more than 1,000 employees and projects that will rise to 4,000 in the next few years, making it the city's largest employer, ahead of Safeway that currently holds that title. Workday is moving into five buildings in the Pleasanton Stoneridge Plaza on Stoneridge Mall Road. It's also planning to build a six-story, 400,000-square-foot tower that would be the city's largest structure.

Last year, Clorox completed the expansion of its corporate campus off Hopyard Road and has moved 700 employees there, with plans to increase that to 1,200, with many of them transferred here from the company's Oakland headquarters. Gateway Center at Bernal and Valley avenues, where Safeway's Lifestyle supermarket is the anchor, became fully leased this spring with the completion of a new CVS Pharmacy, Safeway fueling station and Starbucks. The construction of Stoneridge Creek on Staples Ranch is nearing completion with the first residents scheduled to move in next month. Nearby, a site at the corner of Staples across from the Livermore Outlets may soon see two upscale automobile dealerships moving in, adding hefty sales tax revenue. Auto sales in Pleasanton now generate about \$3.5 million a year, about what it takes to operate the Pleasanton Public Library, Fialho points out.

Along with business growth, the city's unemployment continues to fall, now totaling 4.8% compared to 7.9% nationally and 10% for California as a whole. Post-recessionary median prices for Pleasanton homes are up 7%, now approaching \$800,000, against a state average of \$65,000. Commercial vacancies are about 13% this month, a decrease of 20% from a year ago.

Major housing projects are also under way with construction to start later this summer on high density three- and four-story buildings by BRE in the Hacienda Business Park. Two other high density apartment complexes were approved this spring at California Center and on West Las Positas Boulevard, with construction set to begin next year. South Bay Construction is seeking approval of another multifamily housing complex along with single family homes on Valley Avenue south of Safeway's Gateway Center. A bid by E.S. Ring to build an upscale 300-unit apartment complex on Bernal Avenue at Stanley Boulevard, across from the McDonald's restaurant, will go to the City Council this fall and will include a retail center at the intersection.

Also under way are development plans for a \$15.5 million project at Bernal Community Park that will add lighted fields for youth baseball, soccer and football and adjacent landscaped woodlands and trails. ■

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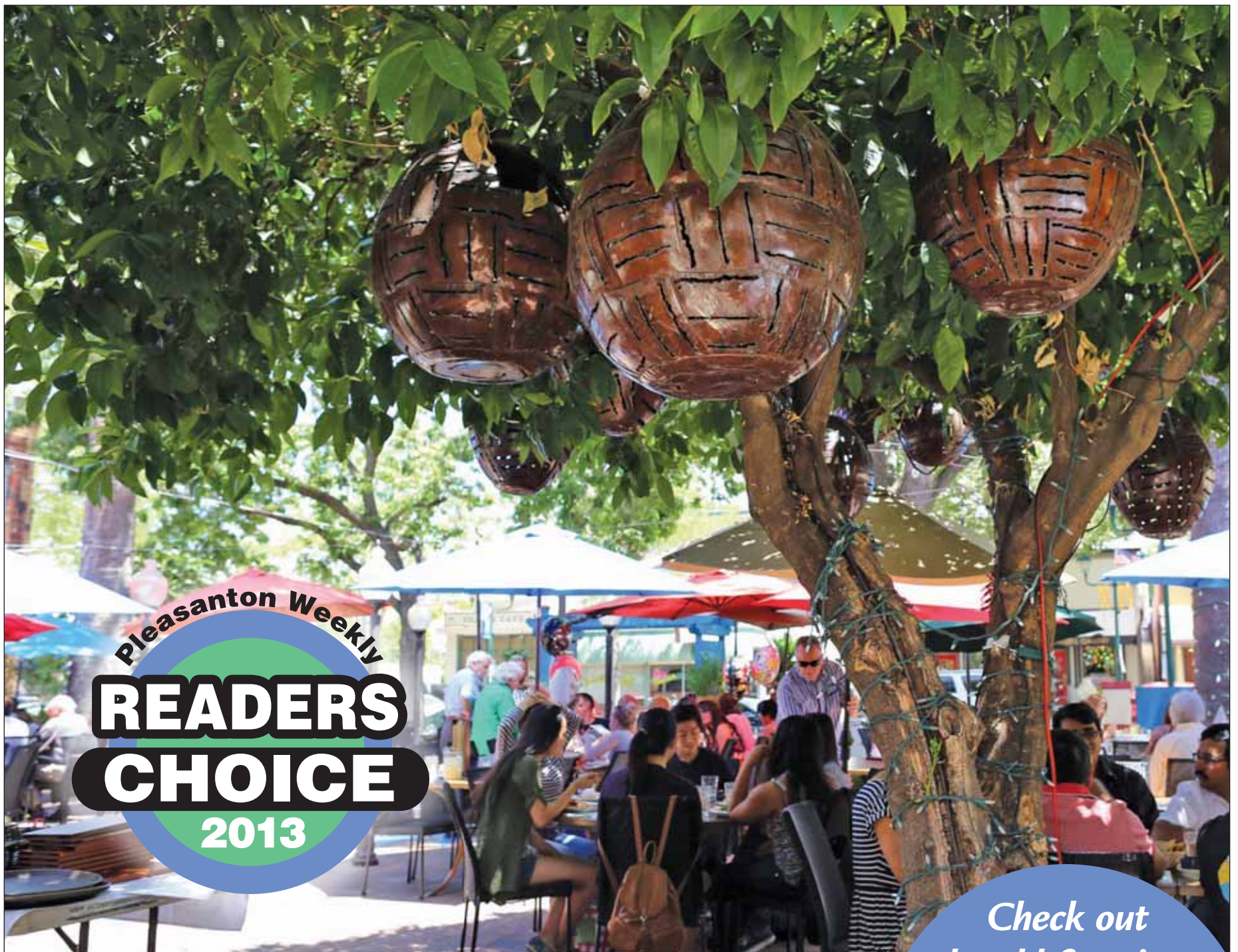
## YOUR TURN

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 Media 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.



*Check out the old favorites, new choices and best loved things in Pleasanton*

BY ISABELLA OHLMEYER AND SIERRA RHODES

# READERS CHOICE: The votes are in

The votes are in and readers have chosen their favorite services, restaurants, stores and more in our annual Readers Choice contest. With 28,477 confirmed votes throughout the Tri-Valley, readers of the Pleasanton Weekly and PleasantonWeekly.com cast their ballots in categories that included the best place for live music, the best place to jog and the best ice cream — and services ranging from banks to photographers. Choices ranged from “mom and pop” enterprises on Main Street to popular franchises.

Here are the winners. See if your favorites are shared by others, and learn more about Pleasanton and all it has to offer.

## Services

**Best Bank — Wells Fargo.** More and more we bank with an ATM machine or computer rather than an actual person, but when you must go in person, our readers

find Wells Fargo’s staff friendly and polite.

**Best Commercial Real Estate Service Provider — Colliers International.** Creativity, innovation and hard work drive the team at Colliers International, with this recipe for success winning the loyalty of our readers.

**Best Computer Repair — Tri-Valley PC Medic.** It’s no surprise that Tri-Valley PC Medic has won yet another best-of award. With over 20 years of experience, it provides professional support at homes or businesses, and has scads of satisfied customers.

**Best Credit Union — Patelco Credit Union.** Clients of Patelco Credit Union call its service courteous, friendly, efficient and capable. Everybody wants their money in good hands, and our readers have voted

Patelco’s hands the best.

**Best Dry Cleaner — VIP Cleaners.** VIP Cleaners has once again cleaned up the competition. For the eighth year in a row, VIP has been named the Best Dry Cleaner. It also does alterations.

**Best Financial Planning Firm (Non-brokerage) — Wealth Management Associates.** Our readers trust Wealth Management Associates to help them focus on the important things in life, while the associates focus on staying in tune with the current market and making your financial portfolio its best.

**Best Financial Planning Brokerage — Charles Schwab.** The place to get one-on-one help to make decisions with your money, Charles Schwab will guide you through financial ups and downs.

ISABELLA OHLMEYER

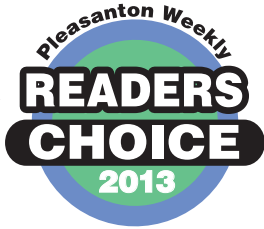
Lunch patrons enjoy “alta cocina Mexicana” in the front patio of the Blue Agave Club, our readers choice for Best Atmosphere.

Check out a free workshop — whether or not you’re a Schwab client.

**Best Local Insurance Agent — Renee Huber.** Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there. State Farm insurance agent Renee Huber and her staff go above and beyond to make clients feel welcome and informed, offering professional advice and service as well as a personal touch.

**Best Mortgage Company — Landmark Mortgage Group.** Customer for life is the

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DAVID WAKELY PHOTOGRAPHY

People continue to discover the Firehouse Arts Center, at 4444 Railroad Ave. in downtown Pleasanton, and all it has to offer; readers voted it Best Kept Secret Treasure of Pleasanton.

guiding principle that fuels the Landmark team. Our readers know they can bank on Landmark.

**Best Mortgage Professional — Mary Lou Edwards.** Marylou has been in the business for 16 years, and she takes all that experience right to her clients, giving them sound advice and a smooth loan process.

**Best Photographer — Bella Luna Studios.** Christina Gray, owner and photographer of Bella Luna Studios, seems to have a magical eye — taking pictures so beautiful they've inspired tears of joy. This is the sixth straight win for Bella Luna.

**Best Real Estate Agent — Gina Piper.** Gina's passion is helping her clients meet their real estate goals, whatever they are. Our readers love her dedication and the wonderful relationships she cultivates with them.

**Best Real Estate Team — Moxley Team.** With four generations of

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*"I came to see Dr. Sohl for my severe back, hip and knee pain. For the first time in years, my back felt better. Dr. Sohl's treatments have made a huge improvement to my life!"* —Mike



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## Thank You!

For your continued support and confidence. I am honored to have been voted as the **Best Realtor in Pleasanton** by the wonderful readers of the Pleasanton Weekly!



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ISABELLA OHLMEYER

Kylie Mckeown, 10, shows off her manicure during her second visit to Bollinger Nail Salon on Main Street, which won Best Nail Care.

real estate experience, mother-son team Kris and Tyler Moxley are the duo to turn to if you have a home to sell or are looking to buy.

**Best Real Estate Office — Keller Williams.** A lot of companies function like a family, and Keller Williams takes this to heart while focusing on service and productivity. No

wonder they've won our Reader's Choice four years in a row.

**Best Title Company — Old Republic Title.** Old Republic impresses with its strong work ethic and professionalism. Home-buying is stressful — let Old Republic help you through the mountain of paperwork.

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**Health & Fitness**

**Best Acupuncture — Eastern Medical.** Some might squirm at the idea of having tiny needles stuck into their skin, but our readers trust Dr. Shen and the Eastern Medical staff to take care of them.

**Best Chiropractic Office — TIE — Amador Valley Chiropractic Group and Sohl Chiropractic.** At Amador Valley Chiropractic Group, Drs. Lisa and George Kirk not only snap their patients' joints back in place with finesse, they care about their patients' non-skeletal well-being, too. Sohl Chiropractic sees its care as a way to fulfill its mission to impact humanity, by helping people feel better and reach their highest potential. Their patients say it is working.

**Best Health Club — ClubSport.** Our readers' favorite place to get fit is ClubSport Pleasanton. They rave about its modern equipment and great personal trainers.

**Best Hearing Services Provider — Hearing Services.** You've probably heard of Hearing Services. Serving the Tri-Valley for 27 years, it offers innovative digital hearing instruments, and countless testimonials say loudly and clearly that this is the place to go.

**Best Massage — Healthy Necessity Massage.** Michelle Pena and the staff at Healthy Necessity Massage offer more than just a back rub. Our readers rave about the thorough massage therapy for all their aches and pains.

**Best Martial Arts Studio — Crispim BJJ Barra Brothers.** No matter which discipline you're interested in, Crispim BJJ Barra Brothers has a bit of everything, from mixed martial arts (MMA) to "muay Thai," with instructors that care for their students and have respect for their martial arts.

**Best Optometrist — Foothill Optometric Group.** Helping people see the light — and everything else — since 1983, Foothill Optometric Group is dedicated to customer service and vision solutions.

**Best Place to Buy Fitness Equipment & Apparel — Fleet Feet.** Whatever you want — shoes, equipment or apparel — the staff at Fleet Feet will take the time to find the ideal match for you. Run, hop, skip or jump to Fleet Feet for all your fitness apparel needs.

**Best Place to Walk, Jog or Bike — Pleasanton Ridge.** You can see all of Pleasanton from the top of Pleasanton Ridge. With numerous trails at many levels of difficulty, easy parking and a great view, it's a beautiful spot for being active outdoors.

**Best Yoga/Pilates — Zen Pilates & Fitness.** Find your zen place with small classes and personal training. Zen Pilates and Fitness offers yoga, Pilates, flexibility, balance and core stability — and it's snagged a third win in a row with our readers.

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**Beauty & Style**

**Best Consignment Store — Savvy Seconds.** An upscale consignment store, Savvy Seconds sells new and used clothes for women. Maintaining its chic outlook for its clientele, this consignment store sells clothing by popular brand names such as Michael Kors, Chanel, Seven Jeans and Bebe.

**Best Day Spa — A Touch of Health.** For 23 years, A Touch of Health has offered Pleasanton a place of relaxation. The day spa offers services such as microdermabrasion, eye refirming treatment, a Swedish massage, reflexology massage and a couple's massage.

**Best Hair Salon for Men — Cosmo's.** A barbershop on First street, Cosmo's is a staple for quick and quality haircuts and hair care, for men, women and children, with friendly customer service.

**Best Hair Salon for Women — Hairlights.** You may recognize Hairlights salon from its presentation booth and free braiding hair-styling during the 1st Wednesday Street Fairs downtown. Services include updo's, haircuts, highlights, keratin treatment, waxing and a Tea Tree scalp and hand massage.

**Best Jewelry Store — Cardinal Jewelers.** This jewelry emporium specializes in custom designs, using your gemstones or its own. It also had a wide array of glittering jewels



These pastries look tempting but they're actually dog cookies for sale at Pet Food Express, chosen Best Pet Store.

ISABELLA OHLMEYER

on display to purchase as gifts or as a treat for yourself. Knowledgeable professionals are always there and ready to help.

**Best Nail Care — Bollinger Nail Salon.** This nail salon assures fine nail care treatment from start to finish. Services include manicures, pedicures, waxing, shellac mani-

cures and acrylic full set manicures. No need to cross your fingers hoping for a good mani or pedi when you choose this shop.

**Best Place to Buy a Gift — Clover Creek.** Located in the heart of Main Street, Clover Creek offers unique gifts such as silk flowers, 4th of July patriotic seasonal gifts

and garden decorations. Pick up something for your home, too.

**Best Clothing Store for Women — Apparel and Company.** This feminine original clothing store offers unique finds from T-shirts to skirts and pants. Once a year, Apparel and Company offers an "Everything 1/2 Off Sale" for its customers.

**Epicure**

**Best American Food Restaurant — Eddie Papa's American Hangout.** This American infused restaurant serves iconic entrees such as Harlem fried chicken and waffles, Monticello acaroni and cheese, and a locally inspired Pleasanton summer Ssalad with fresh mozzarella, cucumbers and red onions. Appealing to everyone, Eddie Papa's also offers gluten free menu/dietary accommodations.

**Best Atmosphere — Blue Agave Club.** Known for its fanciful artwork throughout the restaurant, this fine Mexican eatery succeeds in creating a relaxed, enjoyable environment with its excellent customer service, calm blue color scheme and fascinating decorations displayed in the large outdoor patio area, not to mention its "alta cocina Mexicana" or fine cuisine.

**Best Bakery — Noland's Cake Shop.** Noland's specializes in tending to impeccable detail both on the inside and outside of its delicious cakes. This shop leaves you with a permanent sweet tooth in regard to its cake flavor choices, such as vanilla custard, chocolate nut, white champagne and amaretto cream. Noland's creates cakes for all occasions, from weddings to children's birthdays.

**Best Barbeque — Dickey's BBQ.** Creator Travis Dickey aims to satisfy the hunger of his customers,

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ISABELLA OHLMEYER

A pizza with pepperoni, olive, sausage and ham on its special stand at Gay 90's, named Best Pizza.

both first timers and Dickey's veterans, with his authentic Texas-style barbeque joint. The scrumptious menu includes fall-off-the-bone pork ribs, the popular spicy cheddar sausage, fried okra and a smokehouse salad.

**Best Breakfast — Jim's Country Style Restaurant.** Pleasanton and Tri-Valley locals flock to Jim's for mouthwatering meals and good old-fashioned hospitality from the friendly staff. The delicious menu includes a grilled linguica sand-

wich (which may not qualify as breakfast fare) and barnyard favorite omelets such as the "Dina" omelet, which comes with ham, avocado, mushroom, sour cream and cheddar cheese.

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JAMIE ALTMAN

Walk-in bathtubs are among the bathroom and kitchen items in the showroom of Valley Plumbing, chosen Best Plumber.

**Best Brew Pub/Sports Bar — The HopYard Alehouse.** This well-known American Alehouse & Grill, the HopYard, offers numerous beers on tap such as imperial IPA-style brews, Pliny The Elder and Blind Pig. Beer, sports on the big TV screens, and popular cheeseburger sliders make for an enjoyable experience.

**Best Burger — In-N-Out.** A California classic, In-N-Out offers affordable burgers such as the “secret menu items” known as the protein style burger (meat wrapped in lettuce instead of a bun) and an animal style burger (with extra pickles, cheese, its special sauce and grilled onions mixed on the grill before being

popped on the burger).

**Best Burrito — Chipotle Grill.** Chipotle Mexican Grill’s fresh, jumbo-sized burritos are complete with cilantro-lime rice, pinto or black beans, barbacoa meat, salsa, cheese, guacamole, tomatoes and sour cream.

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CAMMIE CLARK

Phaedra Hageman (left) and Georgia Ball enjoy soft cones from Meadowlark Dairy, a Pleasanton icon, which was chosen Best Ice Cream/Yogurt Shop.



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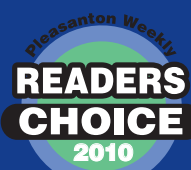
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**Best Chinese Restaurant — Chinese Szechuan.** Looking for a zesty Asian restaurant for tasty dining? Chinese Szechuan is just the ticket to a hearty meal. Try the mu shu pork, crispy pan-fried noodles and egg rolls.

**Best Coffee House — Peet's.** Peet's offers delicious coffee and baked goods for its coffee-loving customers as well as gourmet teas, for a great pick-me-up in the morning or any time. Peet's ensures a welcoming environment all around — and the fresh aroma of coffee.

**Best French Fries — In-N-Out.** This popular hangout is known for its fresh hand-cut potato french fries. In-N-Out fries are prepared in cholesterol free vegetable oil so it makes for a healthier alternative at a fast-food restaurant.

**Best Grocery Store — Trader Joe's.** Beginning in 1958, Trader Joe's was originally called Pronto Markets. Under either name, it promises quality food with low prices. With specialties such as Chunky Spicy Guacamole and Pizza Veggie Burgers, it's hard to stay away from this grocery store.

**Best Health Food Store — Valley Health Mill.** This health food store offers knowledgeable customer service, high-quality supplements, grass-fed beef and lamb as well as gluten-free boiled asparagus. Valley Health Mill is passionate about encouraging people to consume healthy foods.

**Best Ice Cream/Yogurt Shop — Meadowlark Dairy.** Craving some cool ice cream on a hot summer day? Well then Meadowlark Dairy is just the place for you. The Dairy's chocolate vanilla swirl in a cone or the seasonal pineapple soft serve ice cream is the perfect summer treat.

**Best Italian Restaurant — Fontina Ristorante.** Buon appetito! Complete with a vegetarian menu option and a children's menu, Fontina serves high quality food and encourages its customers to enjoy every bit of their meal. Clams linguini and veal picatta are among many of the appetizing entrees at this restaurant.

**Best Kid-Friendly, Non-Chain Restaurant — Eddie Papa's American Hangout.** Created by Pleasanton resident Edward Westmoreland, Eddie Papa's is known as the "cotton candy place" to kids, who receive a fun portion of grape, green apple or cherry cotton candy at the end of their meal.

**Best Main Street Restaurant — Oasis Grille.** Oasis Grille has created a warm atmosphere and a top-notch dining experience, featuring Mediterranean fare. Enjoy an exotic cocktail outdoors near the Rose Garden, a special part of the restaurant.

**Best Meal Under \$20 — Eddie Papa's American Hangout.** The combination of Memphis pulled pork, bacon cheddar garlic fries and a soft drink all equal a grand total under \$20. For a low-cost, well-made meal, Eddie Papa's is a great choice.

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Callippe Preserve was chosen Best Golf Course but it's so much more, with hiking trails, views and a restaurant.

**Best Mediterranean/Middle Eastern Restaurant — Oasis Grill.** Downtown Pleasanton's Mediterranean cuisine specialist, Oasis Grill on Main Street offers delicious Mideastern food, including kabobs, hummus, flatbreads and more. An appetizer sampling offers a "Tour of the Mediterranean."

**Best Mexican Restaurant — Casa Orozco.** First operated in 1984, Casa Orozco offers a vari-

ety of meal combinations including tacos, enchiladas, tamales and other Mexican favorites. The pollo asado verde and pan-seared tilapia are Orozco specialties.

**Best New Restaurant 2012 — Habit Burger.** Opening in Pleasanton in February 2012, Habit Burger's char-grilled flavor and affordable prices have folks waiting in long lines for their meals, which include original charburgers, teriyaki charburgers and bar-



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becued bacon charburgers. Thank goodness for its pagers! Also, don't miss the onion rings.

**Best Pizza — Gay 90's Pizza & Pasta.** Located in a historic building downtown that's reputed to have a ghost or two, Gay 90's Pizza & Pasta is the local favorite. From the Wayne's World pizza — with garlic, onions, olives, feta cheese and tomatoes — to the ham and pineapple Maui special to the plain ol' pepperoni, Gay 90's never disappoints.

**Best Romantic Restaurant — Barone's.** A premiere dining establishment, Barone's sets the mood for romance. The Vineyard Room is the perfect ambiance for weddings and other events. In the backyard patio, there is live entertainment every Thursday evening during the summer.

**Best Seafood Restaurant — Strizzi's.** The unique seasoning in the wood grilled salmon and seafood fettucine, complete with a garlic cream sauce, makes Strizzi's one of the best seafood restaurants in town.

**Best Sushi/Japanese Restaurant — Sozo Sushi.** Sozo's is known for its delicious sushi and fine tasting meals, especially the raw sashimi plate. The Marilyn Roll and The Double Hamachi Roll are two sushi items on the menu to remember.

**Best Take-out Restaurant — Dickey's BBQ.** Are you hungry, in a hurry and not willing to wait in line? Dickey's Barbecue offers an option to order online. Dickey's gives great service and quality food, whether for take-out or dining in.

**Best Thai Restaurant — Little Home Thai.** This Thai cuisine is inexpensive and offers generous portions. Soft shell crab and pad Thai are among the most popular choices.

**Best Vegetarian Cuisine — Sweet Tomatoes.** A healthy choice for a hearty meal, Sweet Tomatoes offers a variety of salads, including tossed and Caesar. Along with salads, there are hot pastas and kitchen favorites such as vegetarian bruschetta and vegetarian cilantro lime pesto pasta.

**Kids & pets**

**Best Party Place for Kids — Rockin' Jump.** Open since 2010, Rockin' Jump offers a safe and fun place for kids to play trampoline dodgeball, dive into foam cubes, and enjoy the company of other kids at the facility. Rockin' Jump motivates kids to exercise in a fun and safe atmosphere.

**Best Pet Groomer — Shear Magic.** With more than 25 years of grooming experience, the owners of Shear Magic promise to provide the best service to its furry customers. A full grooming package includes nail trimming, anal gland release and ear cleaning.

**Best Pet Store — Pet Food Express.** Shop here for healthy pet

foods of the best quality and with decent prices. Not only does this pet food store offer food and treats for dogs, it prides itself in helping homeless dogs find homes.

**Best Place for Dance Lessons — Jazz N Taps.** For 21 years, Jazz N Taps has taught children and teens how to learn and develop dancing skills. Jazz N Taps offers a variety of lessons, including jazz, tap, modern, lyrical, hip hop and ballet.

**Best Toy Store — Golden Apple Learning Center.** This store's mission is to sell toys that stimulate the imagination and create a learning experience for children. Its unique toys include a Jumbo ABC Chunky Puzzle, a Medieval Contraptions Trebuchet game and a Waboba Big Kahuna ball.



Beers on tap await thirsty customers at Hop Yard American Alehouse & Grill, chosen Best Brew Pub/Sports Bar.

ISABELLA OHLMEYER

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**Best Tutoring Center — Steps Community Prep School.** This efficient tutoring program is taught by Pleasanton Unified School District instructors. Steps Community Prep School offers SAT preparation courses, college boot camp and a summer camp complete with SAT/ACT classes and academic classes.

**Best Veterinarian — Pleasanton Veterinarian Hospital.** These veterinarians share their passion for the animals in their care, as they help with arthritis, dentistry, cancer and obesity.

## Home & Vehicle Maintenance

**Best Antique/Collectibles Shop — Olde Towne Antiques Mall.** Take a walk down memory lane at Olde Town Antiques Mall. Knick-knacks, furniture, vintage cards, vases and more add up to a blissful feeling for lovers of antiques.

**Best Art Gallery — Studio 7.** This gallery inhabits a light, airy space in a corner location on Main Street — always a joy to visit. Stop in to peruse exhibits of sculptures, hand-blown glass, crafts and unique handcrafted jewelry, or ask for help in selecting the perfect original work for your collection.

**Best Auto Dealership — Lexus of Pleasanton.** Lexus of Pleasanton provides a world-class experience when purchasing a vehicle,



ISABELLA OHLMEYER

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CAMMIE CLARK

Kenneth Billheimer, Jacque Pedraza and Sierra Parini do an analysis of a client's hearing loss at Hearing Services, chosen as Best Hearing Services Provider.

along with helpful customer service. Whether you are there for auto leasing, or buying a new or used Lexus, our readers say it's the place to go.

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izes in interior and exterior detailing and body work.

**Best Car Wash — Pleasanton Hand Car Wash.** With high-quality equipment, such as microfiber drying towels, Pleasanton Hand Car Wash does not disappoint. Services include deluxe hand wash, specialty outside hand wash and a

complete express hand wax.

**Best Carpet Cleaning Service — Glover's.** In business since 1959, Glover's family-owned business prides itself on its excellent services, which include carpet re-stretching and repairs, cleaning area rugs, odorologist and wall-to-wall carpet cleaning.



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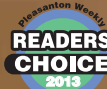
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**Best Carpet/Flooring Store — Carpetland.** This place strives to sell the best soft floor decorating in town, carrying a variety of quality brands. Carpetland also sells laminate, vinyl, ceramic and wood flooring.

**Best Deck and Fencing — Borg Fence.** Borg Fence offers decks built from redwood or composite materials as well as fences that range from wood to ornamental iron. It also sells retaining wall, arbors and specialty gates.

**Best Domestic Car Repair — Harry's Auto Repair.** It can be scary to leave your car and its exotic problems in the hands of someone else, yet our readers trust Harry. He also touts reasonable prices.

**Best Florist — Alexandria's.** With prices ranging from \$45-\$150, Alexandria's floral shop creates beautiful flower arrangements for birthdays, weddings, graduations, new babies, love and romance and much more.

**Best Foreign Car Repair — Precision Auto Repair.** Precision Auto Repair offers routine maintenance, smog checks and oil changes. It also has excellent customer service in providing free shuttle service to and from BART, work or your home.

**Best Hardware Store — Workbench True Value Hardware.** Workbench is the favorite go-to store for hardware supplies and home improvement products. Blade sharpening, lock re-keying, pipe cutting and propane exchange are all offered.

**Best Homebuilder — Ponderosa Homes.** Ponderosa has been building homes since 1968; it recognizes that a home is more

than a shelter — it's a haven and it shapes your every day.

**Best Home Contractor — Borg Fence.** Borg Fence creates a professional and friendly service in providing experience in commercial projects, and they give free estimates.

**Best Home Furnishings — Clover Creek** is a unique home furnishings and gift shop located downtown. Check out the special home accents, quality seasonal decorations and so much more.

**Best Nursery/Garden Center — Alden Lane.** Just stepping foot in this garden center fires up your landscaping brain. It also promotes an environmentally friendly environment, with its beautiful plants, flowers, vegetables and fruit trees.

**Best Outdoor Furniture Store — Patioworld.** Summertime is perfect for visiting Patioworld to choose from its stainless steel chairs and woven furniture. It also carries unique outdoor umbrellas in many shapes and sizes.

**Best Place to Buy a Spa or Hot tub — Alameda County Fair.** From portable spas and saunas to jacuzzis and soft tubs, you'll find a huge variety of hot tubs at the Fair. By the time you finish walking around the grounds, you'll crave their soothing jets.

**Best Plumber — Valley Plumbing.** For 31 years, Valley Plumbing has provided plumbing services that include pipe and drain repair, help with dripping faucets and toilet and shower clogs. It also does bathroom remodels with a showroom full of ideas.

**Best Pre-Owned Car Dealership — Lexus of Pleasanton.** This dealership prides itself on helpful customer service, whether you are there for auto leasing or buying a new or used Lexus.

**Best Roofer — Sierra Roofing Systems.** Our readers agree with Sierra's more than 10,000 satisfied customers — in both residential and commercial roofing. It provides a leak-free guarantee on all roofing installations and fixtures.

**Best Senior Living Facility — Heritage Estates.** Providing a mixture of fun and luxury, Heritage Estates is a senior living facility center with options of independent living, active adult or assisted living.

**Best Tire Store — Big O Tires.** Our readers head to Big O for new tires, tire repair, wheel alignment, tire pressure check and tire mounting and rotation.

**Rest & Recreation**

**Best Bookstore — Towne Center Books.** In a predominantly digital age, it's a beautiful thing to find a place where books are still objects of love. Not only does Towne Center Books feel like a bookworm's home away from home with truly personal and caring service, it also hosts author events and book groups.

**Best Golf Course — Callippe Preserve.** This city golf course has fantastic views and is a wonderful setting for the intriguing sport of golf. The preserve also offers hiking trails, golf lessons and a restaurant appropriately named Vista.

**Best Hobby/Craft Store — Michael's Arts & Crafts.** Looking for a make-your-own type of project? Michael's offers glitter-filled glass bottles, tie-dye T-shirts, scrapbooking supplies, ribbons and so much more.

**Best Kept Secret Treasure of Pleasanton — Firehouse Arts Center.** Patrons can enjoy musical and theatrical performances in the theater, which is the venue for the professional Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre. Its Harrington Gallery offers frequently changing exhibits, and its classrooms are used for art classes and workshops, for adults as well as children. The building is an art treasure as well — with some of the original Pleasanton firehouse still in place. It's especially stunning at night.

**Best Local Winery — Wente.** One of the oldest, family-owned wineries, Wente provides public and private wine tastings, a golf course and a concert venue. Its eclectic offerings include Wine, Music and Food Trucks, and a Yoga and Wine Series.

**Best Place for Dancing — Barone's.** With a gorgeous setting on the backyard patio, Barone's proves to be the perfect environment for outdoor dancing every Thursday evening from May 30 through Oct. 31, with live music by popular bands.

**Best Place for Live Music — Concerts in the Park.** Looking for something fun to do on a Friday night? Concerts in the Park on First Street is the perfect place to be for all ages. Set out blankets on the grass before showtime and prepare to enjoy unstoppable bands — if it's not enough to tap your toes, feel free to get up and dance. ■



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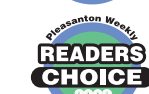
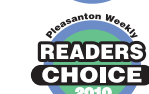
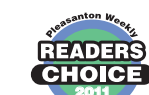
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# POLICE BULLETIN

## Possible would-burglars nabbed

Two people were arrested after they were spotted at about 2:08 a.m. June 19 at a building in the 5700 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard, according to police reports. Dean Joseph Gamaza, 43, of San Leandro and Melissa Renee Buna, 35, of Livermore were arrested for prowling, a misdemeanor.

The two were found in an area easily accessed by the public and so were not arrested for burglary, according to a report. Police responded after they received an alarm call.

Buna was also wanted on a misdemeanor warrant out of Alameda County on a drug use charge.

### In other police reports:

- Residents of the 1000 block of Piemonte Drive reported a credit card had been used to purchase Gucci purses for \$6,787. A suspect apparently attempted to gain entry to Ruby Hill to pick up the package when it was dropped off but was denied entrance at the gate.
- About \$2,500 in copper cable was stolen from Clorox 2 in the 7200 block of Johnson Drive in an incident reported at about

11:11 a.m. June 20. It's unknown how entry was gained.

- A residential burglary in the 400 block of Rose Avenue netted a \$2,000 gold ring and \$20 in cash in an incident reported at about 11:17 p.m. June 20. Entry was gained through a window that had been left partially open.

- Cash and other items were stolen in a June 21 commercial burglary at Bawarchi Indian Restaurant in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive. Taken was \$250 cash, two flatscreen TVs worth \$800 and \$700, a \$200 cash register and a \$200 iPhone. Entry was made by slipping the lock on a rear door in the incident, reported at 10:01 a.m.

- Five hundred dollars in cash, a \$30 wallet, a \$30 purse and \$40 in makeup were stolen from a vehicle parked at the Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail between 2 and 4:30 p.m. June 23 after a window in the vehicle was smashed.

- A \$500 iPhone and \$53 cash were reported stolen in a June 23 theft at McDonald's in the Stoneridge Shopping Center. The theft took place between 5 and 6 p.m. after an employee left the items unattended.

- A \$20 wallet, a \$170 purse and \$100 cash were stolen from

a home in the 800 block of Hopkins Way in a burglary. The wallet was discovered by police, who approached the resident, who'd left a garage door open and vehicles unlocked.

- Two credit cards and \$130 cash were stolen from a vehicle parked at 24-hour Fitness in the 4700 block of Willow Road between 10:30 a.m. and noon June 21. The victim said he'd left the vehicle locked.

- A resident of the 6200 block of Roslin Court is out \$250 after being targeted in a new scam. Known as the Wal-Mart scam, victims receive an email from Walmart.com confirming a purchase and are tricked into providing personal information.

- Victor Percastegui, 21, of Livermore was arrested at about 2:29 a.m. June 22 in the 200 block of Main Street for possession of stolen property, public drunkenness and resisting arrest. Percastegui had two balls from a pool table in his pocket. He was arrested after he and another person were stopped by a police officer who thought the two were arguing.

Under the law, those arrested are considered innocent until convicted.

—Glenn Wohltmann

# POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

## June 19

### Theft

- 3 p.m. in the 700 block of Neal Street; fraud

### Burglary

- 4:26 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

## June 20

### DUI

- 9:21 p.m. Valley Avenue near Fairgrounds gate 12; DUI

## June 21

### Theft

- 6:48 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

### Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:40 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, under the influence of a controlled substance, resisting arrest

## June 22

### Fraud

- 2:14 p.m. in the 800 block of Chateli Court

### Auto burglary

- 9:55 a.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road

## June 24

### Theft

- 4:47 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

- 12:30 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; auto theft

- 2:44 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; fraud

- 8:05 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

### Auto burglary

- 7:35 a.m. in the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

- 9:54 a.m. in the 7700 block of Oak Creek Court

## June 25

### Theft

- 1:59 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 10 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

### Auto burglary

- 9:19 a.m. in the 400 block of Junipero Street

- 12:30 a.m. in the 4500 block of Gatetree Circle

# OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

## William Roland Corrin

Nov. 20, 1920-June 23, 2013

William Roland Corrin passed away peacefully in his Pleasanton home on June 23, 2013; his family was with him. He was married for 59 years to Barbara, who passed away April 2012. He is survived by his sons Bill Corrin of Long Beach and Gary Corrin of Toronto and daughters Janet (Gary) Sears of Pleasanton and Lyn (Terry) Aaker of Long Beach, four grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. He was born and raised in Long Beach, CA, and enjoyed swimming and sailing as a youth. After attending Long Beach Jr. College, he served in WWII as an Army Air Corps B-24 bomber co-pilot in Europe, assigned to the "Carpetbaggers", a group that flew clandestine night missions. He worked for Granny Goose Foods for 35 years, working his way up to Director of Purchasing of all raw products. During that time the family lived in Niles, Salinas, and finally moved to Pleasanton in 1969. He was a charter member of the Salinas Valley Highlanders bagpipe band. He and Barbara enjoyed trips to Europe, Australia and the East Coast; many were with the Balloon Platoon. The Corrins were long-time members of Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, where they made lifelong friendships. Please join us for a Celebration of



Life service at Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Ct., Pleasanton, on Thursday, August 1 at 10 a.m. with a reception immediately following. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested donations be made to Hope Hospice.

## F. David Storch

Dec. 5, 1936-Feb. 23, 2013

F. David Storch, known as David, died peacefully in his Pleasanton home on Feb. 23, 2013, after a long battle with cancer.

David was born to the late Herman Storch and Hermie Lenz on Dec. 5, 1936, in Madera, CA. He grew up in the Central Valley and later moved to the San Jose area with his mother and late stepfather William C. Terrell. He graduated from Campbell High School and earned a BA in Mathematics from San Jose State University.

David worked as a computer scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for 37 years, starting as an operator on the UNIVAC I, one of the first computers. He was the Group Leader of the Large-Scale Systems Group at what became the National Magnetic Fusion Energy Computer Center, responsible for the operating systems on the largest supercomputers available at the time. He retired in 1996.

Flying was one of David's favorite hobbies; he had a pilot's license and several remote controlled gliders. In his retirement, he enjoyed Sudoku and weekly breakfasts with friends from the



Livermore Lab. He also enjoyed camping and going to RV rallies, as well as helping his ex-wife Nancy Storch with various projects.

David had a warm, friendly personality. He was introverted, but with a good sense of humor, and often punctuated conversations with sharp quips. He was also very stubborn and held strong moral convictions. He was loved by his family and friends, and he will be dearly missed.

David was preceded in death by his parents, his stepfather, and his brother, L. Steven Storch.

David is survived by five children. From his first marriage: Desiree Storch, of San Rafael, CA; Derek Davis; and David Storch, of Modesto, CA. From his second marriage: Benjamin Storch, of Haworth, NJ; and Isaac Storch, of Ithaca, NY. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister, M. Lynn Storch, of San Jose, CA.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to either Castle Air Museum (5050 Santa Fe Dr., Atwater, CA 95301) or the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org). Donations to Castle Air Museum will go towards installing a bench in David's memory next to the B-17 bomber. Please indicate on checks that the donation is in memory of F. David Storch.

An informal memorial will be held at noon on Sunday, August 11 at Coffee Ali, 3550 Bernal Ave., Suite 140, Pleasanton. Friends are welcome to come and join with family in sharing memories. David's ashes will be buried without ceremony in the Mountain Ranch Cemetery, near the graves of his mother and stepfather.

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# Symphony names new music director

Lara Webber replacing Arthur Barnes after next season

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association has announced the appointment of Lara Webber as music director to follow the retirement of Dr. Arthur Barnes after next season. She will begin conducting concerts in fall 2014.



Lara Webber

Webber, a Livermore resident, was guest conductor of the symphony's May 2012 concert. She most recently held the positions of assistant, then associate conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and in that role, she programmed and conducted over 80 concerts annually.

Prior to Baltimore, she was associate conductor of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, and was director and conductor of the Los Angeles Debut Orchestra. She was also conductor of the Emmy-

nominated Disney Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra, and she remains committed to arts education.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony did an extensive search for potential candidates in the region and, according to a press release, chose Webber due to her talent, experience and personal rapport with the orchestra, which are "of the highest caliber."

Barnes will retire from his position as full-time music director of the Livermore-Amador Symphony at the conclusion of his 50th season with the orchestra. He took over the podium in the fall of 1964, just a year after the symphony was formed.

"His eclectic background and skills are largely responsible for building the symphony from an adult school night class to the major community orchestra it is today," the press release said.

Barnes will become music director emeritus, and an annual award will be given in his name. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Fine donation from Gene's

Steve Rodacker and Casey Rodacker, owner and store manager of Gene's Fine Foods, respectively, present a check for \$22,179 to representatives from Mohr Elementary, Foothill High School Activities and Academics, Amador Valley High School Athletic Boosters, Valley Humane Society, Amador Valley High PTSA, Pleasanton Middle School, Amador Valley High Friends of Music, Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, Preschool at Harvest Park and Hart Middle School PTSA. The money was raised by Gene's eScrip program from September through February. Checkers have the forms to sign up: Every time an enrolled shopper uses the card, up to 5% of the purchase amount goes to support Pleasanton schools and nonprofit groups.

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ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

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

Browse classifieds online or place your ad at **fogster.com**



Clubs

**PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB**

This club is a great way for new and established residents to make new friends. It meets for coffee on the first Wednesday of every month and for lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. The group has activities like hiking, walking, Bunco and more. Visit [www.pleasanton-newcomers.com](http://www.pleasanton-newcomers.com). Contact Info@PleasantonNewcomers.com or 215-8405.

Concerts

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK: THE CRISIS**

Pleasanton Downtown Association's Concert in the Park presents The Crisis, 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, June 28, at Lions Wayside Park, on the corner of First St. and Neal St. Next week: The James Nagel Band.

**NIGHTLIFE! BIG BAND SWING AT PLEASANTON LIBRARY**

Come to this free concert with dance music in the style of Glenn Miller, Harry James and more. Nightlife is a 17-piece Big Band that has played in the Tri-Valley area for more than 35 years, and will perform at 2 p.m., Sunday, June 30, at Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Events

**BRUNCH/LUNCH IN PLEASANTON**

The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California invite you to a brunch at noon, Sunday, June 30,

at Pasta's Trattoria, 405 Main St. Please RSVP by June 27. Contact Ruby at 462-9636 or [hskoog@com-cast.net](mailto:hskoog@com-cast.net).

**GNON'S GOING TO THE DOGS**

Girls Night Out Networking is partnering with the Valley Humane Society for a donation drive to help animals, at upcoming mixer, 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, July 17. For list of donations visit [valleyhumane.org/how-to-help/wish-list/](http://valleyhumane.org/how-to-help/wish-list/). RSVP to [gnoners@gmail.com](mailto:gnoners@gmail.com).

**HOME BUSINESS EXPO**

Come learn about opportunities to start your own business at the Home Business Expo, from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, June 30, at the Sorrento Clubhouse, 4800 Perugia Way in Dublin. Admission is free. For more information, contact [info@HomeVendorsOnline.com](mailto:info@HomeVendorsOnline.com).

Fundraisers

**3RD ANNUAL TERRY PATTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

This golf tournament is being held in memory of Terry Patters, who passed away too soon, from 1-7 p.m., Monday, Aug. 5, at Poppy Ridge Golf Course, 4280 Greenville Road, Livermore. Cost is \$150 per player. Go to <http://events.melanoma.org/TerryPattersGolf2013> for more information or to purchase tickets. All proceeds go directly to the Melanoma Research Foundation.

**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

Sleep Train is hosting its annual School Supply Drive to ensure foster children are prepared with the essential tools

for a new school year. Drop off donations of new school supplies to any Sleep Train Location. Visit [www.Sleeptrain.com](http://www.Sleeptrain.com) for locations.

Kids & Teens

**FAMILY CYCLING WORKSHOP**

The family that rides together thrives together. Join the East Bay Bicycle Coalition's League Certified safety instructors Saturday, July 13, at Amador Valley Community Park, 4477 Black Ave. Contact Robert at (510) 845-7433 or [robert@ebbc.org](mailto:robert@ebbc.org).

**FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER FREE SUMMER FIRST FRIDAYS**

Firehouse First Friday will be held 5-8 p.m., Friday, July 5, at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Free Summer Open House Events, including open mic with guest acts, art demos, art projects for youth, face painting and more. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

Lectures/ Workshops

**'OPERATION GETAWAY' AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE**

Las Positas College Veterans First Program will hold "Operation Gateway - A Veteran's Transition to Success" from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, July 19, at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Register by contacting Steffan at 424-1571 or [tsteffan@laspositas-college.edu](mailto:tsteffan@laspositas-college.edu).

**LINKING HR FUNCTIONS TO ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS** Learn how to break out of the "Personnel" mold and successfully transition to the management team, from 7:30-9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 10, at ADP, 4125 Hopyard Road. Cost is \$35, free for NCHRA members. Contact Denise Granados at (415) 291-1992 or [dgranados@nchra.org](mailto:dgranados@nchra.org).

Miscellaneous

**FREE TOUR: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER RECYCLING PLANTS**

Learn how 10 million gallons of Tri-Valley wastewater is treated every day from 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, July 10, at DSRSD Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, 7399 Johnson Dr. Free! Reservations required. Contact Lori Martin at 875-2282 or [martin@dsrsd.com](mailto:martin@dsrsd.com).

**HUGE MOVING SALE** More than 20 years of household items, lots of clothing, some furniture, and more, for sale from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, June 29, at 5682 San Juan Way. Contact [mbonnel15@yahoo.com](mailto:mbonnel15@yahoo.com) with any questions.

On Stage

**'TRI-VALLEY HIGH: THE SERIES'**

Bay Area's award-winning teen improv troupe, Creatures of Impulse, presents its summer classic, Episodic, with live, improvised teen soap opera, full of mesmerizing teen angst. Shows start at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, July 10-31, at Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$5-\$15. Call 931-4848.

**COME TO THE KABARET FOR KIDS**

Cabaret and theater star Samantha Samuels hosts her popular Musical Variety Show for children and their families at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 12, and Friday, Aug. 2, at Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$8-\$12. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK PRESENTS 'MACBETH'**

Shakespeare in the Park presents "Macbeth," a masterpiece of intrigue, sword-play and witchcraft, at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, June 29-July 14, at Amador Valley Community Park. Bring a blanket and picnic and enjoy free professional theater under the stars.

Seniors

**SENIOR HEALTH, INTIMACY AND SEXUALITY**

Sexuality and physical intimacy remain an expression of passion and affection among those age 65 and older. A speaker will discuss the challenges and normal changes associated with aging from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 9, at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5365.

Sports

**BOYS RECREATIONAL SOCCER REGISTRATION**

Register for Ballistic United Boys Recreational Soccer. All boys ages 4-18 are welcome. Visit [www.busc.org](http://www.busc.org) or register in person at the BUSC Office, 275 Rose Ave., Ste. 209 in downtown Pleasanton, from 9 a.m.-noon Monday and Wednesday; or 1-4 p.m. Thursday.

101 YEARS OF HISTORY

[www.AlamedaCountyFair.com](http://www.AlamedaCountyFair.com)

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Summer Fun Starts Here! JUNE 19 - JULY 7 (CLOSED MONDAYS)

**Concert Series** SAFEWAY AMPHITHEATER

JUNE 21  The Marshall Tucker Band	JUNE 22  The Spinners	JUNE 23  Loverboy	JUNE 25  Evolution	JUNE 26  Francesca Battistelli	JUNE 27  Air Supply	JUNE 28  Pablo Cruise	
JUNE 29  Kenny "BabyFace" Edmonds	JUNE 30  Los Caminantes	JULY 2  Caravanserai	JULY 3  Zepparella	JULY 4  Red, White & Blues Festival	JULY 5  "Weird Al" Yankovic	JULY 6  Zendaya	JULY 7  Clay Walker

**Special Days**

- \$2 TUESDAYS** \$2 Admission June 25 & July 2
- "FEED THE NEED"** Fair Food Drive June 26. Bring 4 non-perishable food items for FREE Fair Admission. Sponsored by Safeway and United Services.
- SENIOR FREE THURSDAYS** June 20, 27 & July 4. Sponsored by Humana.
- KIDS FREE FRIDAYS** June 21, 28 & July 5. Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente and Xfinity.
- FIREWORKS EVERY FRIDAY** June 21, 28 & July 5. June 28 Show Sponsored by Fremont Bank. July 5 Show Sponsored by Chevron.

[www.AlamedaCountyFair.com](http://www.AlamedaCountyFair.com)

TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO **FOGSTER.COM**



## 115 Announcements

**Advertise your business**  
or product in alternative papers across the U.S. for just \$995/week. New advertiser discount "Buy 3 Weeks, Get 1 Free" [www.altweeklies.com/ads](http://www.altweeklies.com/ads) (AAN CAN)

**DID YOU KNOW**  
that Ten Million adults tweeted in the past month, while 164 million read a newspaper in print or online in the past week? **ADVERTISE** in 240 California newspapers for one low cost. Your 25 word classified ad will reach over 6 million+ Californians. For brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

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## 135 Group Activities

**FREE FIT CAMP**  
FREE WORKOUT at MISSION HILLS PARK in Pleasanton 8-9:30AM every Saturday, all experience levels Suzanne 925-322-7702

## 145 Non-Profits Needs

**DONATE YOUR CAR**  
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**DONATE YOUR CAR**  
truck or boat to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 888-902-6851. (Cal-SCAN)



## 202 Vehicles Wanted

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## 245 Miscellaneous

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**Sr. QA Lead**  
Provide cost estimation for new projects & product support. Coordinate the development & QA Efforts for delivery of regularly scheduled maintenance releases. BSCS or foreign equivalent + 5 yrs exp. Job site Pleasanton, CA. Email resume to [arsin.com](mailto:arsin.com).

## 560 Employment Information

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## 751 General Contracting

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board

**A NOTICE TO READERS:**  
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## PET OF THE WEEK

### Great little fellow

Aiden is an adorable young adult male Chihuahua that has been living at the East County Animal Shelter for over three months. The volunteers at TVAR just adore this little guy, who loves to fetch balls, go for walks, knows sit on command and enjoys being cuddled. He can be a little fussy about what other dogs he likes. Because he is such a great little fellow, TVAR had made him the shelter's "pick of the litter" and is sponsoring his adoption fee. He is neutered and has his bag packed with food, toys, collar, leash and a bed. View his video at [www.tvvar.org](http://www.tvvar.org), or meet him at the shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin from 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. seven days a week.

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**Land for sale**  
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## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

PLEASANTON HOMEOPATH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 478997  
The following person(s) doing business as: PLEASANTON HOMEOPATH, 2825 WHITNEY DR., PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shravani Sengupta, 2825 Whitney Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Shravani Sengupta. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 05/30/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 2013)

DIRECT TO YOU NOTARY SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 479504

The following person(s) doing business as: DIRECT TO YOU NOTARY SERVICES, 1226 SHADY POND LANE, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dhawallah Aisien, 1226 Shady Pond Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: D Aisien. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 06/12/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 2013)

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## PLACE AN AD

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- E-MAIL ads@fogster.com
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Fogster.com is a unique Web site offering postings from communities throughout the Bay Area and an opportunity for your ad to appear in the Pleasanton Weekly.

Now you can log on to fogster.com, day or night and get your ad started immediately online.

So, the next time you have an item to sell, barter, give away or buy, get the perfect combination: print ads in your local newspapers, reaching more than 35,000 readers, and unlimited Web postings reaching hundreds of thousands additional people!

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THIS SUMMER SAN RAMON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER WANTS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN AND TEACH THEM SAFETY. SUMMER IS THE PEAK ACCIDENT AND INJURY SEASON FOR CHILDREN. THE MOST FREQUENT INJURIES ARE DROWNINGS, FALLS, AND BICYCLE, CAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS.



# Summer Safety FOR YOUR KIDS.

## WATER SAFETY

- Never leave children unattended around a pool or water – not even for one minute. Accidents occur quickly.
- Flotation devices are not drown-proof.
- Children should always wear a life vest while boating and near open water.
- Always close your pool gate. Double-check the gate after people have been in the pool area.
- Review your pool rules and safety with family, friends and babysitters.
- Learn CPR. You could save a life.

## SUN SAFETY

- Always use sunscreen and wear protective clothing.
- Make sure youngsters drink enough water.
- Watch for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke: dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat.

## PREVENT BURNS

- Watch toddlers closely near barbecues, campfires or outdoor fireplaces. Burns are common injuries.
- Install screens or some type of barrier where appropriate.
- Metal playground equipment can get hot enough to cause burns on hot days.

## PREVENT FALLS

- Move beds and chairs away from windows. Children may jump and play, and could fall through open windows.
- Make sure low windows are closed to prevent young children from falling out.
- Install gates at the top of stairs or decks to prevent falls.

*If you should have an emergency, San Ramon Regional Medical Center is prepared to treat you and your children in our newly expanded Emergency Department. A pediatrician from Children's Hospital Oakland is in the San Ramon hospital 24-hours a day.*

## ROAD SAFETY

- Always wear helmets and protective gear while biking, skating or skateboarding.
- Discuss bicycle and road safety with your children.
- Review pedestrian safety with children as well as adolescents.
- Never leave a child alone in a car. Temperatures quickly reach over 100 degrees.
- Drive cautiously, especially when backing up. Children move quickly and may be difficult to see. You may not see toddlers and older children playing behind a car.
- Always put your children in car seats or seat belts.

Our Pediatric Department at San Ramon Regional Medical Center recommends these safety tips.

Michael Cheng, M.D. *Pediatric Department Chair*

Nick Giardini, M.D. *Medical Director, Inpatient Pediatric Services*

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