WHAT’S NEXT FOR CASTLEWOOD?

Members, management exploring options to remodel iconic country club

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A concerted Next Step

One of the Livermore Valley’s oldest nonprofits will change its name next month to continue fulfilling its mission to serve women dealing with unplanned pregnancies.

The Valley Pregnancy Center will transition to Next Step, a name that executive director Michelle Kelly believes accurately captures the services the agency provides to women.

Kelly, who has volunteered and worked at the center for 20 years, remarked that this is the second name change — it was founded as the Valley Crisis Pregnancy Center. In 2004, after becoming a licensed medical provider by offering ultrasounds, "crisis" was dropped.

Dropping “pregnancy center” was the result of three years of research into why the number of women they were serving was dropping while unplanned pregnancies were increasing. Using both national and state numbers compiled by three different organizations, they came to the conclusion that the words "pregnancy center" carried significant negative baggage to some women.

Their focus on helping a woman decide what step to take next in considering her pregnancy led to the new name for the Pleasanton-based organization.

The mission remains: "to empower women to make confident and healthy life choices."

The center served about 250 women last year, about one-third of the number it did in its earlier days. It has a small paid staff and relies on trained volunteers to work individually and confidentially with the pregnant women.

Kelly said the clientele has shifted significantly over the last 30 years. In the 1980s and 1990s, they counseled many pregnant and scared teenage girls. She remarked that her first client, a 15-year-old girl, was typical of their clients in those years.

Since then, the women coming to the center have been much older — in their late 20s or even early 30s — many in relationships including some who are married. What they have in common is their pregnancy was not planned — about 50% of all pregnancies fall into this category.

The other thing they have in common is they are afraid, Kelly said. The goal of the trained, volunteer counselors is to help women, one step at a time, replace their fear with hope so they can make a sound decision.

That next step could be a pregnancy test or it could be a conversation about her fears that gets it on the surface and acknowledged.

"She can be paralyzed in her fear, but take it one step at a time. Next step can be confirming the pregnancy is viable," Kelly said. "24% of pregnancies end in natural miscarriage. Modern medicine can determine pregnancy three days after conception. A woman may decide to have a procedure (abortion) instead of waiting to seven to nine weeks for ultrasound to see if pregnancy is viable."

One major change in the culture over the last 30 years has been the attitude toward an unplanned pregnancy and abortion. Kelly said that women often "intertwine" them without thinking about the procedure and its potential impact on her.

“Our opportunity and finding the next step is allowing there to be space between finding out you’re pregnant and having the time to fully process your decision outside of fear and judgment. Without that conversation and space, the message of the culture is ‘I’ll go and become pregnant,’” Kelly said.

For women, the center offers pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, abortion information, information on fetal development and a pregnancy options decision kit. When a woman decides to carry her baby to term, she is supported with information about what to expect during her pregnancy, parent preparation, a hormone workshop and preparation for childbirth.

After delivery, the center provides infant care, parenting support, the purposeful parenting program, a boundaries with kids program and a child discipline program.

For ongoing support, it offers the following free programs: co-parenting 101, conquering co-dependency, communication coaching for couples, relationship boundaries, miscarriage support, grief support and post-abortion recovery.

The ongoing services are available to the public — participants are not required to have been a client to take advantage of them.

Next Step upgraded its website two years ago so the site is more interactive and fits how clients wanted to receive information. It has a chat function that hasn’t been heavily utilized, but online appointments have worked well for the clients.

About the Cover

After members voted in favor of a major remodel independently, instead of merging with the Bay Club, Castlewood Country Club leaders are now working on plans to reinvigorate the iconic club in western Pleasanton. Photo by Mike Sedlik. Cover design by Rosanna Kuruppu.
**SHOP, DINE AND EXPERIENCE**

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**How would you describe your baseline, default mood — the way you feel most of the time?**

**Terry Castillo**

Needspoint Instructor

I’m mostly upbeat and very positive. I’ve been through a lot and am just so grateful to be alive. I feel like every day is a gift, so I try to make the very most of it and not sweat the small stuff or allow any negativity to impact my mood.

**Shawn Copenhagen**

Accounting/bookkeeping

I am usually pretty mellow, but energetic at the same time. Largely, I am happy and content. Because life is good.

**Amy Moellering**

Professor

I’m always in motion. It is hard for me to sit still until I’ve gotten plenty of exercise. But once I have done that, like going for a long walk with my dog Gracie, I feel very calm, serene and relaxed.

**Anna Copenhagen**

Recent college graduate

I’d have to describe my resting mood as very gregarious. I really enjoy connecting with and talking to people, and spreading positivity through my communications and interactions with others.

**Dan Copenhagen**

Business owner

I’m very mellow and zen-like. I like being at peace with myself and my surroundings. Also, I’m quite contemplative. I always have something on my mind and am pondering one thing or another.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Library overhauls fine system

Also: Council talks state legislation, city widening railroad corridor trail

BY JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton Public Library has eliminated daily fines for overdue items, with the City Council on Tuesday approving the shift to a model that city officials hope will focus more on materials recovery and positive interactions with library users.

Library Commission and city staff brought forward the proposal, arguing that daily fines have not necessarily been effective and present a major barrier to access, especially for lower-income residents. They also pointed out neighbors like Livermore, Alameda County and Contra Costa County recently stopped daily fines.

“Given the fact that you feel you can absorb the loss of income from the fines and deliver ultimately better services to our community, why wouldn’t we try this? I think this is pretty straightforward,” Councilwoman Kathy Narum said at city staff Tuesday night at the Pleasanton Civic Center.

Overhauling the previous library fine system (25-cents-per-day fine, with account frozen when bill exceed $20), the new program for unreturned materials would charge borrowers a replacement fee equal to the retail price of the item and a $5 processing fee, as well as suspends their library account. But as soon as the overdue item is returned, in good condition, the charges are canceled and the account reopened.

Heidi Murphy, city library and recreation director, told the council she sees the new program as a positive shift that will increase access, circulation of library materials and recovery of items.

Under the new program, library users should have ample time to finish using the checked-out book, movie or CD — up to 123 days total, if the item is not already on hold for another member — before a replacement fee would be triggered and the account blocked, according to Murphy.

The council voted 4-1 to approve the proposal. Vice Mayor Karla Brown, who requested the item be pulled off the consent calendar for full discussion, cast the lone dissenting vote, saying she supported the daily fines as punitive motivation to return materials on time.

The new system took effect on Wednesday — and with it, existing daily overdue fines were waived from all accounts, though still-unpaid fees for lost or damaged materials remain intact.

To learn more, visit the library at 400 Old Bernal Ave. or call 931-3400, ext. 4, or jeseltine@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

4.3 earthquake

A 4.3-magnitude earthquake shook the Tri-Valley on Tuesday afternoon.

The temblor struck at 1:11 p.m., centered 7.5 miles east of Blackhawk, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. A 3.5-magnitude aftershock was reported 13 minutes later in the same area, according to the USGS.

No reports of significant injuries or damage occurred.

VA mobile outreach

The Pleasanton Public Library is set to host the Veterans Affairs (VA) Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach Team and the Alameda County veterans service officer next Thursday (July 25) to facilitate free examinations, consultations and referrals for veterans, as well as provide other information about VA resources.

Veterans uncertain of their benefits eligibility are encouraged to visit as requirements have changed, and VA health care currently competes against private medical coverage. Veterans should bring military discharge papers (Form DD214) and a list of current medications.

Thursday’s event is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Contact library officials at 931-3400, ext. 4, or jeseltine@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

I-580 closure

Caltrans is set to temporarily close eastbound Interstate 580 east of Livermore overnight on one day next week to install a new overhead sign structure for the I-580 repaving project.

All eastbound lanes from the North Flynn Road off-ramp to the Grant Line Road on-ramp near the Altamont Pass will be closed from 1-5 a.m. next Wednesday (July 24)

Work underway at Amador lot

BY JULIA BAUM

Construction started on last week’s project to add a solar panel structure and reorient the Amador Valley High School student parking lot facing Santa Rita Road.

Crews were spotted breaking up and hauling away concrete on July 10 and the marquee sign normally near the lot entrance was removed, giving neighbors the first signs of visible progress on the project since school ended at the end of May.

“The fact that the fencing went up as soon as school got out may have contributed to an expectation that other work would begin imminently,” Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund told the Weekly via email last week.

“We are still on track to have 90% of the Santa Rita lot (done) by mid-October, if not sooner,” PUSD spokesman Patrick Cannon said. “We have heard some comments around the lack of visual progress, however it’s important for the community to know that our staff are working tirelessly and the project is currently on schedule.”

Only 50 parking spaces will be available in the Santa Rita lot (which typically features more than 400 stalls) when classes start Aug. 12, but there will be 315 regular parking spots in the Del Valley parking lot, roughly 121 temporary parking spaces located on the blackstop behind the large gym and another 32 spots for use at Valley Community Church until work is scheduled to finish in mid-October.

“We will soon distribute a shuttle plan to the families of Amador Valley High School,” Haglund said. “This will include student pick-ups away from campus and provide transportation to and from those locations before and after school.”

PUSD is also considering hiring Bay Area Traffic Solutions (BATS) for traffic mitigation around Amador during drop-off and pick-up times while construction takes place in the parking lot, which will also be reoriented.

District staff recently worked out an agreement as well with the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority for additional Wheels 605 and 611 bus routes, which will honor student IDs. A list of seven designated pick-up and drop-off spots was also updated recently when the loading location at Gatetree Circle was removed after neighbors complained. Only students walking or biking from homes in that area will use the Gatetree passageway.

Haglund reported, “While there will be very limited and targeted student parking options available at the site, we are encouraging all students to walk, ride a bike, or use public transportation.”

The $650,000 project will be complete on July 10 and the marquee sign removed, giving neighbors the first signs of visible progress on the project since school ended at the end of May.

Steinle’s slaying inspires new bill

DeSaulnier again targets gun storage standards for law enforcement

BY JEREMY WALSH

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) has reintroduced proposed legislation aimed at stopping law enforcement firearms from getting into the wrong hands, inspired in part by the shooting death of Pleasanton native Kate Steinle four years ago.

Dubbed the “Federal Law Enforcement and Public Protection Act,” House Resolution 3420 would mandate all federal agencies to implement rules to help prevent law enforcement officers’ service weapons from being lost or stolen.

“The intention of federal law enforcement agencies is to keep the public safe. When their own weapons are being used against them and in other acts of violence, they are not fulfilling that job,” DeSaulnier said in a statement. “To improve public safety, we need to improve the standards for officer gun safety and storage.”

The East Bay congressman, whose district includes the Tri-Valley communities ofDanville and Alamo, presented the same bill for consideration in both previous terms in the wake of Steinle’s death and other similar cases in which a stolen police gun fired...
Land value growth sets record in Alameda County

Dublin scores biggest gain in assessed property values among Tri-Valley cities

By Julia Baum

Land in Alameda County reached a gross value record this fiscal year of $321.5 billion, according to an annual local assessment roll of $18.6 billion taxable properties released last week by the Alameda County Assessor’s Office.

First-year Assessor Phong La credited increased real estate values and a recovering economy for the 7.13% increase in the 2019-20 fiscal year compared to the previous year, which translates to an additional $21.4 billion in assessed land value.

“The revenue generated by the assessment roll continues to support schools, public safety, parks, roads and other essential services,” La said in a statement.

Several more factors contributed to this year’s value growth including applying the 2% mandatory inflation index to properties with assessed values that were unaffected in previous years by assessment declines. That added about $5.6 billion, while construction activity and real estate sales and transfers gave $2.5 and $11.3 billion, respectively.

Businesses have also “flourished” and are considered by the county to be “a key factor in the growth in the assessment roll, as these company’s business personal property assessments have increased by $1.1 billion,” La said. The county’s assessment role has increased 35%, or $73 billion as well in the past five years.

Oakland remains the highest-valued jurisdiction in Alameda County at $68.8 billion, but one community in the Tri-Valley stood out this year. The city of Dublin saw the largest increase in assessed value from the previous year at 10.3%, to just over $18 billion overall, according to county officials.

Pleasanton saw a 6.4% increase in assessed value, from $24.1 billion last year to its current assessment of just under $25.7 billion across 28,067 parcels, according to county officials. In Livermore, the assessment roll stands at just under $20.6 billion, an increase of 5.8% year-over-year.

With a 2.7% unemployment rate lower than the state and national averages, the county’s outlook is good but “there are indicators that this tremendous growth in the economy may be coming to an end,” La said. He did not provide any details but advocated “preparing for a potential recession now rather than having it come as a surprise.”

All secured roll property owners in Alameda County will receive notification by mail. Property owners with questions regarding their property assessment are asked to call the Assessor’s Office at 510-272-3787 (real estate assessments) or 510-272-3836 (business personal property assessments) or visit online at www.acassessor.org.

Formal appeals of the 2019-20 assessed values must be made by Sept. 16 with the Clerk, Board of Supervisors, Assessment Appeals Unit.

Property tax bills for fiscal year 2019-20 will be mailed in October by the Alameda County tax collector and will be based upon the assessor’s 2019-20 assessed values.

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In other business

• The council spent nearly an hour receiving an update on state legislation particularly relevant to the city and discussing taking official positions on a handful of housing bills as well as other, non-housing bills.

• Pleasanton works with the four other Tri-Valley municipalities and consultant firm Townsend Public Affairs to engage with state representatives and advocate for or against certain legislation.

• This legislative cycle, the groups have been closely watching housing legislation — though some proposals of concern, such as Sen. Scott Wiener’s Senate Bill 50, have shifted to two-year bills that won’t be discussed again until January.

• This legislative cycle, the groups have been closely watching housing legislation — though some proposals of concern, such as Sen. Scott Wiener’s Senate Bill 50, have shifted to two-year bills that won’t be discussed again until January.

• During non-agenda comment, the council heard from three resident speakers — plus another 150, via petition signatures — criticizing the council’s decision June 18 regarding the new trail being installed as part of redesigning the municipal parking lot on part of the old railroad corridor downtown.

The council had voted 4-1 in favor of a plan to maximize new parking on the narrow lot between Bernal Avenue and Abbie Street but directing city staff to tweak the design to guarantee the new public trail would be a minimum of 9 feet wide — still lower than cycling advocates’ 12-foot preference.

City staff provided a brief update on their progress as of Tuesday, telling the council that they’re on track to amend designs to widen the trail to a minimum of 11 feet without losing any parking spots.
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**Headed to ‘Ninja’ nationals**

Pleasanton native Seth Rogers earned a spot in Las Vegas for the national finals of the NBC competition show “American Ninja Warrior.” The 2018 Foothill High graduate advanced out of the Los Angeles qualifier after making it to the ninth obstacle, “Leaps of Faith” — good for a top finish in the round broadcast on TV this week. The 19-year-old will be among the athletes competing in Vegas for a chance at the ultimate prize; the first episode is set to air Aug. 26.

**‘Your choice’**

Thought-provoking TV ad on organ donation

By Elaine Yang

Tri-Valley nonprofit Donor Network West’s new commercial, airing on television and streaming services in Northern and Central California, focuses on the people who die in need of a transplant to draw attention to the importance of organ donations.

The minute-long commercial, which is set to run through August, opens with a young girl clutching a teddy bear, before the camera pans out to reveal a man lying on a hospital bed surrounded by eight people of varying ages and ethnicities, including the girl.

As the patient’s heart monitor flatlines, the people around him fade from the scene one by one. “Every day people die waiting for an organ transplant. Eight lives lost or saved. Your choice,” reads the closing graphic, as the instrumental background music changes from cheerful to somber, or melancholy — the viewer’s choice.

“Twenty-two people in the United States die each day as they wait for an organ transplant. The next commercial aims to introduce a sense of urgency by putting the decision to save a life in the hands of the viewers. ‘The power to give a second chance to someone in need lies within each of us. Saving lives is a choice we can all make by registering as an organ and tissue donor,’” said Janice F. Whaley, CEO for Donor Network West, based in San Ramon.

For more than 30 years, Donor Network West has helped connect donors’ gifts to those in need of transplants. The federally designated organ procurement organization for Northern California and Nevada is partnered with the San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

The video ad is available on YouTube or via save8today.com. Visit a local DMV office to register as an organ donor.

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**Tri-Valley legislators fill staffing vacancies**

By Ryan J. Degan

Three East Bay locals have been selected to serve on top administrative posts of Tri-Valley legislators over the past several months, two of whom are city council members in the region.

To start, State Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) promoted 38-year-old George Escutia Jr., to serve as his new district director in May. In his new role, Escutia is tasked with managing Glazer’s district office and helping engage with the public over services it can provide.

Having served as a senior district representative since Glazer’s inaugural election to the State Senate in May 2015, Escutia has proven to be an effective part of the senator’s team, particularly on issues such as addressing constituent needs and serving as a liaison to other government officials, the senator’s office said. Officials from Glazer’s office added that Escutia’s own experience with poverty, housing and food insecurity have provided Glazer’s office with an important perspective on the many issues affecting the 7th Senate District, which includes the Tri-Valley.

Escutia succeeded Teresa Gerringer, who stepped down from Glazer’s office in February citing the need to focus on her role as a Lafayette City Council member. Then several weeks later, Gerringer was hired to serve as communications director for Contra Costa County Supervisor Diane Burgis, helping the supervisor in a variety of special projects, including the county’s 2020 census efforts.

Burgis, whose East County district includes the Tri-Valley communities of Blackhawk, Diablo and Tassajara Valley, cited Gerringer’s extensive experience with the issues and local leaders in the region.

And in the office of State Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda), Dublin City Councilman Shawn Kumagai has been selected to serve as the new district director for Bauer-Kahan’s 16th Assembly District, which includes the Tri-Valley.

Starting at the position in April, Kumagai continues to serve in his duties on the Dublin City Council and has already announced his intent to run for re-election to the council come 2022.

In other recent hiring news, former Livermore City Councilman Steven Spedowfalki (2014-18) was promoted in his day job in the spring to become the new deputy city manager for the city of San Ramon.

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- Deep Tissue Laser Therapy
- Active Release Technique (A.R.T.)
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**SPECIAL OFFER**

Chiropractic Exam & One Hour Massage ($60 Value) Valid for new patients only. Appointments required and 24 hour cancellation policy applies.

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$90 Introductory Cryotherapy Session ($120 Value) Valid for new patients only. Appointments required and 24 hour cancellation policy applies.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**NEWSFRONT**

Page 8 • July 19, 2019 • Pleasanton Weekly
Adopt-a-Thon
SPCA hosting fun family event for animal lovers

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Cats and dogs and everything they need will be at Jack London Square in Oakland next weekend as the East Bay SPCA hosts its annual Adopt-a-Thon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Sunday (July 28).

About 30 animal shelters and rescue groups will be at the event, featuring hundreds of adoptable animals, including dogs, cats, rats and birds. The event is also held to raise awareness of the thousands of homeless animals in the Bay Area.

“Adopting helps save the life of a pet and also creates new space in a shelter or rescue to house and save more lives,” East Bay SPCA president Allison Lindquist noted.

Vendors will be on hand to sell pet fashion accessories, photos and family-friendly activities from Sports Basement, giveaways from the Oakland As and a button-making station.

East Bay SPCA reported recently that kitten season is here with a vengeance.

“As of today, we have over 140 cats and kittens currently in foster homes,” said Joseph Romero, foster and medical support manager at the East Bay SPCA, “and 50 more kittens currently in foster. The SPCA can have up to five litters a year, and each litter can have up to six kittens, who can start breeding at age 6 months.”

The organization receives kittens from the general public and from other shelters that do not have foster programs able to handle the influx of so many kittens at once. SPCA has a goal to save 100% of its cats and kittens and is always looking for foster families.

The East Bay SPCA is running a temporary, offshore quarantine facility for dogs affected by the canine influenza virus and is in urgent need of funds, clean blankets and sheets. Items can be dropped off at the Dublin Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive. To learn more, go to www.eastbayspca.org.

STEINLE
Continued From Page 5

the fatal bullet, but his legislation failed to gain traction in Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives.

DeSaulnier is trying his hand again, this time with the Democrats holding the House majority.

HR 3420 would require the leaders of each of the nearly 80 civilian and military federal law enforcement agencies to create minimum standards directing their officers to store and safely lock their firearms when not kept in their personal possession.

The legislation would put the onus on the officer to store their service weapon by using smart guns and smart locks, trigger locks, safes, gunlock boxes or other means approved by the agency, which would decide the discipline for violations.

The guns could not be kept in personal or patrol vehicles except for temporary storage when in court, when other options aren’t available, or if authorized by the agency. If an officer’s gun is stolen or lost, the incident would need to be reported to the FBI, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and relevant state and local agencies.

HR 3420, which DeSaulnier introduced on June 21, has been referred to the Judiciary and Armed Services committees.

His same legislative proposal never advanced out of committee in the previous two terms when Republicans held the House majority.

DeSaulnier said that with recent reports of local and federal law enforcement officers having their service weapons stolen or misplacing their guns, the safety concerns prompting HR 3420 remain just as relevant as they did after Steinle’s death on Pier 14 in San Francisco on July 1, 2015.

An Amador Valley High alumnus living in San Francisco at the time, 32-year-old Steinle was walking with her father on the pier when she was shot and killed by a bullet fired from a gun that had been stolen from the car of a U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ranger.

Jose Ines Garcia Zarate, an deported undocumented Mexican immigrant with a history of criminal convictions, was acquitted of murder and manslaughter by a San Francisco jury on Nov. 30, 2017 but found guilty of being an ex-felon in possession of a gun related to Steinle’s shooting death.

Garcia Zarate’s defense counsel argued at trial that the BLM ranger’s gun went off accidentally, firing the bullet that ricocheted off the ground before fatally striking Steinle.

Prosecutors did not present any evidence in the case to indicate that Garcia Zarate stole the gun.

BLM Ranger John Woychowski testified that he left the gun in a holster inside a backpack with his badge and law enforcement credentials stashed under the front seat of his SUV parked on The Embarcadero while he went to dinner with his family four days before Steinle’s death.

But the backpack and gun were stolen that night.

Steinle’s parents, Jim Steinle and Elizabeth Sullivan, still have a federal lawsuit pending against the BLM claiming the ranger violated a duty to secure the loaded handgun properly.

The Pleasanton native’s slaying — and the defendant’s subsequent acquittal — captured national headlines and spurred new debate on immigration enforcement and sanctuary city policies.

The House in 2017 passed “Kate’s Law,” a bill inspired by the Steinle case that proposed to increase punishments for criminal offenders who re-enter the country illegally after deportation, but the legislation never advanced out of the Senate.

U.S. Rep Steve King (R-Iowa) introduced his own, broader version of “Kate’s Law” this January.
Patricia Jean Daniels
August 16, 1925 – June 25, 2019

Patricia Daniels passed away peacefully on June 25 at the age of 90.

Born in 1928 to Scottish immigrants, Alfred and Isabel Smart, she attended Fremont High, where she was senior class president. After graduation she attended Heald Bookkeeping School in Oakland.

Pat married her high school sweetheart, Gene and they soon moved from Oakland, settled in San Lorenzo and later moved to Pleasanton.

She leaves two children, Steve (Marty), Sue, two grandchildren, Nick and Emily (Brett), three great grandchildren, Ainsley, Avery and Zachary, sister Maybelle and three nieces. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gene, of 53 years.

Pat worked for Paco Pumps in Oakland for twenty-five years as a bookkeeper.

She loved fishing, reading, Christmas crab dinners and her family.

The family wishes to thank the employees at Creekview Assisted living, and the employees and Hospice team at Sunol Creek for helping guide her through the final years of her life.

No services are being held per her wishes. Donations may be made to her favorite charities the ASPCA, and St. Jude’s Hospital, or to Hope Hospice.

PAID OBITUARY

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Tri-Valley native among string of fatalities at Oceano Dunes

A man who grew up in the Tri-Valley died in an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) collision last month at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, a state-operated facility near Pismo Beach that has now seen six fatalities in off-road vehicle crashes in the past three months.

Shawn Joseph Imlig, 37, succumbed to injuries he sustained when, while riding an ATV on a dune on the evening of June 22, he was struck in the helmet by a recreational off-highway vehicle (ROV) that went airborne after reaching the top of the dune, according to California State Parks officials. Authorities allege the ROV driver was drunk and speeding at the time of the crash.

Imlig, a resident of Brentwood at the time of his death, was born in Livermore and spent parts of his life living in Pleasanton as well as Livermore. He was an avid and experienced ATV rider, among his other hobbies, and loved spending time at Oceano Dunes, according to a family obituary.

At the time, the Tri-Valley native became the fourth person to die in a crash at the beachfront state park since April 12.

The 2019 fatality count now stands at six people, after an 18-year-old man from Sacramento was killed at Oceano Dunes last Saturday, according to the San Luis Obispo Tribune. All of the other deaths were solo-vehicle crashes.

Oceano Dunes was a favorite recreational spot for Imlig, who enjoyed outdoor activities like riding ATVs, and working on vehicles and equipment, according to his family.

Imlig was riding an ATV southbound at 10-15 mph near a 35-foot dune on Oceano Dunes’ Sand Highway 12 just before 7:30 p.m. on June 22 when a northbound ROV traveling 20-30 mph got airborne at the top of the dune, according to State Parks.

The ROV crashed side-by-side against Imlig’s ATV and hit him directly in the helmet, State Parks said. Imlig was pronounced dead at the scene within minutes of the collision.

State Parks rangers conducted DUI investigations at the scene and determined the driver of the ROV — identified as Oscar Renteria Corchado, 34, of Yuba City — was under the influence of alcohol and had been speeding.

Corchado was placed under arrest on suspicion of vehicular manslaughter and DUI causing serious injury. He has since been released from custody while local prosecutors review the case and decide whether to file charges.

Eric Dobroth, assistant district attorney with the San Luis Obispo County District Office, told the Weekly on Monday that prosecutors were still awaiting final investigative details from State Parks officials, but based on the initial police report, he said, “I’m confident we’ll file charges … just try to fine-tune the particulars.”

Dobroth said a filing decision should be confirmed in the next several weeks.

In other news

• Two teens jumped a fence at a nuclear reactor in San Luis last week, an Alameda County Sheriff’s Office sergeant said.

The teen boys, both from Pleasanton, jumped a fence at the Vallecitos Nuclear Center at 6705 Vallecitos Road in Sunol at about 1:30 p.m. on July 10, according to sheriff’s Sgt. Ray Kelly.

The sheriff’s office responded along with the FBI and security from the facility’s operator, GE Hitachi.

“They were just being kids,” Kelly said. “They went over the fence, got into the Vallecitos property, they never got near any of the high-security area within the facility.”

Kelly told the Weekly the boys were not cited for trespassing as GE Hitachi did not want to pursue a complaint.

“They were admonished not to do it again. We spoke with their parents. They are not bad kids … It was a teachable moment,” the sergeant added. “There was never a threat. I think they got a good learning lesson.”

The 1,600-acre facility was the site of a commercial power plant until 1963, when its main reactor was shut down. Since then it has been used as a research facility.

• A young man who worked as a swim instructor at The Wave in Dublin was arrested earlier this month on suspicion of possessing and distributing child pornography, authorities said on Tuesday.

James Terrence Happ, 18, was fired from his position at the city-owned waterpark on July 3, the same day as his arrest by Contra Costa County investigators, and Dublin Police Services have found no evidence of the illicit behavior occurring at The Wave, though they continue to investigate, according to Dublin city officials.

The investigation into Happ, who taught swimming at The Wave for the past three years, began after the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s and District Attorney’s offices received information about a person allegedly possessing and sharing child pornography.

Detectives executed search warrants at homes in Danville and Dublin on July 3 and found child pornography on electronic devices belonging to Happ, according to sheriff’s spokesman Jimmy Lee.

The 18-year-old man was arrested and booked into the Martinez Detention Facility on suspicion of possessing child pornography, Lee said.

Happ was later released from jail after posting bail.

Authorities continue to investigate the case.

Pleasanton Police Department held its fourth annual Cone with a Cop event in downtown last week, taking the time to engage with residents over ice cream treats.

Held at Pleasanton’s historic Meadowlark Dairy, this year’s Cone with a Cop on July 10 saw dozens of residents of all ages enjoying ice cream, playing games or just hanging out with police officers who were distributing chocolate, orange, lemon and vanilla ice cream.

“The main goal of Cone with a Cop every year is just to create a greater connection with our community. There is nothing more that we love than getting to know the people that we serve,” Pleasanton police spokesperson Shannon Whittaker said, giving the Weekly the scoop on the program.

“Cone with a Cop is basically the epitome of everything that Pleasanton represents, community togetherness. The Pleasanton police department constantly talks about being better together and this is exactly what that is,” she added.

Up to 20 officers, administrative staff, commander staff and explorers — Pleasanton police cadets — could be found sprinkled throughout the area, getting to know their community and enjoying the day.

“It’s one of our most fun events. We got the whole family out and the police officers get to help serve some ice cream,” Meadowlark dairy owner, Jesse Takens, told the Weekly. “It’s fun. We have a really great police department. They’re all super nice (and) it’s good for the kids.”

Jesse is the third generation of Takens to own and operate Meadowlark Dairy — originally founded as a full dairy by Walter Briggs Sr. on 153 acres of land off Foothill Road in 1919.

Cone with a Cop

PPD officers serve ice cream, engage residents in fun setting

By Ryan J. Deglan

Bringing new meaning to the motto “to protect and to serve,” the Pleasanton Police Department held its fourth annual Cone with a Cop event in downtown last week, taking the time to engage with residents over ice cream treats.

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Pleasanton PD explorer cadet Ruby Duncan joins Sadpuneet Pamma and Justin Lee for some sun and ice cream.

RyA N J. D E G LA N
COMMUNITY PULSE

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

July 13

Theft
- 3:23 p.m., 8500 block of Clubhouse Drive; theft from auto
- 5:07 p.m., 8500 block of Clubhouse Drive; theft from auto
- 7:39 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Shoplifting
- 11:30 a.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 12:29 p.m. on the 1200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 4:03 p.m. on the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 5:27 p.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 3:43 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug violation
- 12:41 p.m. on the 4000 block of Blackbird Way

July 10

DUI
- 7:43 p.m., 8500 block of Clubhouse Drive; theft from auto

Shawn Joseph Imlig

Shawn Joseph Imlig passed away on June 22, 2019, at the age of 37 in Oceano, California. Shawn succumbed to his injuries from a fatal off road vehicle accident.

Shawn was born July 10, 1981, in Livermore, California. Throughout his life he lived in Pleasanton, Livermore and Brentwood. He lost his father to cancer when he was in elementary school. This tragic incident greatly affected him and he struggled to overcome his loss. This incident also taught Shawn to live his life to the fullest, which he always did.

Shawn loved his family. In his early years, he enjoyed annual camping trips to Millerton, Lick Creek and Bear Lake. He loved tailgating in the parking lot of the Oakland Coliseum and watching the Raiders play football. Shawn loved to spend time with his stepfather fishing in the delta. He really enjoyed the holidays at his Grandpa Jack’s house. There was always a competition between the two of them to see who could antagonize each other the most.

Shawn also loved his friends. He would always lend a helping hand whenever needed. He loved spending time with them camping at Oceano Dunes RV Park. He also enjoyed spending time with them on the water in the delta or local lakes.

Shawn loved his man toys. He had multiple toys for every season. He loved working on them with family and friends while trying to modify or repair them. Shawn was always a hard worker. He started working at a young age with his stepfather's landscaping business. He continued working for many other landscaping companies before becoming a heavy equipment operator. He excelled at this profession and was always proud of what he was working on. Every day he was excited about whatever piece of equipment he would be operating. This fascination of large trucks and equipment started about the time he could walk. At times, the backyard looked like a giant construction site with all of his toys. Shawn knew what every piece of equipment was and what role it played in construction.

Shawn is preceded in death by his father, Hans Imlig, and great-grandpa Jack Fiorio. He is survived by his mother, Lisa Fiorio; stepfather, Brian Fiorio; brother, Ryan Fiorio; grandparents, James and Gail Davis and Gary and Melinda Fiorio; and many more aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Shawn’s life will be held on Aug. 4 from 1-4 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center located at 5353 Sunol Blvd.

PAID OBITUARY

Patsy Anne Lund

March 2, 1934 – July 6, 2019

Patsy passed away on Saturday evening surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Throughout the years, she has touched the lives of many with her leadership and optimism. Patsy was the rock for her family, and many others.

Patsy was born in Dubuque, Iowa. She and her family which included her mother, father and 4 siblings. Her siblings included 2 sisters, Elizabeth and Barbara, and her 2 brothers, Ed and Richard. They moved to the East Bay in 1944. In 1949 her father moved them all to Pleasanton. She later graduated from Amador High school and shortly after was hired at the Livermore Lawrence Laboratory.

In 1954, she married the love of her life, Victor Lund. They later had two sons. The eldest was Michael shortly followed by Jeffery. Patsy and Victor raised their two sons on a cattle ranch in Pleasanton when they eventually moved their cattle ranch near North Livermore. While also being a rancher's wife and a mom of two boys, she worked for the City of Pleasanton in the financial department. She worked there for 29 years! She retired in 1991 and started her career with Mary Kay where she received many awards for her accomplishments.

One of her many accomplishments included being president of the Alameda County Unit of Cattlemen (then known as Cow Belles) from 1975 through 1976. One of her board members said it was a most productive term of office as three members of Patsy’s board had one or more babies from 1975 to 1977. Patsy took on the responsibilities of may board of directors offices as well as serving to chair many of the activity committees of the organization. Patsy was instrumental in forming the Alameda County Cow Belles’ mounted parade color guard, and she participated in many beef education demonstrations and presentation.

Patsy served as the president of the California CattleWomen from 1991 through 1992. During her term of office, California hosted the National Beef Cookoff. As Jean Barton, a long time California State officer said, “Patsy was a fierce advocate for the California Beef Industry at this time making sure that California needs were met.” Jean stated that Patsy was a “gorgeous lady.”

Patsy believed that it was important for the beef industry that as many women as possible should be knowledgeable not only on the local level, but also on the state and national levels as well. Patsy and her husband, Vic were a wonderful couple working hard to better the California Beef Industry.

For 25 years, Patsy spent many hours volunteering at Valley Care Hospital. While at Valley Care she spent time on the committee and board. She made many friends there and was known by everyone. She was also very active with her church, Crosswinds. She dedicated lots of her time helping with Vacation Bible School and other children’s events. Patsy and her husband also helped serve coffee and bagels before Sunday church, also staying after to clean.

Patsy is survived by her loving husband, Victor; devoted children, Michael Lund and Jeffery Lund. In addition are her grandchildren, Cassie Lund and Tyler Lund. She is also survived by her sister, Barbara Mills and Elizabeth Olivarres. Patsy will be missed by so many people.

There will be a celebration of life to be posted on a later date for friends and family. Help us celebrate her beautiful life.

Voting in May, the majority of Castlewood Country Club members established they wanted the iconic club to remain independent into the future. Now selected members and the Board of Directors are carefully working to develop the plan for remodeling the 1970s-vintage clubhouse so it will serve current and future members. There have been minimal changes to the facility over more than 40 years. Members established the direction by two votes earlier this year:

1. Members voted 211-189 in March in favor of a more extensive remodel of the clubhouse instead of only addressing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues. It means a $200 per month increase in dues for 20 years because the club will have to borrow money for the renovations. Dues will not increase until a final plan is in place.

2. In May, members considered a takeover bid by the Bay Club as recommended by the board. Members defeated the proposal 250-211 with 461 of the 555 eligible voters casting their ballots.

For the last few years, the board has been focused on finding a solution to bringing the clubhouse up to ADA standards. The clubhouse has three levels and no elevators or lifts. The lower level with the fitness center and locker rooms and the members dining room and banquet facilities are accessible, but the bathrooms are not accessible on the main floor. The members' grill on the south side is only served by two staircases. The renovation will add an elevator or lifts plus update restrooms to bring them into full compliance with the federal standards.

After the vote in May set the direction on the major upgrade, the board took a step back. To develop the two clubhouse options, directors had worked with an architectural firm and then obtained rough bids from contractors. Instead of pushing ahead with those plans, directors invited members with expertise to join a select committee to develop a plan for the clubhouse. Not everyone who raised their hand was invited to join the committee.

Directors required interested members to submit resumes so they could select members with a variety of skill sets. They are being supported by a financial subcommittee that will develop the financing options as well as a membership and marketing committee. The remodel committee is meeting weekly and has reviewed all the previous work.

The committee essentially has been given a blank slate within the 45,000-square-foot clubhouse walls, explained Kathleen Butler, a director and the liaison to the committee. They will be considering how the space is currently allocated and what will serve new families better into the future. The budget is $16 million.

"Let's face it, with that whole Bay Club issue there's been a lot of tension and a lot of discord. So, we want to bring everybody together. And we want to make sure that the members feel like they're a part of the future of this club," Butler said.

One given, she said, is the remodeled clubhouse will have a much larger and better equipped fitness center. What families want today is a club that serves the entire family and that means a full-service fitness center, plus other amenities. For instance, Blackhawk Country Club added a free-standing 9,100-square-foot fitness center in 2018 and has seen membership sales increase significantly.
General Manager John Vest, who is well-connected in the Bay Area country club scene, has been setting up meetings with other clubs such as Round Hill Country Club in Alamo that completed a two-year renovation last year. Round Hill expanded its fitness offerings, as will the Diablo Country Club outside Danville in its $19 million upgrade that includes a new three-story building.

The Castlemood committee also will be taking a hard look at how much space is devoted to banquet halls and large events. The ballroom, which can be subdivided into smaller spaces, accommodates around 400 people for a banquet, plus it has the Del Pozo Lounge that serves it almost exclusively. Members have their own bars in both the grill and the dining room — those spaces total about 6,500 square feet, less than the size of the banquet room and the adjoining bar.

Butler said that when the club was built, the philosophy was separate everything. That’s changed to building spaces that can be used for a variety of ways — a banquet one night and member dining the next.

The Bay Club debate

Castlemood’s Board of Directors recommended accepting the The Bay Club takeover.

It would have given all Castlemood members the Bay Club’s top tier ($30,000 list price) that included access to any of the Bay Area campuses. The company purchased the ClubSport portfolio of clubs last November including the original club in Pleasanton as well as Walnut Creek, Danville and Fremont in the East Bay. Adding an East Bay golf course would have significantly enhanced the offerings.

It would have valued the club at about $16.7 million plus Bay Club had committed to investing at least $20 million into the clubhouse, presumably with a reduced fitness offering given ClubSport Pleasanton is a few miles away. For Castlemood members who also belonged to ClubSport, it would mean a monthly saving and there would have been no quarterly food-and-beverage minimums and cart fees.

After a two-year waiting period, Castlemood members who wanted to sell their memberships would be added to a list with a sale taking place when a new member joined — one in, one out. Given Castlemood’s rules that mandate $10,000 return to the club in a sale, it had the opportunity for more cash for a selling member.

The key trade-offs were seen as loss of equity memberships, loss of control of the club, and much more competition for tee times resulted in a majority of members deciding to remain private and invest in the club.

Hugh Conners of Pleasanton joined Castlemood in 1969 after the fire that destroyed the original clubhouse. He remembers the debate back then about whether to build a smaller clubhouse just for members or building the larger space to attract outside events and keep dues to a minimum. When it came to the dues question, the outside events and space for them became the choice.

He said he was surprised that the Bay Club takeover was voted down. He will move to honorary status in October (no dues or assessments) and was concerned Bay Club would not honor that, so he opposed it. He said if the takeover included $20,000 upfront instead of $10,000, it may have changed his vote.

Conners pointed out that about 25% of Castlemood members were also members at ClubSport (now Bay Club) and then would have saved several hundred dollars monthly by eliminating one dues payment.

Butler said that when the club was built, the philosophy was separate everything. That’s changed to building spaces that can be used for a variety of ways — a banquet one night and member dining the next.

Creating the remodel plan

For the remodeling committee, one key consideration will be the large event space. Vest pointed out that the event business has changed over the years.

When Castlemood opened the clubhouse in the 1970s, it’s only competition as a large venue was the now-closed Sunol Golf Club off Interstate 680. Since then, competition has grown significantly with the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon, Pleasanton hotels, Casa Real and the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton, the Shriner’s Center in Livermore — to say nothing of the Ruby Hill Country Club, the Poppy Ridge Golf Club and various wineries and the San Ramon Valley country clubs.

The club also has seen a dip in its wedding business — again because brides have many local options.

Considering the banquet room, one possibility is dividing it and reorienting it so diners can enjoy the wonderful views overlooking the valley from the east-side windows.

The members’ dining room and bar overlooks the first and 18th holes of the Hill Course.

Butler said she expects the remodel to include different dining options and perhaps a teen center and space for children’s activities so parents can drop them off and go play tennis, golf or bocce ball.

Butler and the board expect the club will lose members during the planning and construction process. Membership has been dropping at about 5% a year from more than 800 in 2003 to the 555 eligible to vote in the May election.

She said clubs typically lose members during remodels.

Castlemood has an interim marketing director whom they praised for her ideas and will complement her with a member marketing and membership committee. Once plans are set and construction is underway, they likely will offer some special programs to attract new families.

Over the last 15 years, Castlemood added the fitness room in what formally was a billiards area, added two bocce courts, remodeled the Valley clubhouse and added a well-used driving range and practice area behind the 18th tee on the Valley Course. Looking ahead, Butler said once the clubhouse plans are set, they may well look at what other improvements would enhance the club such as the pool area and perhaps adding two more tennis courts (currently there are four) that would allow it to host official tournaments.

The current committee is moving ahead with an aggressive meeting schedule under-girded by the mission of whatever they do, doing it right for the future. Take the time necessary to get it right, she said.

Butler said she thought it would be 2021 before the renovated facility opens, which means a busy time to set conceptual plans, engage the architect for the drawings and then get construction bids and start work.
Another successful County Fair in Pleasanton

We said a fond farewell to the 2019 Alameda County Fair earlier this month, with the 107th year seeing a spike in attendance, new cultural events and increased consumption of classic fair food, specifically corn dogs and deep-fried Twinkies.

The fair concluded July 7 to cap an 18-day run full of thrilling rides, live horse racing, star-studded concerts, action sports, animals, cultural festivals and delicious fair foods.

Thousands of people turned out to watch the “Last Ride” of the Opening Day Cattle Drive on June 14. Crowds cheered on hundreds of cattle, cowboys and cowgirls, and fair entertainers as they tromped through Main Street in downtown Pleasanton for the final time.

This year’s fair proved as popular as ever, with 454,276 people coming to the fairgrounds during the 18 days — marking an increase of 7.3% in attendance compared to the 2018 fair, according to totals just released by fair officials.

The beautiful weather this year might account for that increase. Brutal heat during summer days in Pleasanton can deter people from going to the fairgrounds, but comfortable temperatures helped ensure the fair did not cool off this year.

A butterfly lands on Riley Phan inside the butterfly exhibit at the Alameda County Fair.

Speaking of the midway, the addition of the new Mega-Flip ride drew thrill seekers to the carnival as it thrust riders high in the air while spinning and twirling. The Sky Ride, a cross-grounds attraction offering a bird’s eye view of the fair, was also a popular fair feature and saw increased riders this year.

Other highlights this year were:

- Concert-goers packed the amphitheater nightly for the Big O Tires Concert Series, which featured performances from Ashanti, Trace Adkins, Gin Blossoms, Sheila E. and Vince Neil of Motley Crue.
- The fair introduced several new cultural festivals to celebrate the deep multicultural roots of the Bay Area, including an Asian Pacific Celebration, Out at the Fair and Bollywood at the Fair.
- With the Last Ride of the Cattle Drive, the great concerts and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience.
- The Action Sports Arena came alive each weekend with featured shows like extreme rodeo, Arena across Nationals, monster trucks and demolition derby.
- STEAM weekends featured fun, hands-on educational exhibits and activities for kids with themes like agriculture and horticulture, engineering, electronics and robots, Lego Festival, Robot Day, and environment and space.
- “With the Last Ride of the Cattle Drive, the fair concluded and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience.

The fair was a success, with 454,276 people attending the fair, a spike in attendance, new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience and all our new special features, every day of the fair was a new experience.

A butterfly lands on Riley Phan inside the butterfly exhibit at the Alameda County Fair.
Books for Camp Fire survivors
Endeavor has been life-changing, Pleasanton organizer says

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

When Melissa Gianotti saw her friends in Paradise lose everything in the Camp Fire last November, it started her thinking.

“If I lost everything in a fire, books would be what I would want back — books I read to the kids,” she realized.

Gianotti has a master’s degree in library sciences and works as the librarian at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette and as a substitute librarian in Pleasanton.

“Books are kind of my life,” she said.

Melissa and Dustin Gianotti moved to Pleasanton nine years ago and have two sons, Shane, 5, and Weston, 2. They met when they were attending Chico State, not far from Paradise, and still have friends in that area.

“When the fire happened, our good friends lost their home,” Gianotti recalled. “They have two good friends lost their home,” Weston, 2. They met when they moved to Pleasanton nine years ago said.

“Books are kind of my life,” she realized.

As she met more fire survivors in Butte County, she set out to replace their books. She reached out via Facebook, where “Books for Butte” now has 1,300 members.

A core group of five women runs the endeavor with Gianotti acting as administrator, and 32,000 books have been given out, including at two giveaway events in Chico.

But mostly the books are mailed directly to fire survivors who have made requests, which run the gamut from children’s classics and chapter books to cookbooks to history, poetry, fantasy and thrillers.

“We fill out forms to request books,” Gianotti explained. “I have a master list, a record of every book people want. Through that, we have replaced about 3,000 books from across the country.”

The senders pay the mailing costs using special book rates, and some have even been mailed from Europe. For the list of requested books, email booksofbutte@gmail.com.

As word spread, many folks delivered books directly to Gianotti, so she decided to do a book give-away in January.

“I convinced my friend who is a principal in Chico to let us use the gym,” Gianotti said with a laugh. “We used another friend’s garage for storage.”

“People stepped forward and became a community of helpers,” she added. “At that first giveaway, about 15,000 books went to around 500 survivors.”

The Camp Fire, which began Nov. 8, has been the most destructive — and the deadliest — wildfire in California. It covered 240 square miles, obliterated almost 19,000 structures, and was responsible for 86 deaths. Gianotti returned to Butte County every few weeks and takes people from the Bay Area with her to view the damage.

“They are floored by what they see,” she said. “It still looks very much like a war zone.”

Sarah Yang, a Girl Scout in Pleasanton, contacted Gianotti looking for a way to earn her silver badge. Yang and her family became involved, and she made two free little libraries to go in the burn zone.

“They came as a family and volunteered at our last book giveaway,” Gianotti said. “It was a powerful experience for her being from Pleasanton and experiencing what people were going through and helping them first hand.”

About 2,000 people are living in Paradise now; many in campers, RVs and even tents — the town had a population over 26,000 before the wildfire.

“The high school, which survived, and the elementary school are totally equipped with books at this point,” Gianotti said. “It’s the people — they not just want something to read but want a connection to the past, a memory associated with what they had.”

Recipients have told her their children read much more now, partly because they don’t have a lot of other things to do. Adults read for escape, some even by lantern light.

A second giveaway Memorial Day weekend distributed 12,000 books.

“Our last giveaway was crazy and hectic,” Gianotti said. “But it’s not about the numbers, it’s about what I see beyond the books.”

Among the helpers she spotted a young woman in her late teens whose father had died in the fire. She survived by getting into a creek and remaining there for hours and was responsible for escape, some even by lantern light.

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“Our last giveaway was crazy and hectic,” Gianotti said. “But it’s not about the numbers, it’s about what I see beyond the books.”

Among the helpers she spotted a young woman in her late teens whose father had died in the fire. She survived by getting into a creek and remaining there for hours and is now living with a friend.

“This girl volunteered all day in the young adult section, she was laughing and helping people find books,” Gianotti said. “I had people tell me it was the first time they’d laughed and smiled since the fire. We’ve created a community.

“That part has been life-changing,” she continued. “And having my son be part of that has been life-changing. I believe raising your kids to be kind and giving is just as important as academics.

“When he literally hands a book to another child — that is powerful for me.”

Paradise is working to replace the entire water system, she said, because all the town’s water is toxic, including the creek. That project is estimated at 18 months and the full revival of the town is expected to take at least 10 years.

“There are no words for what it looks like or for what people are going through,” Gianotti said. “The PTSD is extreme. Every person I talk to says, ‘I thought I was going to die, I was running for my life. Half the people I talk to lost pets.’

“My next big project is to try to get a ton of books for self-help, PTSD and anxiety,” she said. “When I find one of those books, I get about 15 people who want one.”

Those are the only books she is currently personally accepting. But the giving continues through the mail as thousands of books find new owners to cherish them and help them move forward.

Taste Our Terroir
Events celebrate Livermore Valley wines

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Taste Our Terroir Weekend — the Livermore Valley’s premier food and wine affair — returns next week (July 25-28) to celebrate and educate wine lovers at nine events.

The long weekend of events kicks off with a food and wine pairing from 6-9 p.m. next Thursday (July 25) at Casa Real in Pleasanton. Seventeen Livermore Valley winemakers have partnered with Bay Area chefs to compete; judges are Ethan Fletcher of Diablo Magazine, wine and travel writer Jill Robinson and Mike Dunne of Dunne on Wine.

Guests will be able to taste all of the pairings, bid on luxurious silent auction items, enjoy decadent desserts and vote in the People’s Choice competition.

General admission tickets are $95 at www.LVwine.org. VIP tickets at $130 include a sparkling wine reception at 4-30 p.m.

Other events are as follows:

• Friday, July 26 — “Wente Lunch in the Garden,” a tour of the sustainable garden and a three-course lunch; 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., $105.

• Saturday, July 27 — “Secrets of a Sommelier,” an interactive, blind tasting experience at McGrad Vineyards; 1-3 p.m., $50.

• “Paella Dinner,” family-style dinner, at Darcie Kent Vineyards, with a variety of wines and a Salsa dance; 6-9 p.m., $80.

• “Port-a-Palooza,” the history of port and how it is made, at Rios Lovell Estate Winery with port samples paired with cheeses and chocolates; 7-9 p.m., $35.

• Sunday, July 28 — “Falconvry, Fly, and Wine,” meet falconer and Embodied Wines owner Kimmic Orani Spears and enjoy a flight demonstration while sipping wines at el Sol Winery, 10 a.m. to noon, $60.

• “Pink Party Rosé Brunch,” at Retzlaff Vineyards, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., $60.

• “Vertical Tasting of Livermore Valley Award Winning Wines,” at 3 Steves Winery, guided by winemakers, taste nine award-winning wines; 12-3-30 p.m., $60.

• “Tasting at the events is limited. Tickets are on sale now at www.LVwine.org.”

ADOPT-A-THEON
Join Us for the Blockbuster Adoption Event of the Summer
Sunday, July 28
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Jack London Square, Oakland
Find out more at eastbayspca.org/adoptathon
Local ‘Daughter’ attends D.C. gathering

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Cindi Newbold, of the Pleasanton Jose Maria Amador Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was among thousands of members from across the country who attended its 128th Continental Congress in late June in the nation’s capital.

“As our more than 4,000 dedicated DAR members gather in one place, their energy produces inspiration, creative breakthroughs and true camaraderie,” DAR president general Ann T. Dillon said.

The local DAR chapter received the Silver Award for American Spirit at the weeklong convention. Newbold joined DAR in 2013 after years of researching her genealogy revealed ancestors dating back to the American Revolution and beyond.

“It’s definitely wonderful being part of a group where people have similar passions, not only knowing their heritage but wanting to preserve it and to find such pride in it,” Newbold said in an interview with the Weekly in 2014.

At the opening night ceremony, the DAR honored Alex Trebek in absentia with its Americanism Award. The evening featured a performance by Dean Malissa, a leading portrait of George Washington.

Other national awards were handed out during the week for excellence in historic preservation, education and patriotism. On National Defense Night, the DAR honored military personnel and veterans, and welcomed Lt. Gen. Nadja West, Surgeon General of the U.S. Army.

The DAR donates hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to preservation, education and patriotic endeavors, as well as millions of hours of volunteer services.

Dillon noted “The reports presented at Continental Congress offered irrefutable proof that the DAR remains a relevant, vital and multifaceted force in cities and towns across the country,” she said.

To learn more about the local chapter, contact Debbie Janes at jmdar.regent@gmail.com.

Food for the body, mind and spirit

Holistic chef publishes seventh book of recipes and inspiration

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Enlightened chef Parisa Z. Ambwani says being a cook means learning about spices.

“Food around the world is the same — basically chicken or meat or vegetable — basically it is the same,” said the Danville chef-philosopher. “But putting it together to make food, adding spices and herbs from a different country, makes your food different.”

But her food philosophy goes beyond being tasty. She believes well-prepared delicious food made with the right ingredients is important to keep body, mind and spirit in a state of harmony.

“Food is medicine,” she said. “Besides that, it is spirituality and meditation.”

Ambwani has published her seventh book, “Enlightened Home-Chef II,” which contains 150 recipes she created, for a total of more than 1,000 international recipes in all her volumes.

“I hope these books, of the holistic journey celebrating the culinary world, contribute to the robust flavor of our food, enhance our metabolism, and give us a prolonged healthier life,” she said.

“Enlightened Home-Chef II” has recipes for everything from appetizers and side dishes to beverages, pickles and relishes, main dishes (including lobsters) and vegetarian fare to pizza. It includes 23 pages of tips on cooking and nutrition.

Her goal, she said, is to teach people about the beauty of food and how to benefit from the use of herbs and spices.

“This book is an extension of my other books,” she said.

The books end with tracts on meditation, values and humanity, which she defines as “the beauty of love and security of freedom on earth.”

Legendary folk sound

The New Christy Minstrels return to the Bankhead Theater with their Grammy Award-winning folk music at 8 p.m. next Friday (July 26). Their vocals, lighthearted style and rich harmonies forged a fresh folk sound in the 1960s when their original hits, including “Green,” “Green” and “Today,” climbed up the charts. Tickets range from $20 to $55. Call 373-6800, visit lvpac.org, or go to the box office, 2400 First St., Livermore.

Tri Valley Life
Foothill field renovations cutting it close for football season

Construction schedule gives Falcons one day of wiggle room

The Foothill High School football program, which has been fighting an uphill battle with participation numbers in recent years, now faces a big battle with dates.

The Falcons’ field — comprised of an artificial/synthetic grass surface — has been in bad need of replacement the last few years to the point that it was an embarrassment and borderline unsafe the last two seasons.

The replacement is finally coming, but the project is set to start this week with a proposed competition date of Aug. 22. To old school people in town, that might seem like plenty of time before the season starts (formerly after Labor Day), but these are not the old days.

The Falcons’ first game is set for Aug. 23, which means even a one-day delay (and you know how construction projects are about running on time) and the home game will be lost.

Foothill head coach Greg Haubner has already been in talks with opening week opponent San Leandro about possibly moving the game. It doesn’t get better from there as the next two games against Heritage and Petaluma are also scheduled for Foothill.

A decent delay and three home games are gone, which totally stinks for any seniors on the squad. In this day, the chance of getting student fans to road games, except for Amador Valley, are slim. Part of the passion of high school sports is playing in front of your classmates, and three games may be in jeopardy.

In addition, the gate and snack bar revenue from home games helps fund athletics that will be lost as well.

Foothill Booster Club president Derek Perez — who is working overtime trying to get the project done and had tons of praise heaped upon him by Haubner — is confident the project will be finished in time for opening night, but you have a feeling that Perez, as well as anyone associated with the Foothill program, are keeping their fingers crossed.

I don’t think it needed to come to this as construction should have started back in early June, but every time there was a change in the plans, Perez and his group had to wait to get the approval of the Pleasanton Unified School District before proceeding.

For the PUSD, prompt response is not a strong point.

But the possible loss of home games is just part of the problem. How about practice space?

Amador faced the same dilemma a couple of years back when the Dons had their field being replaced and they needed to scramble for somewhere to practice. After being boot off the beautiful Patelco Fields off Bernal, the Dons finally ended up at the Ken Mercer Sports Park.

The Falcons and coach Haubner asked the city to use Patelco, even early in the morning before soccer teams were out there, and were denied as well. Foothill was willing to run practices at 6 a.m. but were shot down.

That makes no sense to me as how is helping our local high school teams on city fields not something that should be accommodated?

It’s one thing if the local high school athletic programs want to use the facility because they think it would be cool, but another thing when it’s because there is a lack of practice fields at their respective schools.

Having grown up in Pleasanton, used to be a city where everyone worked together to give the kids in the town the best opportunities. I realize that ship has sailed in the town the best opportunity.

I realize that ship has sailed in the town the best opportunity. I realize that ship has sailed in the town the best opportunity. I realize that ship has sailed in the town the best opportunity. I realize that ship has sailed in the town the best opportunity. I realize that ship has sailed in the town the best opportunity.

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 acsmag@aol.com.

By Dennis Miller

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by
The Rose Hotel
462-BACK
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**SALES AT A GLANCE**

**Pleasanton (May 28–June 6)**
- Total sales reported: 48
- Lowest sale reported: $500,000
- Highest sale reported: $2,750,000
- Average sales reported: $1,197,000

**Dublin (May 28–June 6)**
- Total sales reported: 47
- Lowest sale reported: $560,000
- Highest sale reported: $1,540,000
- Average sales reported: $918,617

**Livermore (May 28–June 6)**
- Total sales reported: 34
- Lowest sale reported: $335,000
- Highest sale reported: $1,450,000
- Average sales reported: $812,907

**San Ramon (May 28–June 6)**
- Total sales reported: 60
- Lowest sale reported: $410,000
- Highest sale reported: $2,450,000
- Average sales reported: $1,098,000

Source: California REsource

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**OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND**

**DUBLIN**
- 7101 Mei Fong Ct
  - $1,575,000
  - Sun 1–4
  - Kris Moxley
  - 600.0990

**PLEASANTON**
- 186 Juniper St
  - $835,000
  - Sat/Sun 1–4
  - Fabulous Properties
  - 510.822.9800/2727
- 2341 Greenberry Ct
  - Call for price
  - Sat/Sun 1–4
  - Tim McGuire
  - 462.7653
- 7434 Stonedale Dr
  - $979,000
  - Sat/Sun 1–4
  - Cindy Gee
  - 963.1984
- 1915 Foxswallow Ct
  - $1,360,000
  - Sat/Sun 1–4
  - Kris Moxley
  - 600.0990
- 8213 Regency Dr
  - Call for price
  - Sat/Sun 1–4
  - Cindy Gee
  - 963.1984

**SAN RAMON**
- 1129 Rosamund Dr
  - $1,700,000
  - Sun 1–4
  - Cindy Gee
  - 963.1984
- 7434 Stonedale Dr
  - $2,388,000
  - Sun 1–4
  - Cindy Gee
  - 963.1984
- 1759 Spumante Place
  - $3,248,888
  - Sun 1–4
  - Mark Lafferty
  - 216.6203
- 5756 Dalton Creek Way
  - $1,988,888
  - Sun 1–4
  - Joyce Jones
  - 998.3398
- 1915 Foxswallow Ct
  - $1,360,000
  - Sun 1–4
  - Kris Moxley
  - 600.0990

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1/2 acre flat lot, Gorgeous home and Oasis backyard Must see!! $2,388,000

7434 STONEDALE DR., PLEASANTON
THE Most amazing townhouse upgraded to the max throughout!! Quartz, new flooring, Views! approx. 1988 sq. ft., 2 car garage and spacious yard!! $979,000

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1129 ROSAMUND AVE., SAN RAMON
Must see this gorgeous home!! Views!! Views!! Updated and ready to move in!! $1,700,000

**OPEN SUN. 1–4**

8303 REGENCY DR., PLEASANTON
AVAILABLE: 5 BED 3.5 BATH
1/2 acre flat lot, Gorgeous home and Oasis backyard Must see!! $2,388,000

7434 STONEDALE DR., PLEASANTON
THE Most amazing townhouse upgraded to the max throughout!! Quartz, new flooring, Views! approx. 1988 sq. ft., 2 car garage and spacious yard!! $979,000

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1471 Maple Leaf Court, Pleasanton
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4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,770± SqFt | 22,259± SqFt lot
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3114 Lansdown Court, Pleasanton
4 Bed | 5 Bath | 2,471± SqFt | 6,955± SqFt lot
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—Cindy MacDonald, Calle Alegre, Pleasanton
This home has been updated with lovely woodgrain fixtures and a dream walk-in closet with custom cabinetry. Featuring oversized shower with designer custom tiles & waterfalls and a beach! Close to award winning schools, dining, shopping, BART & historic Downtown Pleasanton.

**53 Golf Road – Pleasanton – $2,278,000**

Gorgeous & meticulously maintained home nestled on one of Castlewood’s most desired streets. The unique, functional floor plan features three bedrooms & a Jack-and-Jill style bathroom on the ground floor. The spacious master feels like a private sanctuary! Short drive to downtown Pleasanton, $80,680 and the ACE train.

**1129 Rosamund Drive – San Ramon – $1,700,000**

Gorgeous Executive Home! Lovely views of Mt. Diablo and the valley below from 2 covered patios including lovely stamped concrete areas and a balcony off the Master bedroom with views! Huge kitchen with large granite island, open to the large great room, and lovely dining room. Close to schools, shopping & much more!

---

**5303 Regency Drive – Pleasanton – $2,388,000**

Experience Resort style living at this wonderful executive home located in the heart of Laguna Oaks. Features the most amazing resort like backyard in the heart of Westside Pleasanton. The open floor plan features three bedrooms & a Jack-and-Jill style bathroom on the ground floor. The spacious master feels like a private sanctuary! Short drive to downtown Pleasanton, $80,680 and the ACE train.

**8303 Regency Drive – Pleasanton – $2,388,000**

This home is nestled on a 7,528 sq ft lot in Summerset. The spacious backyard is very private with pavers, trees and views! Bathrooms, front patio, tastefully updated remodeled kitchen. Solar is owned! Great corner lot with wonderful curb appeal and close to schools, parks and in a desirable Livermore neighborhood!
Compass is proud to announce our association with Dave and Sue Flashberger the newest REALTOR’s in our Pleasanton office. In keeping with the tradition of Compass, Sue and Dave bring with them the spirit and poise for which our firm is known. #agentsofcompass

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