NEWS
PUSD: School overcrowding is urgent issue

NEWS
Candidate lists set for November election

SPORTS
Head-scratching changes to EBAL football
Stanford Heart Transplant Patient Is Doubly Thankful for Second Chance at Life

Just 28 at the time of her transplant at Stanford Hospital in 1991, Yolanda went on to become the first heart transplant recipient to have a child at Stanford.

Today, her “miracle baby” is 27 years old, and Yolanda is a grandmother. She continues to thrive after receiving a second heart transplant and kidney transplant in 2015.

“Stanford has saved my life not once, but twice,” said Yolanda. “They’ve also given my daughter life. It was unheard of to have a baby back then after a heart transplant. I wouldn’t have my grandson Jonah or the second grandchild due this July. Without Dr. Shumway doing his miracle work, three generations would not be here.”

More than two decades after Norman Shumway, MD, PhD, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Stanford, performed the first successful adult human heart transplant in the United States on January 6, 1968, Yolanda’s story began. Fifty years later, heart transplantation often remains the only treatment available for end-stage heart disease.

Yolanda’s heart transplant cardiologist, Dr. Sharon Hunt, MD, PhD, a Stanford medical student when the first transplant was performed, said, “Heart transplantation opened up a potential life-saving treatment for people who were dying of heart disease.”

Life was “literally hell”

For Yolanda, a nagging cold that would not go away was the first sign that something was wrong. After multiple trips to the doctor, she was diagnosed with an enlarged heart. It could no longer pump blood effectively to her body. She went from working full time and enjoying life, to barely being able to walk from one room to another without getting out of breath.

“Life before my first heart transplant was literally hell,” she said. “I couldn’t function as a person on a day-to-day basis with the heart that I had.” When medical therapy failed to improve her condition, Yolanda’s doctor referred her to Stanford. At her first appointment, she knew she was in the right place. “I believed they would make me better,” she said. “I love my entire transplant team. Without them I would not be here.”

When she became pregnant a year after her heart transplant, she asked Dr. Hunt, “Can I keep it?” At the time, the Stanford transplant team discouraged patients from conceiving a child because of the risk of complications such as rejection, infection, and graft dysfunction, a life-threatening complication that affects the heart’s ability to circulate blood effectively. But Yolanda was willing to do whatever it would take to have a baby, and Dr. Hunt was ready to help.

“That’s how I had my daughter Monique,” said Yolanda. “She is the first baby born to a heart transplant recipient at Stanford. The delivery room was packed with 28 people, all of whom wanted to witness the historic birth.”

Yolanda was fine for years with her new heart and Dr. Hunt continued to care for her. But she had a setback in mid 2015 when her heart and kidneys began to fail. Her blood pressure periodically plummeted, causing fainting spells. The first occurred in the middle of the night. Yolanda woke up on the floor, her dog persistently nudging and licking her. Her bark alerted her daughter that something was wrong. “He is my furry savior,” said Yolanda. She received a second heart transplant on November 9, 2015. Because her body was also showing signs of kidney failure, her Stanford transplant team made the decision to simultaneously conduct a kidney transplant.

Stanford at “heart” of innovation

Today, approximately 50 patients undergo heart transplantation at Stanford each year, and the program has performed more than 1,200 heart transplants over five decades. Stanford remains the oldest, continuously operating heart transplant center in the world, and its physicians are responsible for many of the innovations that continue to improve long-term survival.

Research conducted by Dr. Shumway and his team led to the use of the anti-rejection drug cyclosporine and to an innovative biopsy technique that allows doctors to spot rejection in a transplanted organ earlier and administer anti-rejection measures to save the heart.

Stanford doctors also performed the first successful simultaneous transplant of the heart and lungs, and the first successful implantation of a left ventricular assist device. A Stanford pathologist created the classification system used to determine rejection, and Stanford researchers developed a noninvasive way to detect rejection earlier than previously possible.

“Stanford really is the birthplace of heart transplantation,” said Kiran Khush, MD, a transplant cardiologist who works as part of a team of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, social workers, dieticians, and pharmacists to care for patients before, during, and after heart transplantation.

For Yolanda’s daughter Monique, Stanford is simply home. “It’s where my son Jonah was born. It’s where I was born,” she said. “And it’s where my mom got both of her new lives. Stanford is definitely a special place for us.”

Discover more patient stories on StanfordHealthNow.org

“Stanford has saved my life, not once but twice. They’ve also given my daughter life.”

—Yolanda
Haglund’s contract may portend difficult employee negotiations

Pleasanton school district trustees clearly value the leadership of Superintendent David Haglund. When they rewrote his contract on July 1, they extended it to four years and gave him the option of renewing it every June after his annual review.

The challenge for trustees and management will come when they sit down with their employees. For his first year in Pleasanton, Haglund received the same 2% raise and 1% bonus that went to the teachers and classified employees.

The new contract for the superintendent built in 4% raises each year. That’s good for Haglund personally, but likely will become the starting point for the employee unions when they sit down to negotiate.

As former trustee Kathleen Ruegsegger pointed out, giving that level of raises to both employee unions as well as management will be a major challenge. Going forward, even with the growth in state funding, School funding is up 46% per student since 2012.

Gov. Jerry Brown has warned in his budget message for several years that the state is overdue for a recession (the nine-year expansion is one of the longest on record) and once that happens, revenues will plummet. Even with the rainy day fund that the governor will hand off to his successor, a modest downturn will cost the state billions.

Even with continued economic growth, the issue for Pleasanton and districts across the state will be the soaring cost of employer contributions to the State Teachers Retirement System. The systems investments have performed well in the last two years with 8% returns that exceeded the assumed 7%

That said, it still has not overcome the Great Recession. The fund is worth $223.8 billion with an unfunded liability of $107 billion.

Four years ago, the Legislature and the governor passed a plan to deal with the problem. Employee pension contributions increased from 8% to 10.25%. For school districts, the number climbs from 8% in 2013 to 19% in 2020.

Studies by the state Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst show that about one-third of the increased funding in the last three years went to pension costs and they expect that to be half in the next three years.

Those increasing fixed costs will squeeze the budget for raises for people. Given that salaries take more than 80% of school district budgets, bringing budgets into balance will be a huge challenge. There’s only so much programming that can be cut from the remaining 20% of the budget (and some cannot be, for instance utility costs) before it will take personnel cuts.

Incidentally, despite criticism about principal turnover online, that didn’t prompt anyone to toss their hat in the ring for the school board. Incumbents Joan Laursen and Mike Miller filed for re-election and did not draw a single challenger.

Presumably, their fellow trustees will save everyone some money and re-seat them without having them run unopposed.

Meanwhile, Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell is running for re-election to the House, but he’s also certainly working hard to build a national profile.

Casey Tolan, in an East Bay Times article Aug. 12, noted how much time Swalwell has spent on TV and in Iowa. He was born there where his dad was a police chief and moved to California when he was 5.

One of his primary opponents, Brendan St. John, pointed out Swalwell’s Iowa activity when we chatted before the June election and his November opponent, Rudy Peters, was quoted criticizing it.

Given the Democrat registration in the district, Swalwell has little to worry about come November. That frees him up to be a talker on cable TV channels. Given the endless Mueller investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election and his role on the House Intelligence Committee, Swalwell has done more than one TV appearance daily this year.

In 2016, Tolan reported he did 28 — it was 282 in 2017 and 233 this year. He’s also spent more time in Iowa and does not deny his interest in running for president. His campaign staff has purchased Swalwell2020 and SwalwellForAmerica domains, just in case.

Haglund’s contract may portend difficult employee negotiations.
ASKED AROUND TOWN

How do you feel about summer coming to a close?

Kim Gonzaga-Duval
CPA
I think of it as a blessing and a curse. I love the idea of having my normal, structured routine back, but at the same time I dread the idea of getting all of my kids off to school on time.

James Armario
Business owner
It doesn’t really impact me much. I’m so busy all year round, regardless of the season. And honestly, I wouldn’t want things any other way.

Beatrice Browning
Retired
I’m feeling a bit melancholy, actually. I wish the summer could go on forever. I love watching the vegetables in my garden growing in the warm sunshine, and I enjoy not having to worry about how my grandchildren are doing in school, even though of course I know they are all doing well.

David Duval
Sales
I will miss having my kids around all day and all that that entails, but I do look forward, very much, to getting back into the routine and structure that the school year brings.

Sabrina Roberts
Small business owner
I’m really looking forward to the change of seasons. I love our fabulous California autumn weather and the fall holidays. The summer was great, but I will be glad to have the heat and the smoke behind us.

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—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
PTSD: Overcrowding is urgent issue

Admin appointments, Measure II updates and more at school year’s first meeting

By Erika Alvero

Enrollment talk featured prominently at the three-hour-plus Pleasanton Unified School District board meeting Tuesday night, as trustees reviewed the most updated enrollment data and confronted the district’s rising student population at the dawn of the new school year.

The district is at a critical juncture, staff said, as schools in the northern Pleasanton are seeing a sharp increase in students, with ramifications for the district and city as a whole. And while staff have narrowed down their options, PUSD officials say that coming up with the ultimate solution is a balancing act — of weighing urgency with wisdom and of ensuring they consider all stakeholders’ perspectives.

“The community understands there’s a sense of urgency around this issue,” Superintendent David Haglund said after reading through comments on a recent online survey “Everybody realizes that we have an issue and we need to address the issue.”

No actions were taken at the first meeting of the 2018-19 school year, however, as the enrollment presentations were just informational updates. The public conversation will continue throughout the fall.

Last year’s enrollment growth saw a 78-student increase from the previous year, and a 140-student increase between October and June. An additional 14 full-time teachers plus one music specialist and 1-64 PE specialist positions were added at the elementary level, while staffing positions are still under review at the secondary level.

This year’s total district enrollment (also as of Aug. 7) stands at 14,965.

The bulk of the enrollment increase affects schools in the northern part of the city, especially Donlon and Fairlands elementary schools and Hart Middle School.

Family Days

“Life in Early Pleasanton” is the theme for this Saturday’s Family Days event at the Museum on Main in downtown Pleasanton.

“Take a step back and learn about life in Pleasanton without modern conveniences. We will be making adobe bricks, dipping candles, stamping leather and making tortillas,” museum education director Sarah Schaefer said of this weekend’s event.

The Family Days are held on the third Saturday of each month during the summer, running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and featuring free hands-on demonstrations, crafts and activities for the entire family at the museum, 603 Main St.

Bail reform bill

Bay City News Service recently analyzed Senate Bill 10 in a feature story on California’s bail system.

The proposed legislation would drastically reduce the use of money bail, and instead require all 58 California counties to use risk assessments to help judges decide when to release those charged with crimes — questions to predict whether a defendant will show up to court or commit a crime if they are released.

Proponents of the bill see the ultimate solution is a balancing act — of weighing urgency with wisdom and of ensuring they consider all stakeholders’ perspectives.

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Circus comes to town

Pirate-themed performances at fairgrounds through Sunday

By Erika Alvero

Don’t be surprised by the blue and yellow Big Top hoisted over the Alameda County Fairgrounds this weekend — the circus has come to town, with a piratical twist.

The theme of Circus Vargas’ Pleasanton performance is “Dreaming of Pirates!” and the show features flying trapeze artists, clowns, jugglers, contortionists, motorcycles and more. It aims to be a family-friendly, animal-free “fantastic voyage of nonstop action and adventure,” according to circus officials.

Performances began Thursday evening, and will continue throughout the weekend, with 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. shows today, performances Saturday at 1, 4 and 7:30 p.m., and concluding Sunday with

CIRCUS VARGAS

PTSCA barbecue

The Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association is holding its annual barbecue and social fundraiser this Saturday from 5:30-11 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

The event will feature a barbecue dinner by Tony Macchiano’s award-winning Likey Spitt team at the grill, a no-host bar, DJ Phil playing music, and live and silent auctions — all to support the association’s primary fundraiser of the year.

Funds from the event benefit the youth exchange program, the Tulancingo delegation visit and community events sponsored by the association through the year such as Cinco de Mayo and Posada celebrations and an entry in the Holiday Parade.

For tickets and more information, contact David Struebing at 292-0104 or Jorge Victoria at jvictoria452@comcast.net, or visit ptica.org.

Candidate lists set

Four seek council seats; mayor, school board unopposed

By Jeremy Walsh

The Pleasanton City Council election is set to feature four candidates vying for two seats in the November election, while Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne and school board members Joan Larenus and Mark Miller stood without any challengers in their re-election bids when the candidacy deadline expired.

City Councilwoman Kathy Narum, former parks commissioner Joe Streng and former human services commissioner Julie Testa each qualified for the ballot before the initial filing deadline passed last Friday afternoon, but the deadline was extended to Wednesday after Vice Mayor Arne Olson confirmed his earlier decision not to seek a second term.

That gave Pleasanton resident Joseph Ledoux, a Berkeley Police Department officer, extra time to ponder joining the race, which he did officially by submitting candidacy papers and qualifying for the ballot on Wednesday afternoon.

With multiple challengers on the council ballot, residents will have one Pleasanton-specific election to decide this fall.

That won’t be the case for the mayor’s chair.

Thorne, who is seeking his fourth and final two-year term, was the only candidate to file for the mayoral election ahead of Friday’s original deadline, which was the final registration day unless

See ENROLLMENT on Page 9

See CANDIDATES on Page 10

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Harvest Park library in recovery after fire

School systems up and running; first responders honored for actions

By Erika Alverno

Cleanup and repairs continue after the fire that erupted in the Harvest Park Middle School library in early July, and the project to put in a temporary space is moving quickly forward, according to district staff.

At Tuesday night’s Pleasanton school board meeting, facilities staff updated the board on the library’s status, and recognized the city of Pleasanton and first responders who knocked down the flames that night, including personnel from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, Alameda County Fire Department, and Pleasanton Police Department. “Every now and then, something bad happens, and it’s so heartening to know that we have a crew of folks that are always looking over our shoulders to make sure things are OK,” PUSD Superintendent David Haglund told the sea of uniform-clad fire and police officers crowding the district boardroom.

With students returning to Harvest Park this week, facilities staff is focusing right now on getting the interim library up and running to replace the current “interim interim library” — in the words of maintenance, operations and transportation director Myla Grasso, referring to the very temporary library presently stationed in the school’s drama room as portables are being implemented.

The fire broke out July 3 around 10:30 p.m., and fire personnel from Livermore-Pleasanton and Alameda County fire departments were able to bring the flames under control about half an hour later.

No final report of the fire’s investigation has yet been released.

According to PUSD staff, damage was limited to the library itself, though campus-wide systems were also affected, including the fire and burglar alarm, bells, clocks, intercom, phones and Wi-Fi/Internet. In total, the library saw a loss of 992 items, mostly books but also some technological devices and furniture.

Currently, all of the campus-wide systems are back in operation, with a temporary main distribution frame (MDF) in the teachers’ lounge. The library building has been fenced off, the carpet was removed, 3,400 boxes of materials were removed for cleaning or disposal and shelving is being removed for cleaning and to be possibly used in the temporary library.

The district is currently working to set up temporary portables for an interim library, expected to open in October. The temporary space will be about 2,000 square feet, smaller than the original library by about 1,000 square feet, so it will only be able to hold about two-thirds of the materials, said Nick Olsen, director of facilities and construction.

Next steps include starting the process of replacing and rebuilding the actual library, and replacing the furnishings and materials.

Police and fire personnel crowded the PUSD boardroom Tuesday night to be recognized for their response to the Harvest Park library fire.
Tri-Valley politicians oppose fuel efficiency standard rollbacks

Feds intend to revoke state authority to regulate emissions

By Ryan J. Degan

In light of the Trump administration’s recently proposed rollback of Obama-era fuel efficiency and emissions standards, Tri-Valley politicians on the state and national stage quickly declared their opposition and created plans to combat the federal government’s proposals.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency have issued a proposal to rollback planned increases in vehicle fuel efficiency standards. The EPA also announced its intent to revoke California’s existing authority to create its own efficiency standards under a previously approved waiver to the Clean Air Act.

In response, Assemblywoman Catharine Baker (R-Dublin), State Senator Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) and U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) have all announced their opposition to the rollbacks and are trying to address them in a variety of ways.

“The federal government’s proposal is a threat to the air we breathe and the climate we live in,” Baker said in a statement. “The science is clear: California’s fuel efficiency standards work and are needed... California’s standards have dramatically improved our air quality and vehicle efficiency, while our economy has grown to the fifth-largest in the world. Any action that jeopardizes that progress is misguided and must be opposed.”

Baker has proposed legislation — Assembly Joint Resolution 49 — in a bipartisan effort to condemn the rollback and call on the federal government to maintain California’s ability to set its own vehicle efficiency and emissions standards.

Aside from the environmental impact, local officials oppose the rollback on grounds that lowering fuel efficiency standards will decrease auto industries’ incentive to fund the research of innovative green technology.

“It’s wrong for the administration to even consider revoking California’s ability to set its own clean air standards,” said Glazer, who co-authored AJR 49. “The auto industry has been right there with us, developing new technologies that lead to lower gas consumption and emissions. We must not turn our backs on the technological advances that are opening up whole new and thriving sectors of our economy.”

On the national level, DeSaulnier is leading a coalition of 60 Democratic members of Congress condemning the proposals and introducing a resolution defending state authority to protect their citizens from air pollution.

“Simply put, this is an attack on clean air and public health. And as other countries keep their focus on increasing fuel efficiency and reducing emissions, we run the risk of losing out on this progress and innovation,” said DeSaulnier, whose district includes Danville and Alamo.

The California Air Resources Board has established fuel efficiency standards that have been adopted by 12 other states. DeSaulnier’s office argues these standards will reduce America’s oil dependence by more than two million barrels a day and will eliminate the impact of 59 million vehicles from the road by 2030.

“By rolling back current fuel economy standards, the Trump administration will cost the United States $450 billion by 2050 and increase health risks associated with air pollution. Our resolution puts the administration on alert that this move will be met with strong and coordinated opposition across the country,” DeSaulnier said.

Livermore Outlets set to welcome new shops, kiosks

Pots and Pans, Fruitsy Smoothie among additions

By Cierra Martinez

Officials with the San Francisco Premium Outlets in Livermore recently announced they will be adding four new shops to the shopping center.

The new additional shops will be Pots and Pans, Karl Lagerfeld Paris, Fruitsy Smoothie, and Go! Calendars, Games & Toys.

Pots and Pans features a wide variety of coolware, kitchenware and tableware products from recognizable houseware brands. The store is expected to open by Sept. 1.

Karl Lagerfeld Paris will feature ready-to-wear fashion for men and women, bags, small leather goods and fashion jewelry “with a modern, rock-chic edge.” The store is expected to open at the end of the month.

Fruitsy Smoothie, a new kiosk, will feature freshly squeezed juice, smoothies and fruit bowls.

Go! Calendars, Games & Toys will open today and features calendars for the upcoming year, special toys and more.
TV30 airing latest ‘Youth View’
Livermore mayor, Alameda County DA among interview subjects

BY JEREMY WALSH
“Tri-Valley Youth View,” an hour-long TV special produced by middle and high school students who attended TV30 summer camps, is currently airing on TV30 and the station’s website.

Celebrating its 20th year, the Tri-Valley Community Television camps gave students the chance to learn the aspects of TV production. The “Youth View” show production features interviews with Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley and Candice McGraw, senior director at Quarry Lane Schools, among others.

“TV30 is the only place in the greater Bay Area that students can gain this type of hands-on experience in an actual broadcast environment and see their program broadcast on television,” said Melissa Tench-Stevens, executive director at TVCTV. “Students also have the rare opportunity to interact with professionals who share their time to be interviewed. In the last 10 years students have kept in touch with us and due to their TVCTV experience, they have decided to make media their career,” Tench-Stevens added. “We truly appreciate the time that Tri-Valley professionals extend to be interviewed and interact with the students.”

The premiere episode of “Youth View” represents the work of students who attended the first of the two summer camp sessions.

The hands-on camp provides an introduction to the technical and talent aspects of studio and field production. “Youth View” was written and produced by students from grades six to 12 who researched and wrote questions, acted as crew for all the production positions and were talent for the program.

Other guests in the new episode included Bob Tucknott, forensic electric expert; David Stark, public affairs director; Lori Lorenz, pharmaceutical representative for Softlens; and Jeff Schroeder, senior vice president, Ponderosa Homes II.

The program is available to watch any time online at tv30.org, and it is broadcasting on cable television on Comcast TV30 and AT&T U-Verse.

BART board approves $20M in security upgrades
Nearly $15M going toward digitizing all security cameras, a 4-year project

Responding to the public outcry over safety raised by the killing of Nia Wilson and other recent crimes, BART’s Board of Directors last week approved a $20 million plan to expand the transit agency’s network of digital cameras and install emergency call boxes on station platforms.

There are over 4,500 cameras already installed, but not all of them are digital. Expanding and converting that network is estimated to cost $15 million, and it will take more than four years to complete. Pending the outcome of another meeting, the upgraded system of cameras could also be connected to a “physical security information system,” or PSIM, which is already being tested at the Lake Merritt station.

Described by agency staff as a “platform for enhanced video and alarm analytics, monitoring thousands of simultaneous video streams and automating response recommendations,” the system drew criticism during the Aug. 9 board meeting from members of the public who raised concerns about privacy.

During public comment, several speakers raised questions about whether data collected by the PSIM or through facial recognition technology might be made available to corporate interests or other government agencies, such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. BART staff are still working on a privacy policy to govern such matters, but one member of the public pointed out that even if the use of facial recognition technology were prohibited as a matter of BART policy, other agencies might be able to subpoena any data created and apply facial recognition technology to it without BART’s knowledge or oversight.

That matter will be further discussed in a special meeting to be held at night in a suburban East Bay location, alongside several other plans suggested by BART staff. Those include additional proof of payment teams to battle fare evasion, a no panhandling ordinance within the paid areas of the BART system, and the installation of video screens showing real-time security footage near the entrance of stations to remind them that they’re entering an area which is under surveillance.

They’ll also look at speeding up the agency’s efforts to improve the physical barriers preventing fare evasion, like replacing fare gates, which could cost an estimated $150 to $200 million.

Meanwhile, BART police have

See BART SECURITY on Page 10

Operation Backpack sets record
This marked the fifth year that Livermore-based Sandia employees rallied to collect backpacks filled with school supplies for children of local military families, and this year Operation Backpack set a new record with 202 backpacks donated to help the kids start their school year off right. The backpacks were delivered to the family centers at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (Camp Parks), Travis Air Force Base and Moffett Federal Airfield.
New computers courtesy of Pleasanton Lions

Local nonprofit Tri-Valley Haven recently received a $3,000 grant from the Pleasanton Lions Club to cover the costs of installing two new computers, which will help streamline the nonprofit’s food delivery process for clients and actually creates more room for food storage since most paperwork is no longer necessary. Tri-Valley Haven’s food pantry serves 5,700 people and 1,700 families a year experiencing food insecurity in the area.

The GILBERT AND SULLIVAN’S PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Yerba Buena Center, San Francisco August 18-19, 2018 TICKETS: 415-978-2787

Bankhead Theater, Livermore August 25-26, 2018 TICKETS: 925-373-6800

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Pleasanton’s annual resource guide coming to homes Friday, September 28

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SRVUSD posting lifeguards at pools, halting PE swimming

Moves come in wake of freshman boy drowning in San Ramon Valley High pool

By Ryan J. Degan

In the first action announced since the drowning of 15-year-old freshman Benjamin Curry in the San Ramon Valley High School pool last spring, school district officials have hired lifeguards to work at school pools to enhance safety when students are in the pools, a program that began with the start of school Monday.

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District investigation into the fatal incident — which law enforcement deemed accidental — has concluded, and though full details have not been released, one key outcome is the district posting lifeguards at each pool at the four comprehensive high schools to watch students during school-sponsored activities.

For now, that will need to occur only during school teams’ water polo activities because the district has halted physical education lessons in high school pools for at least the fall semester while officials continue to review the district’s pool policy, according to SRVUSD spokeswoman Elizabeth Graswich.

“Following the tragic death of a student in the San Ramon Valley High School pool last spring, our District has evaluated the safety protocols for use of the pools at each high school,” Graswich said in a statement Tuesday.

“As part of this process, beginning (Monday), on the first day of school, we now have lifeguards staffed at each of our pools whenever they are in use. This includes four hours a day for water polo practice through the entire season. The safety of our students continues to be our top priority,” she added.

Curry’s family is supportive of the new lifeguard safety measure but is still working to find out what exactly led to Benjamin drowning undetected during his physical education class nearly three months ago, according to attorney Andy Schwartz, who represents the Curry family.

“They are glad that they are implementing safety procedures. Anything to make the pools safer is something that my clients will feel good about,” Schwartz said Tuesday. “We are continuing to investigate what occurred … We are investigating the facts surrounding the incident.”

The lifeguard program is catching up with the district’s policy of requiring residents who rent out school pools to have a lifeguard on duty at all times, which has been in effect since 2016. Individuals or groups who rent the use of a pool on school grounds must provide their own lifeguard who is registered through the American Red Cross, YMCA or an equivalent lifeguard training program.

Lifeguards must also be certified in standard first aid and CPR. The district will follow these qualifications in hiring its lifeguards and ensuring that they are professionally certified, Graswich said.

For the fall semester, the district will post three certified lifeguards at each pool. The idea is to guarantee at least two sets of eyes on the pool any time it’s in use, according to Graswich. Current projections indicate the lifeguard program will cost about $125,000 for the fall semester.

Curry drowned during his fourth-period swim class on May 8 which, while taught by a PE teacher did not officially have a lifeguard on duty during that time, and he was not discovered in the pool until the fifth-period pool class began, according to investigators.

In July, the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office opted not to file criminal charges, after Danville police found no signs of foul play or criminal negligence with regards to Curry’s death, confirming previous findings made by the county coroner’s office in early June.

Also in July, police confirmed that Curry did know how to swim but they were unsure of how to answer when asked about his skill level.

Graswich said Tuesday that she could not comment on any potential disciplinary actions for SRVHS staff as a result of the drowning, citing employee confidentiality.

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 5

an incumbent did not file for the election.

This marks the first time in recent memory Pleasanton won’t have a contested mayor election. Thorne faced a single challenger in each of his prior three elections.

No school board race, on the other hand, is nothing new for Pleasanton.

Most recently, the Pleasanton Unified School District had no contested elections — the same number of candidates as available seats — in 2012, 2006, 2004 and 2002.

With two seats due up for election this fall, Laurens is seeking her third straight term and Miller his second.

It remains up to the city and PUSD, respectively, whether to put the uncontested mayor and school board elections on the ballot (at a cost to taxpayers but leaving open the possibility for write-in campaigns) or opt to have the incumbents appointed directly.

Other elections

• Pleasanton’s representative seat on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, for Ward Area 5, will be up for election in November. Incumbent Ayn Wieskamp has been challenged by small business owner Dev Gandhi.

• Three races are also held over from the June primary, including Alameda County assessor in which Newark real estate tax attorney Phong La is competing against Jim Johnson, chief of the Assessor’s Assessment Services Division.

• Assemblywoman Catharine Baker (R-Dublin) is seeking a third term for the 16th State Assembly District, running again attorney and political newcomer Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda).

• Three-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin) will look to maintain his position as the representative of California’s 13th Congressional District when facing off against Republican challenger Rudy Peters, a business owner from Livermore.

BART SECURITY

Continued from Page 8

been increasing their staffing levels by canceling days off for their officers and staff Aug. 6. For the next two weeks, those personnel will be working 10-hour shifts six days a week.

“I do want to say that I didn’t take this decision lightly,” Police Chief Carlos Rojas said during the meeting. “I know the impact it has on their personal lives.”

During times of heightened concern, the agency also plans to dispatch teams of two to four employees who’ve been trained by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration to provide extra sets of eyes and ears for police and to increase the visibility of station staff.

The board also asked General Manager Grace Crunican to come back with a plan on how BART can work with other agencies to address issues connected to homelessness and mental illness.

— Bay City News Service
Teen dies in rural crash outside Livermore

A young man who died in a solo-vehicle crash on Mines Road in unincorporated Alameda County outside Livermore on Sunday morning has been identified by the Alameda County coroner’s bureau as 19-year-old Jon Delucchi of Tracy.

According to the California Highway Patrol, Delucchi was traveling in a white Ford Mustang in a rural area around 8 a.m. Sunday when he lost control of the car and careened off a steep hill into trees, where he became trapped.

Other vehicles were traveling with Delucchi and stopped after they saw the crash but they couldn’t reach emergency responders because of the lack of cell phone service, CHP Officer Derek Reed said.

Delucchi’s friends were able to extract him from the car and drove to an area with cell service, where they called 911, according to the CHP.

Emergency responders arrived and took Delucchi to a trauma center, where he died.

The CHP said alcohol or drugs are not suspected as factors in the crash.

In other news

• Four suspects were arrested last week in Livermore in connection with the armed robbery of a T-Mobile store.

The identities of the suspects have not been released.

On Aug. 9 at 1:10 p.m., three suspects wearing masks walked into the T-Mobile store at 4516 Las Positas Boulevard, according to the Livermore Police Department.

One of the suspects simulated having a gun.

One of the two employees inside the store at the time of the robbery was able to run out of the store and notify a passerby of the robbery, police said.

The suspects then left the store and fled the area in a white Jeep Cherokee driven by a fourth person.

A responding officer located the fleeing vehicle and pursued it to a dead-end on Old First Street, where the three passengers fled the vehicle.

Police were able to take the driver into custody at the vehicle, and the three suspects who fled were detained following a search.

Police said Thursday the identifications of the suspects is pending, and the suspects are believed to be gang members from Fresno.

• A transient man from San Francisco was convicted July 20 of two counts of forced oral copulation and one count of rape for sexually assaulting an intoxicated woman in San Leandro. He encountered the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station before he boarded a train to the Bay Fair BART station in San Leandro, according to the D/De Ofo.

The BART surveillance camera footage shows that the woman was “swaying back and forth and had trouble maintaining her balance” and “is so intoxicated she falls forward onto her hands and knees,” San Leandro police Officer Debora Trujillo wrote in a probable cause statement.

She was seen leaving the Bay Fair BART station in San Leandro with Foster at about 1:04 a.m. the next day, the police report says.

Trujillo said Foster pulled the woman close to him when she tried to walk away from him and then led her down the stairs toward the Bay Fair BART station at 3 a.m. to ask for help.

Foster then continued to lead the woman as she stumbled and took her into the BART station’s parking lot.

Foster next forced the woman onto nearby railroad tracks between Hesperian Boulevard and Halycon Drive where he sexually assaulted her, according to the police officer.

Foster finally left the woman in the mud at the railroad tracks but she had a hard time finding her way and when she knocked on a family’s door at 3 a.m. to ask for help the residents mistook her for a burglar, ordered her to leave and called 911, according to Trujillo.

However, police finally found the woman and took her to a hospital, where they conducted a sexual assault examination on her, Trujillo said. The DNA that was found on the woman matches Foster’s, which was in the criminal justice system database because he had a prior sexual assault conviction, police said.

Morelia

• 1:51 p.m., 3400 block of Beecham Circle

Drug violation

The Pleasonton Police Department made the following information available.

Aug. 12

Drug violation

■ 4:14 a.m. at Owens and Rosewood drives

■ 7:13 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Sex offense

■ 11:20 a.m. on Valley Avenue

Theft

■ 12:30 a.m., .5100 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto

■ 10:47 a.m., 4200 block of Valley Avenue; auto theft

Assault/battery

■ 12:03 a.m. on the 2600 block of Calle Reynoso

Aug. 11

Robbery

■ 6:45 p.m. on the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

■ 7:21 a.m. on the 3100 block of Thistledown Court

■ 12:30 p.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

■ 1:51 p.m., 3400 block of Beanham Court; theft from auto

Drug violation

■ 3:58 a.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road

■ 2:22 a.m. on the 7600 block of Olive Drive

Domestic battery

■ 3:46 a.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Aug. 10

DUI

■ 7:57 p.m. at Valley Avenue and Hopyard Road

■ 10:42 a.m. at Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive

Theft

■ 12:46 p.m. on the 3600 block of Chelsea Court

■ 2:44 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft of bikes

■ 2:49 p.m. on the 2500 block of Jolene Court

■ 5:37 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Alcohol violation

■ 1:49 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

Trespass/proving

■ 9:58 a.m. on the 7700 block of Oak Creek Court

Drug violation

■ 2:20 a.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Aug. 9

Theft

■ 5:19 p.m., 4200 block of First Street; shoplifting

■ 1:45 p.m. on the 1400 block of Groth Circle

Residential burglary

■ 8:47 a.m. on the 7700 block of Oak Creek Court

Aug. 8

Drug violation

■ 8:45 p.m. on the 8000 block of Ensenada Drive

Theft

■ 3:42 p.m., 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 9:16 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive, theft from auto

■ 5:34 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 7:25 p.m., 4700 block of Willow Road, theft from auto

Domestic battery

■ 1:26 p.m. on the 8100 block of War Glory Place

Aug. 7

Alcohol violation

■ 10:37 p.m. on the 2500 block of Stanley Boulevard

Theft

■ 3:27 a.m., 4300 block of Valley Avenue; theft from auto

■ 11 a.m. on the 2600 block of Calle Morella

■ 1:47 p.m. on the 7400 block of Hilldale Drive

POLE REPORT

The Pleasonton Police Department made the following information available.
Chabad: What’s the fuss?
Council to rule Tuesday on appeals over restrictions on new Jewish Center

In what could be one of its longest, most intense meetings of the year, the Pleasanton City Council will be asked Tuesday to decide if the Chabad Jewish organization should have unrestricted use of its recently acquired property on Hopyard Road or be kept hemmed in as some of its backyard neighbors are demanding.

Chabad is considered a “traditional, inclusive and observant” assembly of Judaism. The local Chabad of the Tri-Valley was first organized in 2005 by Rabbi Raleigh Resnick and his wife Fruma. The Tri-Valley Chabad bought the former Masonic Lodge at 3370 Hopyard for $2.5 million last year. The 8,000-square-foot building now serves as a religious sanctuary with space for classrooms, community gatherings and food preparation.

Its one acre of property, spun off by St. Clare’s Episcopal Church when that church building was constructed in 1976, includes a backyard that became a source of discord in the neighborhood when the former owners, Pleasanton Masons, hosted parties there.

Those parties resulted in the city imposing land-use restrictions that are now hampering the new owners — the Chabad — from fully using its property.

At a 3-1/2-hour public hearing June 27, in a crowded council chamber, Resnick and other representatives of Chabad asked the Pleasanton Planning Commission to change or cancel those proposed restrictions.

Commissioners tweaked the restrictions to help Chabad without ignoring the opposition of Michael and Darlene Miller, whose Bryce Canyon Court home backs up to Chabad’s property. But a city order that it close all windows and doors facing that backyard and ban all uses of the backyard remains in effect.

Planning commissioners saw their June 27 decision as a workable compromise, although Commissioner Nancy Allen stated in a letter sent after the meeting that the proposed restrictions should have been tightened even further.

Still, neither the Millers nor Chabad liked the commission’s decision, and both are appealing it to the council Tuesday night.

What once was a land-use issue dating back to the Masons’ original building permit has now escalated into concerns over continued outdoor activities at churches and preschools citywide, discrimination against a Jewish organization and a possible violation of Chabad’s constitutional right to equal protection as defined by the federal Religious Land Use & Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA).

“Chabad is not prepared to relinquish one-third of its property with no uses allowed at all,” said Chabad’s attorney James G. Schwartz. “No other houses of worship (in Pleasanton) have such draconian measures.”

Resnick, in an interview, said that an important part of Chabad is to have a preschool with outdoor activities and to hold numerous religious events outdoors.

But the Planning Commission’s ruling not only continued the ban on using the Chabad’s building’s backyard, it also restricts the use of its side yard. That includes allowing no more than 24 students at a time to go outside and then for no longer than 2-1/2 hours a day.

“If we have 25 children in a class, would one have to stay inside?” Resnick asked. “That’s unacceptable.”

“When I look out from my office and see 200 Boy Scouts gathering outside St. Clare’s just a few feet away, it doesn’t make sense to deny similar uses on our property,” he added.

Comments from speakers at the June 27 meeting, as well as emails

Resnick has received and posts on the Pleasanton Weekly’s online Town Square, have voiced opinions that the city’s ruling may be anti-Jewish. But Resnick disagreed.

“I don’t think the protests are anti-Semitic,” he said. “I don’t think that’s what is motivating the neighbors. I think they are genuinely motivated by noise. I believe them and take them at their word.”

Planning Commissioner Justin Brown, who voted to impose the new restrictions, agreed. He said that after a phone call with the Millers to clarify their position, he did not believe the neighbors’ concerns are religious-based. He added that he did not like the assertions made at the June 27 meeting that
St. Clare's Episcopal Church children play outdoors with no noise restrictions just a few feet from Chabad's building.

"In response to Chabad's initial use permit application on Feb. 9, 2016, the city wrote a letter to Chabad a full year before escrow closed, which stated, "Staff is generally unsupportive of outdoor activities near the adjacent residential properties to the north of the subject site due to potential impacts of outdoor activities on adjacent residences."

"Therefore, Chabad was fully aware of the city's position on use of the backyard for an entire year before buying the property," the Millers said.

Although the Millers have met with Resnick to seek a compromise, they have yet to hear back from him with regard to their latest proposal. It seems likely, though, that he will not agree to some of their demands, including a continued ban on the Chabad using its backyard and its need to construct a sound wall up to eight or nine feet high to keep noise from side yard activities.

"An objective analysis by a sound engineer hired by the Millers indicates that the noise from the playground will be at least 20 dB above the ambient noise level. Five dB is the industry threshold for a significant increase in noise. The playground will increase ambient noise far above this level."

"The Planning Commission has ignored, and in fact reversed, the City Council's clear and unanimous decision prohibiting outdoor activity at this site and the 40-year history of limitations on this site. The decision of unelected officials should not override the decision of elected officials who are the highest authority in the city."

Meanwhile, in his appeal of the June 27 Planning Commission's decision, Rabbi Resnick argues that the city is restricting the rights of the Jewish community because a few of its citizens are saying, as they did in front of the Planning Commission, "not in my neighborhood."

"It was for this reason that the federal government passed the Religious Land Use & Institutionalized Persons Act," Resnick states. "This act of Congress is discriminatory provision of RLUIPA.

His appeal calls discriminatory the commission's rulings of:

• Limiting the number of outdoor events Chabad can hold each year to 15.
• Limiting the number of people inside and outside the building to 120 regardless of how many Jewish people may want to attend religious activities at the synagogue.
• Banning the use in any manner of one-third of Chabad's property.
• Limiting the number of persons allowed outside the building before 10 a.m. or after 10 p.m.
• Limiting the students of Chabad's preschool to 2-1/2 hours of outdoor time per day and only from 10:30 a.m. to noon and from 3-4 p.m.
• Limiting the number of activities with amplification to two a year.
• Banning the opening and closing of windows and doors on the north side of the building.

"These are substantial limitations of the rights of the Jewish community to use their property in a manner they deem necessary for their religious rights," Resnick adds. "The only restrictions should be those that may be in violation of the zoning where this synagogue is located."

In addition to Resnick's formal appeal, Chabad's outside attorneys, represented by Daniel P. Dalton of Dalton & Tomich, with offices in Belvidere, Ill., outside Chicago, sent a letter dated July 27 to Pleasanton City Council members and the city attorney's office.

In part, the letter reads:

"In advance of the City Council meeting on Aug. 21 ... we write to appeal and oppose the unlawful conditions the Planning Commission has sought to impose on the Chabad's religious land use of its property at 3370 Hopyard Road ... conditions which are not generally applicable to other similar uses in the community.

"Imposing such a condition on the Chabad's religious land use would violate the Chabad's constitutional right to equal protection of the law and the "equal terms" provision of RLUIPA."

"It would also substantially burden the Chabad's religious exercise as it would impair the Chabad's ability to have Sabbath services, wedding ceremonies, prayer and other religious activities outdoors."

"Pleasanton does not even have a rational basis upon which to justify limiting the Chabad's outdoor use of its property beyond the playground and terrace areas to just maintenance activities.

"Should this condition not be removed, it may also constitute an unconstitutional taking of the Chabad's property rights."

"Again, our client would like to secure its religious land use rights without costly and lengthy litigation and seeks an amicable resolution of this matter."

Now it's up to the council to decide. The public hearing is set to start at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Pleasanton Civic Center, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

More might appear for City Council's meeting Tuesday night.
Chabad seeks same treatment afforded other faith groups in Pleasanton

By Rabbi Raleigh Resnick

It was exactly 13 years ago, August 2005, and my wife Fruma and I were freshly “off the boat” from New York City. We moved to Pleasanton to establish Chabad of the Tri-Valley and to share our passion for Judaism’s traditions, joys and teachings with our fellow Jewish brothers and sisters. Born from humble beginnings in our living room, a vibrant and dynamic Jewish community was coming to life. After outgrowing our home, we spent years renting office spaces and hotel ballrooms, until it became increasingly clear that we needed a permanent home; a Chabad Center for Jewish Life to meet the needs of a growing community.

Pleasanton’s hot and limited real estate market made this no easy task for a young nonprofit organization. But then it happened: The perfect site was located. A place suited appropriately for our mission, handed to us for a token fee by the owner. A miracle indeed!

How sad it was for us that, in a city home to dozens of parks, schools and houses of worship woven beautifully within the fabric of residential neighborhoods, we now faced a very small but very vocal opposition to religious institutions not sharing a fence-line with neighbors. Furthermore, all, except St. Clare’s, are much farther from residences, reducing the noise impact.

Although Chabad has religious protection, even religious events are subject to reasonable restrictions on size and location to protect neighbors from excessive noise. Hence the city created designated outdoor areas for large events and group meetings away from neighbors’ fence-lines to reduce noise, even though this meant that Chabad was restricted in using parts of its property.

Additionally, Planning Commissioner Nancy Allen stated in a letter to the City Council, “Most of the examples cited of churches are very old CUPs (conditional use permits) which would likely never be permitted as is today... Old CUPs such as St. Clare’s are not the model of current CUPs which are much more rigorous... We regularly place restrictions on things such as playtime hours, location of noise generating activities, events, etc. We also deny applicants because they are too close to residences such as we did with a recent Ruby Hill application.” And in 2014, the city denied a playground located only 80 feet from neighbors due to noise concerns.

We fully support religious freedom, but the law allows a balance between religious freedom and residents’ rights. With this balance, neither the residents nor Chabad will have everything they want, but the immediate neighbors have recently met with Chabad and hope to work out a compromise together. This conflict between faith-based neighbors weighs heavy on our hearts, and we hope that as good neighbors, we can live harmoniously with mutual respect.

City must strike balance between religious freedom, residents’ rights

By Michael and Darlene Miller

In the complex discussion around what Chabad of the Tri-Valley should be allowed to do at their site, there are some misconceptions we would like to address.

Some people are concerned that restrictions on Chabad might impact other religious institutions. This is incorrect. The city has stated that each situation is assessed individually, and the decisions on one site do not create a precedent for future decisions on other sites.

Others may feel that limiting Chabad’s outdoor use is unfair because other cited religious institutions don’t have similar restrictions. However, these institutions don’t share a fence-line with neighbors. Furthermore, all, except St. Clare’s, are much farther from residences, reducing the noise impact.

Letters

Council election and Costco

Candidates for Pleasanton City Council — I sent the following comment as a letter to the editor; the editor chose not to publish it (last week):

It’s important that Pleasanton voters elect that candidate that supports Costco build in Pleasanton. Two of the current City Council members have recused themselves from the Costco issue because their retirement investments contained Costco stock.

A third seated Pleasanton council member is not seeking re-election. That leaves two seated council members currently, actively supporting the Costco build in Pleasanton.

In order for the majority of the Pleasanton voters to be reaffirmed that their majority vote for Costco build in Pleasanton continues to have Pleasanton City Council support, all of us must vote for that candidate that supports Costco build in Pleasanton.

City Council candidate Joe Streng has publicly and privately stated, with me, that he supports Costco build in Pleasanton.

Gluten-free options at school

If your student has a gluten intolerance/allergy or Celiacs, please contact me. Together I am working to get food items on the school menu that are gluten-free. The menu is nut-free and dairy-sensitive but does not offer gluten free options.

Even the yogurt (granola) and the salad (cromons) are not options. I don’t believe that (some) chips and fruit will work.

I pack my kid a huge lunch and sometimes he needs more. One in 100 people have Celiacs and more.

See LETTERS on Page 15
OPINION

Stand up for local control

Pleasanton must pay attention. A plethora of state legislation is threatening to remove Pleasanton control, planning and development of our community. The state’s housing agenda has little regard for Pleasanton’s quality of life regarding housing, schools, traffic and water.

Legislators want to take those decision away from us, removing local control. Legislation being considered gives a clear path to developers to build without concerns for architectural review, traffic congestion, providing law enforcement and city services, building schools or recreational balance.

They feel no responsibility for our community’s values.

I support Pleasanton’s 20% affordable housing policy (which supports vulnerable populations), but Sacramento’s housing agenda produces 80%-90% market-rate (expensive) housing and does not create needed workforce affordability.

With two BART stations, Pleasanton is targeted by AB 2923, legislation which is likely to pass soon. AB 2923 gives development authority to BART, an organization that has no experience as a developer, can’t manage the responsibilities they currently have and would not care how our existing community would look or be impacted.

The threat from other legislative proposals is even greater. Join me to Stand Up for Local Control. I will soon provide further information on my campaign website.

—Julie Testa
Candidate, Pleasanton City Council

Safe Digging Day

Aug. 11 was National Safe Digging Day, and PG&E is raising awareness about the importance of calling 8-1-1 before any digging project — large or small. When called, this free nationwide service dispatches all companies with underground lines to mark the location of their facilities and ensure safe digging, including electric, gas, water and telecommunications services.

Third-party dig-ins and strikes on underground lines happen nearly every day. So far this year, there have been more than 200 dig-ins on PG&E’s underground lines in the East Bay alone. Many could have been avoided by calling 8-1-1 or placing an online request to 811express.com.

No project is too small. Whether you are planting a tree, installing a fence, or building a new structure — calling 811 can avoid lines, repair costs and even injury. Help save lives and keep communities safe with a call to 8-1-1 two business days before any digging project.

—Victor Baker
Senior manager, PG&E Diablo Division

Where’s their picture?

Your article on Sandi Thorne was outstanding. You knew her well.

I would like to comment on the Meadowlark Dairy feature (from Aug. 3). Having been a resident since 1975, I have watched Bruce and Pattie Takens raise a family, grow a business and generously contribute to Pleasanton.

I wonder why a picture of Bruce and Pattie was not included. Their dedication and hard work has made the dairy possible, and I believe a picture would have been appropriate.

—Trudy Fabian

LETTERS

Continued from Page 14

are gluten intolerant/allergic. With 2,500 students in each high school, and many more in middle and elementary schools, we can’t be the only ones. Thank you for your help in advance.

—Kelly Swenson

Cross that off the bucket list: ClubSport of Pleasanton instructors and members took a 10-day Panama Canal aboard the Coral Princess. The canal visit was on everyone’s bucket list. From left: Doreen and Tommy Colombo, Esther and Ron Hart, Susan and Bob Scott, and Jenny and Don Underwood.

Election letters

The Pleasanton Weekly will accept letters to the editor of up to 250 words on election-related issues until 5 p.m. Oct. 28. Letters are published based on order of receipt and space availability, among other factors. We will publish only one letter per person per election topic this fall, and 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. Send via email to editor@pleasantonweekly.com.

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OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2018

The 35th Anniversary

Chevron Presents

The RUN FOR EDUCATION

Sponsor:

SAN RAMON VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

(Both races certified by USA Track & Field)
How much do we know about the lives of the people who feed us? Where do they live? How does it feel to work so hard at a repetitive task?

The Museum on Main explores these questions in its new exhibit, which displays oral narratives of migrant workers beside the powerful images of photojournalist David Bacon. The exhibit is in both English and Spanish, titled “In the Fields of the North/En los Campos del Norte.”

Bacon — photographer, journalist and activist — has spent more than three decades documenting the lives of migrant workers, building upon his previous work as a union organizer. He traveled with them as the fruit and harvest season moved from the Mexican border to the state of Washington, asking the workers themselves what answers they have to end their poverty and endless migration.

The exhibit is based upon the book of the same name, recently published by University of California Press.

“Bacon captures the humanity of workers who work each day in demanding physical labor, in the hot sun, and for poverty wages,” wrote Kent Wong, director of the UCLA Labor Center. “This is one of the few publications that captures the authentic stories of California farm workers, through their own voices and with the images of their living and working conditions.”

Bacon is also the author of “The Children of NAFTA,” “Communities Without Borders,” “Illegal People” and “The Right to Stay Home.”

“In the Fields of the North” runs through Oct. 14. Programs related to the exhibit will be announced on the museum’s website, www.museumonmain.org.

Livermore Valley Opera opens its 27th season with Mozart’s “The Abduction from the Seraglio,” the first of two fully staged operas at the Bankhead Theater. “Abduction” runs Sept. 29 to Oct. 7. This opera, a lighthearted comedy, is an example of the musical theater when it was written and Mozart ushered in a new era in music history with this first of his operatic masterpieces.

The second opera this season will be Rossini’s “The Barber of Seville,” running March 9-17. This popular opera has perhaps the most recognizable music of all time, which has been a part of movies, TV commercials and even a Bugs Bunny cartoon.

The operas will include favorite performers of Livermore Valley Opera, including Eugene Brancoveanu and Rob Herriot. The performances include pre-opera talks held one hour prior to curtain time and a reception with the artists held in the lobby after each performance.

Each of the operas also will have an Opening Night Gala dinner at Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard at 4 p.m. before the performance. Tickets are $59 for the welcome reception and dinner plus a chance to meet stage director Alexander Katsman.

Tickets for the operas are $42-$90 for adults; $10 less for students 18 and younger. Purchase at www.LVOpera.com or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St. in Livermore. Call the box office at 373-6800.

Livermore Valley Opera announces new season

Two fully staged operas are works by Mozart and Rossini

Livermore Valley Opera opens its 27th season with Mozart’s “The Abduction from the Seraglio,” the first of two fully staged operas at the Bankhead Theater. “Abduction” runs Sept. 29 to Oct. 7.

This opera, a lighthearted comedy, is an example of the musical theater when it was written and Mozart ushered in a new era in music history with this first of his operatic masterpieces.

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TRI VALLEY LIFE

Judiasm course for adults

Congregation Beth Emek offering 14-week overview

By DOLORES FOX CARIDELLI

Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder will teach a 14-week “Introduction to Judaism” class at Congregation Beth Emek beginning Sept. 6.

The course will offer an overview of the basics of Jewish beliefs, history and traditions, appropriate for anyone curious about Judaism who would like to study at an adult level.

“This is the single best way for the public to learn about Judaism in a mature, scholarly way — and also in a warm and friendly environment,” Milder said. “It is a very valuable class, both for our members and for the public at large.”

Topics will include the Bible, Jewish history, holidays, life cycle customs, prayer, theology, Israel, Jewish peopleshood and Jewish movements.

Milder taught the course in 2015 at Beth Emek and has also taught in other synagogues. He has a doctorate in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University, and he has taught college and seminary classes in Jewish history, theology and Bible.

“The course is appropriate for the general public — people curious about Judaism who want a serious class that explains all about Judaism in a comprehensive way,” Milder said. “Some non-Jews have families with Jews or have friends or family but have never had the opportunity as an adult to explore what is this religion — what does it mean, its basic beliefs, its texts.”

“Someone may have a Jewish partner, and they want the opportunity to learn together,” he added. “It is also appropriate for Jews who didn’t have a formal Jewish education, and the last time they learned anything about their religion was as a child.”

There will be no formal text, but Milder said he will have a recommended reading list, noting there are several good books on Judaism that are well-written and objective.

In other years, Beth Emek has offered classes on single topics, including “Introduction to the Jewish Bible,” “Modern Jewish Thought and the History of Jewish Music.”

In turn-of-the-century New York, faces one debacle after another in sleuth Lady Georgiana Rannoch “Downton Abbey,” as amateur mystery writer as “Bridget Jones’s Diary” meets every major award in mystery 1930s England.

Bowen has been nominated for every major award inystery writing. She is also the author of the Molly Murphy Mysteries, set in turn-of-the-century New York, and the Constable Evans Mysteries, set in Wales. She was born in England and now lives in the Bay Area.

Tickets are $5 for the tea, $140 for individuals and $175 for couples. Register online at www.bethemek.org/lifelong-learning/adults. For more information, call 931-1055.

Tea for British mystery writer

Author to introduce latest in Royal Spyness series

By DOLORES FOX CARIDELLI

Towne Center Books is hosting New York Times bestselling author Rhys Bowen at a Tea Party and Book Signing at 1 p.m., Aug. 23 at Inklings Coffee & Tea, 530 Main St.

Bowen, author of the Royal Spyness mystery series, is presenting her latest addition, “Four Funerals and Maybe a Wedding,” as her most darling couple is finally ready to say “I do.” But weeks ahead of the wedding the bride is caught in a royal mess.

This is the 12th book in the series, which has been described as “Bridget Jones’s Diary” meets “Downton Abbey,” as amateur sleuth Lady Georgiana Rannoch faces one debacle after another in 1930s England.

Bowen has been nominated for every major award in mystery writing. She is also the author of the Molly Murphy Mysteries, set in turn-of-the-century New York, and the Constable Evans Mysteries, set in Wales. She was born in England and now lives in the Bay Area.

Tickets are $5 for the tea, $140 for individuals and $175 for couples. Register online at www.bethemek.org/lifelong-learning/adults. For more information, call 931-1055.

‘Taste Our Terroir’ winners

Tri-Valley winemakers note best pairings at annual event

The winners of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association’s recent “Taste Our Terroir” gala were as follows:

• Judges’ Best Pairing — Longevity Wines & Backdoor Bistro. This team paired its 2013 Pinot Blanc, Livermore Valley with shrimp aguachili and local melon on a chili-dusted potato chip with avocado crema.

• Best Classic Pairing — Mitchell Katz Winery & Aria Senior Living. This team paired its 2013 Speechless Cabernet Sauvignon Blend, Livermore Valley with Wagyu ribeye topped with barrel-aged Shoyu and fresh-grated horseradish.

• Most Innovative and People’s Choice Red Wine Pairing — Wood Family Vineyard & First Street Alehouse. This team paired its 2015 VIVA Cabernet Sauvignon, Livermore Valley with curry-fried chicken Frankie with mango chutney aioli, pickled vegetables, chimichurri sauce and fresh cilantro.

• People’s Choice White Wine Pairing — McGreal Vineyards and Winery & Attra-viva. This team paired its 2017 McGreal Vineyards Kylie Ryan Rose, Livermore Valley with Mexican street corn-local Brentwood corn, mayo, pimento, pine nuts, lime, chives topped with a spicy chicharrón.

— DOLORES FOX CARIDELLI

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Football season begins amid head-scratching changes to EBAL

League split into two divisions based on prowess; Falcons in top Mountain, Dons in lower Valley

Believe it or not, we have arrived at the start of the high school football season as both Amador Valley and Foothill start their campaigns tonight. (Our 2018 football preview issue will run next Friday.)

Amador opens at home against Del Oro, while Foothill travels to San Leandro.

It will be an interesting season to say the least as the East Bay Athletic League has again tweaked how the football league will be structured, and to be honest, it’s a bit of a head-scratcher.

This year EBAL officials have divided the league into two separate divisions — the Mountain and the Valley. This has been done in the other sports as well, but with football there are a couple of major differences.

The divisions were not done geographically as would make perfect sense, but rather by what is perceived a competitive balance. In addition, there will be a league champion in each division and with that title, an automatic berth in the North Coast Section playoffs.

But it gets better.

Recently in football, De La Salle was on an island, not competing for an EBAL title, which allowed the other nine teams in the league to fight for a chance to hang a banner.

Let’s be honest — that is the only fair way to handle the Spartans. Originally when De La Salle came into the league, I was in favor of it as I have always crowed about the EBAL being the best league in Northern California. And if you want to be the best, then you must beat the best.

I honestly believed over time, EBAL teams would figure out a way to play and at times, beat the Spartans. It hasn’t happened, and with De La Salle getting stronger and stronger at times where the numbers are down at other programs, it’s not going to happen any time soon.

At the end of the day, the Spartans, while enjoying an EBAL title, have their eyes on bigger prizes — NorCal and California state titles. Winning the EBAL was a formality and with this new format, it will be again.

So how do the divisions shake down and what does it mean for our Pleasanton teams? Well, good for Amador and bad for Foothill.

Based on a five-year competitive record, the Mountain or “A” Division will be comprised of De La Salle, Monte Vista, San Ramon Valley, California and Foothill. Foothill had the best mark over the last five years for schools other than De La Salle. The Valley or “B” Division has Amador, Livermore, Granada, Dougherty Valley and Dublin.

Once again, the winner of the Mountain and the Valley get a league title and an automatic NCS berth. In other words, De La Salle gets a banner and the five teams in the Valley battle for one as well.

As for the other four in the Mountain? Thanks for playing, now try to get an at-large berth.

Imagine entering a season and knowing you have no chance to win the title.

I mean there are teams each year that start behind the eight ball, but with injuries and breaks, anything is possible. Not the case with De La Salle. The Spartans are loaded, deep and not going to lose a league title.

There is also going to be a system where the last-place team in the Mountain will be sent to the Valley and the top Valley team reassigned to the Mountain, much the same as European soccer leagues work.

Will this promote tanking to be relegated to an easier division? You’d like to think not, but when tanking has become the norm in pretty much all professional sports, you must to wonder if it will trickle downhill.

This is a slippery slope the EBAL is going down, and one that could have easily been avoided. Hopefully nothing comes into question regarding losing, but in this day and age, anything is possible.

Editor’s note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact Miller or submit local high school sports scores, game highlights and photographs for his weekly Pleasanton Preps column, email him at acesmag@aol.com.
Concerts

MAX CRUISE AT CONCERT IN THE PARK At 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17, at Lions Wayside Park, 4444 First St., Max cruise is bringing Rock, Pop and R&B tunes to Concert in the Park. pleasantonlionsclub.org.

MAGIC MOMENTS AT CONCERT IN THE PARK At 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 31, at Lions Wayside Park, 4444 First St., Magic Moments is bringing 1950’s to 1980’s tunes to Concert in the Park. pleasantonlionsclub.org.

PUBLIC EYE AT CONCERT IN THE PARK At 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 24, Magic Moments is bringing High Energy Rock & Roll to Concert in the Park. pleasantonlionsclub.org.

Fundraisers

OPEN HEART KITCHEN’S BLACK & WHITE PARTY FUNDRAISER Open Heart Kitchen is holding its annual fundraiser to help support the hungry of the Tri-Valley from 6 to 10 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 17, at the Palm Event Center in The Vineyard, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Enjoy an evening of fine food and wine, live music, and auctions. Purchase 9 tickets and get 1 free. For tickets or more information, go to donate.openheartkitchen.org.

BBQ An Annual BBQ fundraiser hosted by the Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association will be held from 5:30 to 11 p.m. on Aug. 18 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5535 Sunol Blvd. Dinner at 7 p.m., no-host bar, DJ & live and silent auction. Advanced reservations suggested. To reserve tickets or for more information, visit psca.org or call David Strubing 292-0104.

PAWS IN NEED APPLEBEE’S PAWS IN NEED APPLEBEE’S PAWS IN NEED APPLEBEE’S PAWS IN NEED APPLEBEE’S PAWS IN NEED APPLEBEE’S PAWS IN NEED APPLEBEE’S From 8 to 10 a.m. on Aug. 25, at Applebee’s, 808 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Buy tickets online by Aug. 20 at PawsInNeed.org, or mail a check to Paws In Need, P.O. Box 3436, San Ramon, CA 94583. A receipt and the tickets will be waiting for you at the Applebee’s the morning of the event. All proceeds will benefit Paws In Need’s animal medical program. For more information, call 462-2099 or email Hathily@Aol.com.

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING At 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. cityofpleasanton.gov.

BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN & TRAILS COMMITTEE At 6:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month, at 3535 Sunol Blvd., the Parks and Recreation Commission meets to advise the City’s Traffic Engineers Division on bicycle, pedestrian and trail related items. cityofpleasanton.gov.

Food & Drink

LIVERMORE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AUGUST LUNCHEN From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Thursday, Aug. 23 at Concannon Vineyard, 4590 Tesla Road, Livermore, guests will enjoy a catered lunch while hearing from Amber Rich, Director of Engagement at Visit California. Following Rich’s report on the impact agrotourism has on a community there will be a panel of local agricultural representatives. Seating is limited, go to livermorechamber.org or call 447-1606 to reserve your seat.

Lessons & Classes

FREE COMPUTER TUTORING From 5 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Bernal Ave., come in for help with downloading e-books from the library to an e-reader, sending email attachments, social networking, blogging or general internet questions. Call first to confirm 931-3400 ext. 4. cityofpleasanton.gov.

LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY Register from 5:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. for an appointment with a member of the Alameda County Bar Association who will visit the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., on the third Tuesday of each month to give free 15 to 20 minute consultations. Appointments are by lottery. Names are selected at 5:50 p.m. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

Blues and jazz at Bankhead Blues-rock band Indigenous, featuring second generation bluesman Mato Nanji, will take The Bankhead Theater stage at 8 p.m. tonight, joined by guitarist Chris Duarte (right) and his “amusical blues” style. On Saturday night, contemporary jazz pianist Keiko Matsui (left) brings her sixth return to Livermore, bringing what Jazz Review called her “wonderful amalgam of erotic melodies, languid harmonies and global rhythms.” Visit lvpac.org or call 373-6800.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) TRI-VALLEY From 7 to 9 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Pathways To Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 114, Parent Resource and Support Group meets for parents with children to age 17 diagnosed or suspected of having bipolar or other mood disorders. Drop-in, no registration, free. For more information, contact Marsha Micheli at 900-5331 or marsha@nami-trivalley.org.

Grief Support Meetings At 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 23, our bimonthly workshop for grief support will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation. Go to catholicofpleasanton.org, for additional information.

Seniors

MEN OF BREAKFAST At 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5535 Sunol Blvd., join the Men of Breakfast or MOB for a cup of coffee and friendly apprehensive. Bring a newspaper and whatever topics pique your interest.

Friends of the Pleasanton Senior Center Newcomers’ Welcome! At 10:30 a.m., on the second Wednesday of each month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5535 Sunol Blvd., discover all the programs, classes, and services available to you. At the end of the tour you will receive a coupon for a free lunch at the Sage Cafe. For more information, call 931-5365.

Business

FREE JOBS AND RESUMES COUNSELING From 6 to 8 p.m. on the Fourth Wednesday of the month, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., have a free consultation with an experienced Employment Recruiter. Learn how to search for a job on the web, find employment web sites, get help with online applications and resume writing. Call or come to the library to make an appointment. 931-3400, ext. 4. cityofpleasanton.gov.
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INDEX
- BULLETIN BOARD 100-155
- FOR SALE 200-250
- KIDS STUFF 350-400
- MIND & BODY 400-499
- JOBS 500-585
- BUSINESSES 600-690
- HOME SERVICES 700-799
- FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE 801-899
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Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

TRI VALLEY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No: 147097 1117 CAL/MOYTE, PLEASANTON, CA, 94566, ALAMEDA COUNTY, is hereby registered by the following owner: MATTHEW W FUSON, 5169 SAN LUIS CT, PLEASANTON, CA, 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. Signature of registrant. MATTHEW W FUSON, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11 JULY 2018. (Pleasanton Weekly, JULY 27, 2018, pg. 10, 17, 2018).

A TOUCH OF HEALTH PICTORIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No: 346984 The following person(s) doing business as A TOUCH OF HEALTH, located at 80 Mission Dr, Suite A, Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner: VERONICA B HORTON, 220 Kilmar Rd, Sunol, CA 94586. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein 1988. Signature of the registrant: VERONICA B HORTON, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2018. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 27, 30-Aug 2018).

MARGARET SALON & BARBER SHOP PICTORIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No: 347089 The following person(s) doing business as MARGARET'S SALON & BARBER SHOP, located at 4547 Valley Ave., Ste F, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner: MARINA ORTUNO, 1147 N 15TH ST, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein 1987. Signature of the registrant: MARINA ORTUNO, Owner. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 11, 2018. (Pleasanton Weekly, JULY 27, 2018).

DIST TECHNICAL PICTORIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No: 548104 The following person doing business as DIST TECHNICAL, 7794 FORTYTHA CT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY, is hereby registered by the following owner: DOMINIC TAGALOG, 7794 FORTYTHA CT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein AUGUST 6, 2018. Signature of Registrant: DOMINIC TAGALOG, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on AUGUST 6, 2018. (Pleasanton Weekly, AUGUST 10, 24, 2018).

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Page 20 • August 17, 2018 • Pleasanton Weekly
Real Estate

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS

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$769,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
Liza Kaschak
925-588-5789
691 Polomino Dr. #A
$599,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
Bob Cain
844-9295

3 BEDROOMS

651 Hillcrest Avenue
$665,000
Sat/Sun 2-4
Doug Breun
785-7777

4 BEDROOMS

7447 Laurel Court
$1,290,000
Sun
Silvia Desin
860-1102
7961 Paragon Circle
$2,195,000
Sun
Blake Loffland
846-6510
7935 Riviera Drive
$1,500,000
Sun
Melissa Pederson
925-959-06

Pleasanton (June 14-28)
Total sales reported: 53
Lowest sale reported: $625,000
Highest sale reported: $2,075,000
Average sales reported: $1,213,342

Dublin (June 14-28)
Total sales reported: 38
Lowest sale reported: $499,000
Highest sale reported: $1,525,000
Average sales reported: $967,857

This week’s data represents homes sold during June 14-28.

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Livemore (June 14-28)
Total sales reported: 69
Lowest sale reported: $330,000
Highest sale reported: $1,837,500
Average sales reported: $549,957

San Ramon (June 25 to July 25)
Total sales reported: 49
Lowest sale reported: $410,000
Highest sale reported: $2,189,000
Average sales reported: $1,175,092

Source: California Resource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Livermore

3113 JOANNE CIR, PLEASANTON
SOLD

1489 TRIMINGHAM DR, PLEASANTON
SOLD

3113 JOANNE CIR, PLEASANTON
SOLD

5 BEDROOMS

1208 Shady Pond Lane
$2,449,000
Sun
Tim McGuire Team
462-7553

14 Railroad
$1,750,000
Sat/Sun
Natalie Bianco
500-5199

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Bay Area

4018 OAK CREEK CT, PLEASANTON
SOLD

7874 OAK CREEK DR, PLEASANTON
PENDING

7874 OAK CREEK DR, PLEASANTON
PENDING

1898 TRIMINGHAM DR, PLEASANTON
SOLD

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Offered at $2,195,000


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