

Gym in, presses out

24 Hour Fitness approved for vacant Tri-Valley Herald building > **page 8**

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www.PleasantonWeekly.com

Robbery rampage

Suspect in 15 Bay
Area incidents
arrested

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Say hello to llama

As summer
ends, give
Oscar a visit

> **section 2**



Back to school

Tuesday marks the fresh start of
the new academic year **PAGE 10**

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about Pleasanton
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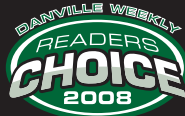
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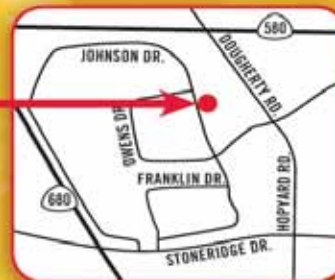
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Down-home touch keeps new golf/tennis business booming

Beth Logan has advice for all small business owners in Pleasanton who sometimes feel overwhelmed by the chain store and corporate retail giants who want their business: Hang in there!

She knows. In fact, Logan might not have opened her Pleasanton Golf and Tennis store in the Raley's Shopping Center six months ago if she'd known Texas-based Golfsmith was planning to put one of its megastores across town in the Rose Pavilion. But now, half a year later and despite area-wide promotions and grand opening specials at Golfsmith, Logan's business keeps growing. She just won Nike's approval as an authorized retailer of its products, adding to Adidas and others she already stocks in her small but trendy store. Golfers and tennis players go to Logan for consultations on racket and club styles, fashions suitable for wear on high school and city tennis courts and the latest news about upcoming tournaments. This growing clientele of school golf and tennis teams appears to like the personal, down-home attention they get from Logan and her husband Phil Resnikoff, director of occupational health and employee health services at Kaiser Permanente who is also a member of the elite Callippe 12 men's traveling team. They also have a good business plan: she operates the store weekdays and he handles the customers on weekends when he's not partnering with them on one of the local courses.

If you knew Beth Logan a year or two ago when she was a successful business consultant and social worker whose primary clients were the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Family Caregiver Alliance, eyeing her future as a golf and tennis store operator in Pleasanton would surely have been a stretch. Yet it's these years of experience in dealing with people, developing and implementing statewide programs to help others, along with teaching, lecturing and conference/event planning, that

have given Logan credentials not found among her corporate competitors. Teenage tennis players from Amador Valley High peruse vendor catalogues with Logan to select the latest styles and also spend time at her store's bulletin board looking over photos she posts regularly about their tennis matches. Besides selling, Logan and Resnikoff also play the sports they market on USTA teams based at the Pleasanton Tennis Center. Resnikoff is a certified racket stringer and skilled in golf club fitting and repair, so he often watches as his customers swing their rackets and clubs to see if the adjustments he's made are working.

Both also know Amador since that's where their children, daughter Logan (named for her mother's last name) and son Jake graduated. A 2008 graduate, the younger Logan leaves this week for Sonoma State to start college. With Jake already on his own in Walnut Creek, Resnikoff and Logan are empty nesters—another reason, store owner Logan says, to change careers and do something different. The local store, located where Blockbuster once operated at the northwest corner of the Raley's center, was more a dream of Resnikoff for the day—still a few years away—when he retires from Kaiser. When Blockbuster closed, he and Logan leased part of the space, with another section going to the Crank2 bike shop. Their new store is centrally located to the customer base they serve, close to Amador, Foothill High, the city tennis courts, and Callippe and Castlewood golf courses. Already, they've held vendor demo days and recently hosted an Adidas trunk show. A new website they're developing will keep track of how the local high school and club teams are doing, and they're establishing an awards program for everything from championship play to holes-in-one on the golf courses.

It's tough work, Logan says, but it's family-owned, hometown business at its best. ■

About the Cover

Melissa Gandy, a senior at Foothill High School, was one of many welcoming new and returning students at registration day. While the school district has many challenges to face, staff and students are getting a fresh start when classes begin Aug. 26. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela

Vol. IX, Number 30

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NOTICE OF ISSUANCE

**Requests for Proposals (RFP) from
The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority
for**

**Local Business Contract Equity Program Supportive Services Contracts
for the procurement of:**

- 1. Professional Services Contracts (RFP 08-05)**
- 2. Construction Contracts (RFP 08-06)**

The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) is seeking proposals from firms with expertise in contract equity programs to assist the Authority in implementing and refining of its Local/Small/Very Small Local Business Enterprise (LBCE) Program.

Important Dates and Information:

- Request for Proposals Release Date: August 8, 2008
- Pre-Proposal Conferences
 - o RFP 08-05: **August 21, 2008 at 10 AM**
 - o RFP 08-06: **August 21, 2008 at 11 AM**
- Bid Due Date: **September 4, 2008 at 2 PM (RFP 08-05)**
September 11, 2008 at 2 PM (RFP 08-06)
- All questions regarding these RFP's must be submitted in writing to ACTIA on or before : **August 20, 2008 at 12 PM**
- All meetings and submissions will take place at ACTIA offices:
1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612

Proposals are subject to the ACTIA Local Business Contract Equity Program. The ACTIA goal for professional services is 70% for Local Business Enterprise and 30% for Small Local Business Enterprise. For information on the Program's Requirements and Forms, refer to the ACTIA website. Any contract to be awarded as a result of this Notice will be awarded without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or national origin.

All RFP documents are on ACTIA's website and may also be obtained at the ACTIA office located at 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612 or by contacting Arun Goel at (510) 893-3347.

*** Fact sheets listing the general work descriptions for these contracts are available on the ACTIA website (www.actia2022.com) and in the ACTIA offices.**

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Streetwise

Q: When you buy a new car would you consider buying a hybrid? Why or why not?

Asked Downtown



Nathan Frost

State Government Worker

In buying a car, I would first hope to buy a used car. I would pursue a hybrid technology car, using less fuel is something we need to concentrate on. Hybrid technology allows us to still have the independence of driving our own vehicles without feeling obligated to drive something powered by gasoline.

Steve Fox

Computer Systems Admin.

I wouldn't, mainly because of the environmental impact of batteries, lithium ion batteries. I'm not into buying new cars anyway. The carbon footprint of building a new car is so much greater than buying one that is already manufactured.



Patrick Howes

Valet

I might consider it but I would probably consider something more affordable for me at this moment. Hybrids will hold their value better but that's not something I can afford now. I'm a college student.

Kate D'Or

Chamber of Commerce Business Manager

Of course I would buy a hybrid if I couldn't find a totally electric car. I live close to work and I hate using so much gas.




Ariel Brown

Teacher

I would consider it if it weren't cost prohibitive. I just bought a car that gets mileage close to a hybrid but was much less expensive. Small, gas efficient cars are being manufactured, so there are several good choices out there besides hybrids.


The Udderly Divine Bovine Days!



September 20th, 1:00 PM
"Running of the Cows"
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Art & Heritage Celebration

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Play, shop to help Alzheimer's

The Parkview Assisted Living, located at 100 Valley Ave., hosts a day of fun to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be carnival activities, including face painting, games, balloons, entertainment and food, as well as "another man's treasure" sale, with new and gently used items. For more information, call 461-3042.

Library to close for new cooling system

The Pleasanton Public Library will be closed to the public the morning of Aug. 28 while a new air conditioning and heating unit is installed in the popular facility. The library will re-open for public use at 1:30 p.m.

Film brings child prostitution to light

The SOLD Project, a grassroots movement dedicated to exposing the truth behind child prostitution, presents their first documentary, "SOLD: Thailand." The first of two sessions will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Sunday at Crosswinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court in Dublin. While the film shows the horrors of the issue, it also focuses on the hope that exists in prevention. To learn more about the SOLD Project, visit www.thesoldproject.com.

Candidate forum to be held Monday

Pleasanton Gardens, located at 251 Kottinger Drive, will host a candidate forum for all the council and mayoral candidates at 6 p.m. Monday. The forum will be filmed and rebroadcast on Comcast channel 26, with air times to be determined.

Wellness myths debunked at seminar

A free community educational seminar, called "Living a Long, Healthy Life," takes place from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at the Dougherty Station Community Center, Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. Put on by the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, a family medicine specialist will discuss facts and myths about wellness, and present simple, everyday steps to prevent illness. Seating is limited. To register, call 800-284-2878 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

As campaigns get under way, City Council's a bit testy

48-hour filing extension loses as two sides feud

by Jeb Bing

With political campaigns under way for mayor and two seats on the City Council, along with two competing ballot initiatives on Nov. 4, the dialogue at City Council meetings is getting a bit testy.

Take Tuesday night when Councilmembers Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan tried to extend the 5 p.m. deadline set for today to file rebuttals to arguments filed last Friday in support or opposition to the two initiatives. One placed on the ballot by a citizens' coalition, Save Pleasanton's Hills, calls for an immediate ban on hillside development and tighter controls over the city's 29,000-unit housing cap. The second, put

on the ballot by a majority of the City Council, might do the same but only after public hearings and reviews by committees and commissions.

McGovern and Sullivan, who signed up to write rebuttals, asked to extend tonight's deadline to 5 p.m. Monday. City Atty. Michael Roush said the extended deadline would be within the guidelines of the Alameda County Registrar's office. He also said it would take a unanimous vote of the council to consider extending the deadline.

"I think when we agreed to this deadline, we thought this was the maximum time we had," Sullivan said. "I'm having difficulty pulling this together."

Sullivan said he was leaving on a business trip

to Southern California and could use the extra time to finish up his rebuttal on Monday.

"I have other work I have to do for a living," Sullivan said. "This job (on the council) doesn't pay my rent."

But Council members Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio said no, that they would not support extending the deadline, and the 2-2 vote on the motion to extend (with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman out of town) killed the proposal.

"We've known about this deadline for some time," Cook-Kallio said. "I have other work to do, too. And this is keeping me from doing that other work."

(continued on page 9)



Jay Fleischbath

A successful Relay

Brianne Swakes, left, and Sabrina McGraw work on luminaries for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Walk, which was held July 27 at Pleasanton Middle School. The American Cancer Society reports the walk successfully raised nearly double the goal of \$60,000. A total of \$100,000 was raised, which organizers said is incredible considering a tough economy. One such successful team was from SafeAmerica Credit Union, which raised \$5,300. The Relay for Life is a signature fundraising event for ACS. This year's event was the third held in Pleasanton. Thirty-five teams participated in the 24-hour walk honoring survivors and remembering people who have lost their battle with the disease. All funds will stay in the local community.

Report: some Pleasanton apartment complexes discriminate

ECHO Housing claims 30 percent in study treat prospective tenants differently based on their race

by Janet Pelletier

A new study released by ECHO Housing, a nonprofit housing counseling agency, says 30 percent of Pleasanton apartment complexes that were audited showed some form of discrimination based on race.

In the study, ECHO employed testers, a black female (minority tester) and a white female (majority tester) in each individual case, to judge how they were treated upon visiting an apartment complex as a prospec-

tive renter. In all cases, each tester said she was looking for a two-bedroom apartment for her and her spouse. During the evaluations, testers looked for the following issues: refusal to rent or show a unit, different rental terms and conditions, discouragement of renting and different information or treatment.

According to the report, most of the issues recorded fell under the different information or treatment category.

(continued on page 6)

Alleged serial robber arrested after chase

Manteca man believed to be involved in 15 recent robberies

by Emily West

California Highway Patrol officers arrested a man in Manteca Tuesday morning suspected in several robberies in the Bay Area and Central Valley, including Long's Drugs in the Rosewood Pavilion and the Fremont Bank inside Safeway on Santa Rita Road.

Lt. Darrin Davis of the Pleasanton Police Department said the man arrested, Michael Ferguson, 26, is currently a Manteca resident, but has lived throughout the Tri-Valley. As of Monday morning, he was suspected in 10 robberies, mostly drug stores, in Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, Tracy and Escalon.

Over the weekend, Dublin police reported a traffic stop of Ferguson, where he fled during a car search. Police found a large amount of Oxycontin, a prescription drug. Pleasanton Det. Larry Cox noticed the report and that Ferguson matched the description of footage from the Long's Drugs robbery Aug. 7 and the descriptions of other robberies, some in which Oxycontin was stolen.

"He appears to be the primary person behind all the robberies," Davis said. "His robberies were two kinds: traditional robbery for cash or going straight to the pharmacy for Oxycontin. It's a very powerful opium derivative that sells on the street for \$40 to \$50 per pill."

As Pleasanton police communicated with other departments and followed up on leads, a suspect matching Ferguson's description was wanted for alleged robberies in Manteca and the Fremont Bank in Safeway on Santa Rita Road, where he stole an undisclosed amount of cash. Later on that day, he was believed to have been involved in two armed robberies in Hayward and San Ramon. The total number of suspected robberies then totaled 15, most of which involved a handgun, Davis said.

After a 24-hour manhunt, Pleasanton police located Ferguson in a Ford Escort around 9:15 a.m. Tuesday morning parked at the Pleasanton court-

(continued on page 6)

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Name that hippo

Gingerbread Preschool, seeks moniker for water mammal play structure



Residents are encouraged to name the hippo, which will be placed in the play yard at Gingerbread Preschool.

There's a new animal that will be hanging out at Gingerbread Preschool and it needs a name.

A lifesize hippopotamus—albeit not a real one—is the newest addition to the renovations at Gingerbread Preschool. The preschool, which has been undergoing a much-needed update since it closed for the summer, will reopen for school on Sept. 29. A hippo statue will now reside in the school's new play yard.

Name suggestions for the water mammal ("hippopotamus" means "water horse" in Greek) will be taken from the public now through Sept. 19. Suggestions may be emailed to gingerbread@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or mailed to City of Pleasanton, P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Responders should include their name selection, their own name, mailing address, phone number and email address. The winning name will be announced at a rededication event for the preschool on Oct. 11.

Also at the rededication ceremony, a commemorative book written and illustrated by Gingerbread staff, titled "A Hippo in Pleasanton?" will be sold to the public in limited supply. Proceeds will support the preschool programs.

In addition to the hippo, the play-

ground also includes a concrete play and art terrace, trellis canopy, sandbox, slide, mud play area, garden, tricycle path and tunnel, outdoor circle area, swings, climbing structure and storytelling circle. A separate play area has also been constructed for the Gingersnaps program for children 21 months to 3 years old.

For more information, call Becky Hopkins at 931-3432.

—Janet Pelletier

Discrimination

(continued from page 5)

"We found numerous cases where the minority tester was not asked for contact information, i.e. address, phone number or email when the majority tester was. We assume that the agent wanted this information so that she could follow up with the tester," the report states.

Other examples listed in the audit included the minority tester not being offered an application when the majority tester was; the minority tester was shown more expensive apartments or not given the same information about the units available and "steering" a minority to a certain part of the complex than the majority tester.

Arlene Zamora, housing programs coordinator for ECHO Housing, said she personally has experienced the latter form of discrimination.

"I experienced that myself before working here at ECHO Housing," she said. "In the unit that I was living years ago, the minorities were (placed) at the end of the complex and the Caucasians were in the beginning of the complex area."

ECHO conducts an audit annually, but changes the topic each year. Last year, the subject was the treatment of people with disabilities who were requesting some accommodations be made to the apartment complex. This year, ECHO chose to test on race because it's the category in which

the housing organization receives the most complaints about. The audit was conducted on 111 properties in Pleasanton (10), Livermore (10), Hayward (15), San Leandro (15), Alameda County (25), Union City (10), Santa Clara County (5), Cupertino (6) and Redwood City, (15). In Pleasanton and Livermore, three in 10 properties showed some form of differential treatment. A total of 32 out of the 111 properties showed less favorable treatment, representing 29 percent.

If a Pleasanton resident has a similar complaint to make about racial or any other type of apartment discrimination, they can call the city's housing department, according to housing specialist Scott Erickson. The city takes calls and refers them to ECHO, which is the primary agency that deals with housing discrimination and treatment issues.

Pleasanton and Livermore both contract with ECHO to provide counseling services in accordance with Fair Housing laws. Pleasanton keeps in contact with ECHO on cases to resolve issues, Erickson said.

"In many cases, there are privacy issues and ECHO won't report back to us the details of a particular case, but sometimes there is additional information exchanged back and forth to hopefully see if a particular issue is resolved," he said.

Zamora said the significance of the study is that testers were able to discover subtle forms of discrimination that a renter wouldn't notice

otherwise.

"When we sit down and compare the information that was given to the minority and the information that was given to the majority, then we can see actually a different treatment—different prices, availability," Zamora said. "That's why we need to do these types of tests because you don't see a place that says 'no kids allowed' or 'no African Americans allowed.' They don't put it that way because they know it's against the law."

"Just putting an African American on one side of the complex and a Caucasian in another side of the complex—that's not okay," she added. "(Complexes) have to be neutral and provide all the information available."

With the information from the audit, ECHO works to contact those complexes to give them feedback and encourage them to have employees undergo free training. Each of the owners of the properties in the audit will be contacted by mail and given a report on the performance of their agents, Zamora said. Lawsuits are not the goal of these types of studies, but ECHO does help victims of discrimination pursue cases in some instances.

For more information about the Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity, visit www.echofairhousing.org. ECHO has offices at 3311 Pacific Ave. in Livermore and can be reached at 449-7340. ■

Robbery

(continued from page 5)

house on Stoneridge Drive. Officers attempted to block the car in, but he escaped in the car heading for a Pleasanton police Ford Expedition in the parking lot. A police sergeant stood in between the car and the open driver's door where Ferguson allegedly hit the SUV's door, striking the sergeant in the head.

Davis said the sergeant has recov-

ered and is back at work and believes Ferguson's actions were intentional.

Ferguson headed through Pleasanton in Interstate 580, where the California Highway Patrol took over the chase, which lasted 90 minutes and ended in an arrest in Manteca. He was charged with one count of felony evading police, one count of assault with a deadly weapon against a peace officer, felony hit and run and felony possession of prescription drugs.

It is unknown at this time if Ferguson was under the influence of any drugs, but Davis said he has a criminal history of drug use.

Cpt. Eric Finn said a search of Ferguson's vehicle found an additional weapon, cash and more Oxycontin.

The investigation is ongoing as Pleasanton police partner with local and state agencies to search for any other robberies he may have been involved in. ■

Fair board seeks new member

Applications are due by Aug. 29

The board of directors for the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association has an open position.

The seat has been vacated by Nell Barnett, who is retiring after 12 years of service.

The board of directors is responsible for overseeing policy and the general operation of the 268-acre Alameda County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds is home to more than 300 events year-round with an annual attendance in excess of 3 million.

Since the fair association is a nonprofit, no compensation is provided to board members. Members are requested to spend a minimum of 10 hours a month.

Applications, which are due Aug. 29, are available by calling the CEO's office at 426-7501. The application includes a letter of interest; a resume; and a completed candidate information form. Applicants should also include information on their community involvement, as well as brief detail on how their experience and professional expertise would be of benefit to the fair association.

Applicants must reside within the county of Alameda. Submissions should be addressed: Board Applicant, Attn: Executive Committee, Alameda County Fair Association, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., California, 94566.

The board of directors recently announced the election of a new president and vice president for the next year.

Anthony Pegram, currently vice president, will take on his new role as president. Pegram is a registered engineer and principal contract specialist at BART, responsible for the selection of contractors and consultants and the oversight of contracts for various projects including the San Francisco Airport Extension, projects associated with the systemwide Earthquake Safety Program, technology enhancements related to train control and contracts required for day to day systems operation.

Current board member Patrick O'Brien will become vice president. O'Brien is the chief financial officer for Leisure Sports in Pleasanton. His responsibilities include financial planning and debt financing, property sales and acquisitions and legal matters. He also coordinates the entitlement process for development projects. He was a partner in the firm that co-developed, with Prudential, the 873-acre Hacienda Business Park, overseeing the entitlement and finance areas.

—Janet Pelletier

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Hacienda Business Park getting sporty

New 24 Hour Fitness super sport gym to replace former Tri-Valley Herald building

by Janet Pelletier

The only newspapers circulating at the Tri-Valley Herald's former building on Willow Road will be the ones exercisers will read as they work out on treadmills at a new, bigger 24 Hour Fitness. The proposed 56,000-square-foot facility plans were recently approved by the Planning Commission.

According to city planning documents, the fitness corporation plans to operate a "super sport club," the second-highest level it offers, at 4770 Willow Road in the Hacienda Business Park. When that happens, the new club will replace the existing 24 Hour Fitness club, which is an "active club"—one of the lowest levels, located at 5860 W. Las Positas Blvd., according to the city staff report.

When asked about the new facility, a person who answered the phone at the West Las Positas 24 Hour Fitness said that information was incorrect, but declined to say anything further.

A company spokesman confirmed that a new facility would be opening in the business park, replacing the current facility, but declined to answer when it would open.

James Paxson, general manager of the Hacienda Business Park Owners Association, said he is thrilled that the fitness giant is relocating to the business park, one of the largest parks of its kind in Northern California.

"We're really excited," he said. "This is one of those win-win-win situations, not only doing it to keep an existing tenant (in the city), we're putting them in a facility that I think is going to allow them to expand and provide additional services beyond what they're providing now."

"They have lots of clients in the (business) park so this gives those clients more choices and bigger benefits and it also provides a fantastic use in an area that we're trying to energize," he added.

The two-story building 24 Hour Fitness will operate out of was occupied by the Tri-Valley Herald newspaper up until this past spring, when Denver-based Media News, which owns the paper, decided to consolidate operations. Many in the editorial staff and most of the accounting, human resources, circulation and clerical workers have since moved into Media News Group buildings at 127 Spring St. in Pleasanton, Bishop Ranch or Walnut Creek. The building was constructed soon after the City Council approved it in June 1989. The Herald moved in and had occupied the facility for nearly 20 years.

A super sport level club typically offers a main gym, an indoor swimming pool, two spas, a sauna, steam room, indoor basketball court, cardio exercise room, two group exercise rooms, men's and women's locker rooms and a kids' club area, according to the city staff report. The next closest super sport is located in San Ramon. ■



Pleasanton Unified School District

15 added to Class of 2008

Matt Campbell, principal of Pleasanton Unified School District's high school summer school program, addresses the graduates of the Class of 2008 at the ceremony July 25. Fifteen students completed the requirements for graduation during summer school and were awarded their diplomas. Student speaker Nina Mrakovcich delivered the commencement address.

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Longs Drugs sold to CVS for \$2.9B

Pleasanton store could change name early next year

Longs Drugs' Rosewood Pavilion store will soon have a name change.

The 70-year-old Walnut Creek-based retail pharmacy announced Aug. 12 that it's being sold to rival CVS Caremark Corp. for \$2.9 billion. Most of Longs' 521 stores in California, Arizona, Hawaii and Nevada will switch names by the end of next year.

In a definitive agreement, CVS Caremark, which is headquartered in Woonsocket, R.I., will acquire Longs for \$71.50 per share in cash including the assumption of net debt. Through this acquisition, CVS Caremark will acquire Longs' 521 retail drugstores in California, Hawaii, Nevada and Arizona as well as its Rx America subsidiary, which offers prescription benefits management (PBM) services to over 8 million members and prescription drug plan benefits to approximately 450,000 Medicare beneficiaries.

The addition of Longs' store locations in Central and Northern

California, Hawaii, and Nevada will provide CVS Caremark with substantial market positions. Further, the acquisition complements CVS Caremark's substantial presence in Southern California and provides a foundation for significant future growth throughout California.

Longs owns the real estate associated with approximately 200 store locations, three distribution centers and three office facilities, although it leases its space in the Rosewood Pavilion. CVS Caremark has valued the store locations alone at more than \$1 billion. These stores are located in markets where commercial real estate values are among the highest in the country and prime locations are especially difficult to acquire.

"This transaction provides tremendous benefits to CVS Caremark by accelerating our expansion in very attractive drugstore markets and strengthening our geographic reach," said Tom Ryan, chairman, president and CEO of CVS Caremark. "In fact,

Longs has a significant presence in 10 non-CVS markets that are among the top 100 drugstore markets in the country. More than 490 of the stores we are acquiring are located in the Central and Northern California and Hawaiian markets, where Longs is a leading player. Longs' store network in these regions is excellent and is one that would take a decade or more for us to replicate through organic growth."

The move expands the second-largest drug store chain's presence in the West and eliminates Longs from the pitched battle for business between some of the nation's biggest retailers, including Walgreen Co., Rite Aid Corp. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Longs generates annual revenues in excess of \$5 billion. Assuming completion of the transaction in the fourth quarter of 2008, the Longs' Pleasanton store is expected to switch its name to CVS soon after the purchase agreement is completed.

—Jeb Bing

LPC welcomes new deans

VP says Dr. Janice Noble, John Williams bring leadership experience

Two academic deans have recently joined the ranks at Las Positas College in Livermore.

Dr. Janice Noble is now the dean of business, computing and applied technology. In her last post, she was the dean of social science and human development at San Bernardino Valley College. Prior to working in the community college system, Noble served as the vice president of two health care systems in Southern California.

Noble has a doctorate degree in higher education, a master of busi-

ness administration and a master of arts degree in education.

John Williams will serve as interim dean of social sciences and wellness until a permanent dean is hired. He hails from Mission College in Santa Clara where he served as interim vice president of instruction, faculty member and department chair. He also was a vice president and dean at Menlo College.

Williams has a master of science degree in administration, and both

a master of science and bachelor of arts degree in biology.

"I am thrilled with the leadership experience our new deans bring to Las Positas College," said Dr. Laurel Jones, vice president of academic services at Las Positas College. "Quality instruction for our students has been first and foremost here at the college and both these fine administrators will continue to support and develop that standard."

—Emily West

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Council

(continued from page 5)

Visibly upset, Sullivan retorted: "The only thing I have to say about this is that we talk a lot about having an open public process for these initiatives. If this is an example of that, I don't know what we're in for."

The debate Tuesday followed dueling letters between former Councilwoman Kay Ayala, a sponsor of the citizens' initiative on the Nov. 4 ballot, and Roush over the language used in the city-sponsored measure.

In her letter, Ayala said the stated goal of the council-backed initiative is misleading because it is an advisory measure only, not a legislative act. She asked Roush to amend the ballot title to include the words "Advisory Vote Only."

"The council composed a ballot title for the initiative (that) is misleading, as this title is substantially the same as the citizens' initiative," Ayala stated in her letter. "This is... inaccurate as there is nothing in this initiative that protects ridgelines or controls growth. Therefore, the title of the initiative should be changed."

His recommendation to the council was to keep the initiative language it had adopted and let voters decide if they want to reaffirm and readopt the Land Use Element and Conservation & Open Space Element policies and programs of the (1996) General Plan, which already provide the kinds of controls being sought by the citizens' coalition. ■

Take Us Along



Brazilian Weekly

Danielle Gwin brought the Weekly all the way to Campo Grande in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. She went to South America through a UCLA travel study and lived with a family while studying Portuguese and Brazilian culture.

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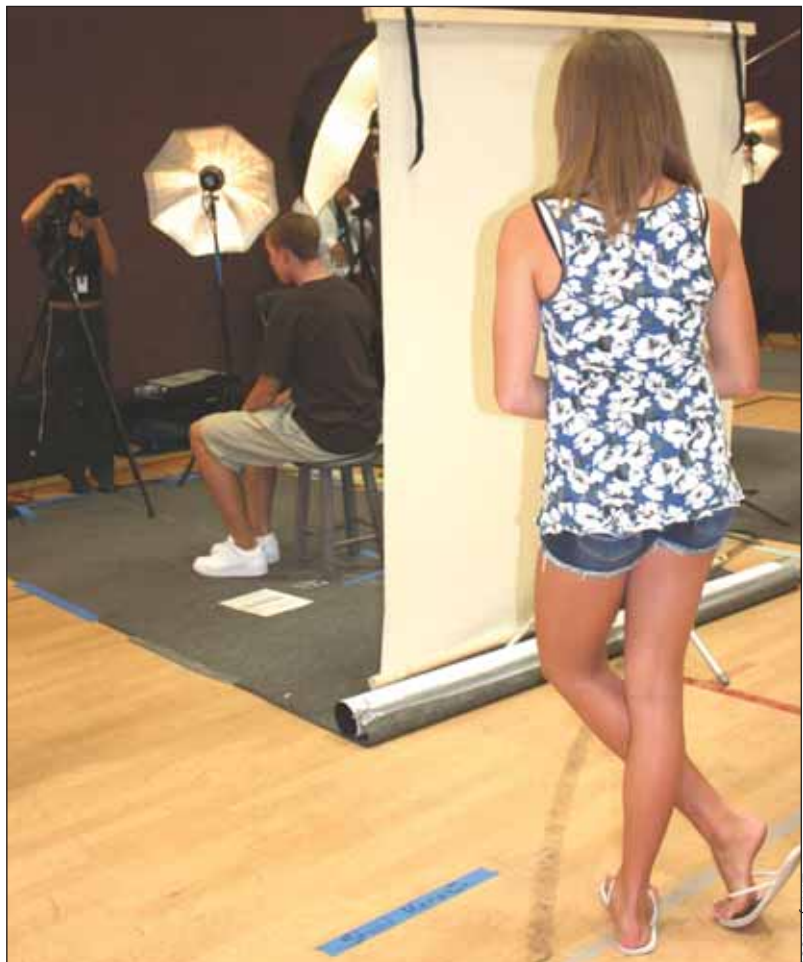
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At Foothill High School, Arin Miller, a freshman, waits for her turn while her brother Robbie Miller, a senior, takes his ID card picture.

Enduring a tight budget

The state budget has yet to be finalized, which means the PUSD budget isn't either. However, Casey expects it to be similar to the May Revise, which projected a \$500,000 loss, compared to last year's state funding.

"The bottom line is, for us, we're receiving about \$500,000 less than what we received last year," he said. "As we roll the budget over from one year to the next, we will have about \$1.5 million in new costs. So we're down, in terms of money available, \$2 million."

As the 2007-08 school year was coming to a close, the school board heard from several parents and educators who made pleas to save certain programs and funding from the cut list. While reading specialists and coaching stipends were saved, the district will be cutting back on staff development, custodial maintenance, and technology matching, a program where money schools saved was matched by the district and put towards new technology. Some programs were moved to what Casey called a "wait and see" list, which could be put back if funding became available.

"I think [the cuts] will be pretty transparent to [students]," Casey said. "They won't feel much of the impact."

Yet some impact will be experienced and that is why Casey asks the community to "a little different expectation" in terms of how clean facilities may be and timeliness in areas like technology.

While the 2008-09 budget is uncertain, it doesn't look like the 2009-10 school year will be any better. Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Sandra Lepley, oversees the budgets and has helped the district stay in good shape, compared to other area districts. In October, however, Lepley will retire and it will be up to Luz C-zares.

"Luz was hired from the Alameda Unified School District," Casey said. "We know that Luz is somebody who has the experience and the knowledge and the training. We're confident she will step in and do the right job."

Ensuring safety of students

From bullying to stress, intruders or bomb threats, PUSD schools have experienced issues of safety across the board. Ensuring student safety is one of Casey's top priorities this year. Yet, it's not something that the district alone can do.

It is up to the community to keep an open ear to comments students are making.

"It's no longer just 'kids being kids,'" he said. "None of that is taken lightly anymore."

Shortly after the allegedly intentional, yet unrelated, deaths of Amador and Village high school students in October, the district's planned anonymous tip line went live. Anyone from the community can call the line, 417-5199, to leave a message, which is checked daily.

Another tragedy occurred in October, when a recent Foothill High School graduate, Laurel Williams, 19, was killed in a car accident on Foothill Road. The driver, her best friend Katie McKewon, 20, was found to be driving drunk and was sentenced to four years in prison.

These deaths, along with pressures on students in a high-achieving district, can weigh down on students. With more counselors added in 2007, making ratios about 360 students to one counselor in high school and 400 students to one in middle school, they came to the aid of students.

A series of town hall meetings, addressing mental health and student concerns will continue once a

Back to

Tuesday marks the fresh start

by Em

To some students in the Pleasanton Unified School District, the first day of school is about making a fresh start. For others, it's about fighting for educational funding from the state, continuing the struggle for academic excellence.

As students fill their backpacks and head back to the classroom, the district has gotten a head start to prepare for the coming year.



Amador Valley High School students gather forms and informational packets to welcome parents and students to registration day.

o school

art of the new academic year

Emily West
 District, Tuesday is the loss of summer freedom. For oth-
 h start. Last year brought about many challenges, such as
 onfronting the negative stigmas of mental health and striv-
 classroom, Superintendent John Casey and his staff at the
 g year.



Emily West

Foothill ASB (Associated Student Body) representatives encourage students to purchase a sticker for their ID card, which would grant them discount dance tickets and free admission to football games, as well as a free T-shirt.



Emily West



City of Pleasanton

Soon the traffic near schools of students being picked-up and dropped-off will begin. Students and parents are encouraged to be responsible drivers and to consider alternate modes of transportation to ease traffic.



Emily West

Coaching stipends were kept in the budget for the following year after many supporters made pleas to the school board. A week before school starts, the Amador Valley High Dons football were out practicing in the summer heat.

semester. Since starting last year, representatives from local agencies, local students and Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi have come to offer resources and their stories.

“Pleasanton has very high expectations for their kids and the schools today,” Casey said. “With the rigorous California standards, there is a lot of pressure put on kids to be successful. Some nudging encouragement is always going to happen and they put it on themselves. We also have in our goals how to give kids the tools to do well and achieve their goals.”

Easing school-related traffic woes

Even residents without children in city schools are aware when school is back in session as the city streets become jammed with vehicles dropping off and picking up students.

Last year a girl was struck by a car in front of Pleasanton Middle School and this year drivers are under a new law prohibiting them from holding a phone to their ear while driving.

Police and the school district don't have particularly new game plans when it comes to controlling traffic, just advising drivers to be cautious. During the first few school days, police will be fully staffed with motorcycle officers.

“Hopefully [the new cell phone law] will increase attentiveness,” Lt. Tom Fenner of the Pleasanton Police Department said. “We're trying to get everyone to really pay attention to their surroundings.”

Using alternative modes of transportation, such as bicycles, buses or walking, is encouraged to help decrease school-related traffic.

One problem Fenner said he sees frequently, in adults and children, are bicyclists on the city streets not stop-

ping at stop signs.

“That's something that's really hazardous,” he added, adding that bicyclists need to obey traffic laws. “Technically, [bicyclists] crossing the street in a crosswalk need to be walking.”

Crosswalks are critical, he added, saying that both parents and students need to always cross in a crosswalk. It's also important for pedestrians and drivers to make eye contact, as there have been two women struck by cars in Pleasanton, one resulting in death.

“We did have a child [in October who was hit in front of] Pleasanton Middle School who was running across the street mid-block and it was really crowded,” Fenner said. “She was injured pretty seriously.”

Myla Grasso, public information officer for the school district, said drivers heading to or near a school should leave plenty of time to get to their destination. There should also be extra caution taken on routes with construction, like on Valley Avenue next to the new Bernal baseball fields now being built and on Foothill Road with the Alviso Adobe project nears completion.

Lisa Adamos, economic development specialist with the city of Pleasanton, said the district is partnering with the city to offer a ride share program. Informational mailings were sent to families about how to join car and walking pools as well as how to use the pick-up and drop-off loops at their school. These papers were also included in school registration packets.

Adamos reported that there have been 126 requests for pooling since the mailing went out. For more on this program, visit www.PleasantonSchoolPool.org.

Grasso also added that middle school students can ride WHEELS buses for free during the first two weeks of the school year. ■

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Opinion

Editorial

Shop local

With seven banks downtown and two more coming, it may soon be easier to take cash out of an ATM on Main Street than to find a place to spend it. Guaranty Bank will soon open at the far south end of Main, across from the Veterans Memorial. The venerable and restored Koln's Hardware building is about to be turned into the downtown branch of Comerica Bank. Add two more banks that are technically beyond the downtown district—Wells Fargo in the old Mt. Diablo Bank building just north of the arroyo and Bank of the West in the Raley's shopping center, and there are probably more banks in greater downtown than any other kinds of businesses, retail or services. In fact, with the two new banks opening later this year, Pleasanton will be home to 27 banks and credit unions making this city a financial center without portfolio. It used to be that city laws required any bank wanting to open a branch in Pleasanton to have its first office downtown. That rule went away years ago, but they still keep coming. A few, such as Fremont Bank, don't have a downtown branch but it comes close with an office in Safeway just north of downtown.

We like banks and the people who run them, but enough's enough. With Domus closing, the Union Jack Pub a hole in the ground and the antique store next door boarded up, our downtown needs retailers to generate more foot traffic and sales. Downtown property owners who met at a breakfast meeting two weeks ago hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association agreed, but their prospects are limited. At 10,000-square-foot, the antique store is too large for most retailers who want to come here. Domus is also large but has several entrances and a large adjoining parking lot. Years ago it housed a grocer and that's been suggested again—a specialty store with different imported cheeses, organic foods, lunch-time carry-aways. The store's also large enough to accommodate a game center or some type of recreational facility. Other candidates for the site: Restoration Hardware, although that company has financial difficulties right now; Crate & Barrel, McCullough's, a smaller department store and Ann Taylor's Loft, which draws crowds at its locations in Walnut Creek and Santana Row.

Heading the search team is Christine Salidivar, executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, who has lists of protective retailers who want to move downtown but with few right-sized accommodations for them. A specialized candy store waited for more than a year for a small space to sell its tasty, bite-size caramels and licorice, but finally went somewhere else. A Cuban bistro wanted to go in the building planned where Union Jack was located, but the permitting process has delayed that construction for most of the year. The antique store could be partitioned to a more acceptable size, but that would take months or longer. The British pub and restaurant Redcoats waited nearly two years before it could get into its restored building on St. Mary Street.

Salidivar's dogged pursuit of new retailers for downtown is having some success. Natalie Nunn said last week that she plans to move her Rodeo Drive Celebrity Bound store that targets a younger clientele to Pleasanton this fall. Others are also being recruited with the help of Pamela Ott, the city's economic development manager. Of particular concern is the need for more stores that will stay open evenings and on Saturdays, possibly Sundays. Judy Wheeler at Towne Center Books says 30 percent of her business comes in after 7 p.m. Murphy's Paw is now open Mondays after its owners found Main Street had plenty of pedestrians but too few open stores. With high gas prices keeping shoppers closer to home, the PDA's theme this fall couldn't be better: Shop Local. We hope you do.

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



Diversity + democracy = differences

I have a motto that if half the readers aren't ticked off at us, we're not doing our job. We can't please everyone, nor do we want to. The beauty of diversity and democracy is that we can have a difference of opinion.

We recently had a letter to the editor blasting us for reporting on two young women who were abused and have turned their personal pain into a way to help others. But, according to the letter author, it didn't portray Pleasanton in a favorable light. The author was then lambasted by others who believe that a newspaper should indeed report news. A difference of opinion.

Over the past weeks, we have had requests on Town Square online forums to close threads for various reasons. Then another commenter questioned why forums are closed so soon. A difference of opinion.

Local newspapers and forums are a study in contradiction—a social experiment to a certain extent—and fascinating to watch.

One Town Square forum was somewhat intriguing because we had commenters coming to the defense of the subject of the forum, community activist Julie Testa, demanding we shut down the conversation because Testa was being "attacked" by someone who called her "annoying." Testa herself asked that we not close it, writing, "To anyone offended on my behalf thank you. I would not ask for this thread to be closed or cleared. I think the opportunity to share information is too valuable to censor."

Testa is not an elected official, as one post pointed out. However, she is in the public eye, and there by choice. Does this give folks free reign to verbally attack? No. But instead of being offended and becoming defensive, Julie took the opportunity to clarify her role and her positions—

including that she prefers to be called "a badger, a watchdog, or a past superintendent used to call me 'the tenacious one.'"

Even after Testa's statement asking for the thread to remain viable and the conversation continue, a commenter posted, "A forum that attacks Julie Testa or anyone (for no good reason) should not be allowed. The PW should delete this."

That's true enough, and we would close it if there was no good reason for the forum—or if there was an "attack" for that matter. "Terri" of the Ruby Hill neighborhood summed up why the forum was left, and I think the reason Testa accepted it. Terri wrote, "There are those who find it annoying when the Weekly publishes actual news, such as murder and child abuse. Most likely these are the same people who find Julie Testa's exposure of, shall we say, uncomfortable facts 'annoying.' Some prefer to think we live in Pleasantville, where elected officials and public servants are always ethical, and nothing evil ever happens. Sorry folks, it ain't so. Julie Testa is a watchdog for the public trust, something sorely needed

and often lacking."

This is a perfect example of the way a forum should work—a topic is broached, there is an opportunity to present the opposing side, other information comes to light and a discussion ensues. One mission of the Weekly is to engage the community in meaningful dialog, and we therefore weigh our options and the circumstances before closing a thread.

The question remains as to what would have happened if Testa had contacted us to remove the topic. If the comment was seen as damaging to reputation, threatening or hurtful, not based in any fact, and it didn't spur or continue a conversation, it would have been taken off, per our terms of use. This is the reason some forums are closed.

Gina Channell-Allen, a 20-year journalism veteran, is the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Company, president of the Pleasanton Weekly and publisher of the Danville Weekly. Send questions to gallen@pleasantonweekly.com.

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Letters

Can Pleasanton expand plastics recycling?

Dear Editor,

I remember a few months ago you did a street poll asking if Pleasanton does a good enough job at recycling. I know first hand Pleasanton does a better job than other cities around the United States, especially with yard waste. However, it seems that we are very limited as to the types of plastics we are able to recycle, only No. 1's and 2's. My family throws away a fair amount of Nos. 5's and 7's, numbers I know are accepted in nearby California cities.

Any idea why Pleasanton cannot expand the types of plastics they will accept? Thanks for checking into this.

Ellie Miller, Pleasanton

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Calendar

Author Visits

Art Deco Landmarks of San Francisco Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents James R. Smith, author of San Francisco's Lost Landmarks, at 2 p.m. Aug. 24. Smith will present a slideshow on all the wonderful San Francisco art deco landmarks.

Book Clubs

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

Civic Meetings

City Council The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Housing Commission The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Human Services Commission The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Parks & Recreation Commission The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Planning Commission The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

School Board The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

Youth Commission The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Class Reunions

Amador Class of 1988 Reunion Calling all Dons: The Amador Valley High School Class of 1988 is holding its 20th reunion. Come see old friends and make new memories together. Dinner, entertainment, a photo booth, cigar bar, visual entertainment and baby pictures included. Group hotel rates available at the Radisson Hotel in Dublin. Reunion is from 6 p.m. to midnight Sept. 13 at Barone's Restaurant & Garden, 475 St. John St. Cost is \$90-97. For more information, visit <http://avhs1988.myevent.com> or call Marti Gilbert at 846-5607.

Classes

Basic Yoga Class Every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, teaches a basic yoga class in Lynnwood United Methodist Church's multipurpose room, 4444 Black Ave. The class is \$12 and drop-ins are welcome. Call 846-0221 or visit www.lynnwood.org.

Cantabella Children's Chorus Quality choral instruction with excellent teacher/student ratio is available for

Weekend Preview



Goodguys car show is back

Over 3,000 hot rods, custom cars, classics and trucks will park at the Alameda County Fairgrounds this weekend as a part of the 22nd Goodguys West Coast National Car Show. TV celebrity and the nation's top automotive designer Chip Foose will be making the rounds and choosing his top picks. It's open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$17 or \$6 for kids ages 7 to 12. Call 838-9876 or visit www.goodguys.com for more details.

children of the Tri-Valley. Openings now available in the 3-level training choir's for singers K-5 and auditions for openings in performing choir fifth grade to high school. Go to www.cantabella.org for more information.

Clubs

Amador Valley Toastmaster Club Wake up your career and improve your communication skills by joining the Amador Valley Toastmaster Club. They meet at 7 a.m. Thursdays at Mimi's Cafe in Dublin.

Boutique Textile Art Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins.

Livermore Lioness Club The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at their regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly. The Lioness Club is a service club, sponsored by the Livermore Lions Club, that helps many worthy causes in our community. Lioness main focus areas are women, children and family issues, in addition to helping the blind. Call 443-4543 for more information.

Local Writers Meet for Support and Learning The California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch meets the at 11:30 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., to support experienced and aspiring writers in learning about their craft and sharing their work. Anyone who is curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. Call Kathy Urban, 296-0447 or visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

Tri-Valley Rotary Club Meeting The Tri-Valley Rotary Club is one of the newest and most diverse Rotary Clubs. Club members meet Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road. The cost is \$20. Email info@trivalleyrotary.org.

Tri-Valley Wood Carvers Tri-Valley Wood Carvers meet each Tuesday at

the Pleasanton Senior Center, wood shop room, from 12 to 4 p.m. The regular business meeting is held the second Saturday of the month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call Ken Morgan, 462-6586.

Widowed Men and Women The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California will meet for dinner at 5 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Elephant Bar, 7202 Amador Plaza Road in Dublin. Cost will be your menu choice. Advance reservations are required. Call 846-0111.

Concerts

Concerts in the Park The Pleasanton Downtown Association presents the 2008 Concert in the Park series. Each concert is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lions Wayside Park at First and Neal streets. The lineup is Magic Moments, Aug. 22; Pladdohg, Aug. 29; Public Eye, Sept. 5.

Events

Cuda Ridge Wine Vintage Tasting Event Cuda Ridge Wines Vintage Tasting takes place at 7878 Cedar Mountain Road in Livermore from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 23-24. The free event includes a "futures tasting," live music, vintage car displays and artist showcase.

First Wednesday Street Party The First Wednesday Street Party is from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 3 on Main Street with live music by Magic Moments, family activities and a beer and wine garden.

Exhibits

Imagination Expressed The Pleasanton Art League has an exhibit, "Imagination Expressed," in the Phoebe Hearst room of the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St., which runs through Oct. 5. It features paintings, wood, ceramics, jewelry and textile artworks. Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 4

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p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$2.

Murano Glass Exhibit Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St., hosts a one-day exhibit of glass vases by Murano Glass Maestro, Afro Celotto, an internationally famous glass blower, from 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 24. Refreshments will be served. Call 846-4322.

Film

Blood and Oil This film documents how oil has been at the core of American foreign policy for over 60 years. This non-partisan public event at 7 p.m. Aug. 30 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin, provides refreshments and wheelchair access. Meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m., while a short discussion follows the film. A \$3 donation is accepted.

Fundraisers

Foothill Marching Band Fundraiser The Foothill High School Marching Band hosts a breakfast fundraiser from 7 to 11 a.m. Sept. 1 at the Foothill multipurpose room. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice will be served. Adults are \$7 and children 10 and under are \$4. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Call 200-2209.

Romania Animal Rescue A wine and appetizer fundraiser for Romania Animal Rescue will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at Oasis Grill and Wine Lounge, 780 Main St. The funds will send vets to Romania. The food is vegetarian. Activities include an auction and raffle for vacation getaways and golf. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. For more information, visit www.romaniaanimalrescue.com or call 672-5908.

That's Amore Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's biggest fundraiser of the year will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Road. There will be live and silent auctions and Girasole Restaurant catering. Tickets are \$60. To purchase, visit www.tvr.org and click on Pay Pal. Call 803-7044.

Wine Tasting Special Enjoy various wines from Livermore Valley wineries, while riding through Niles Canyon aboard the Wine Tasting Special. Our expert sommelier will guide you through several wines paired with artisal cheeses and chocolate. Learn new tasting tips and techniques, food and wine pairing skills and more. Passengers must be 21 years old or older. Benefits Niles Canyon Railway preservation activities. Tickets are \$39. Call 510-996-8420 or visit www.ncry.org for tour schedule.

Health

Diabetes Support Group Free support group meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Topics will cover travel, stress, medications, food, emotions and general living with diabetes. Call 510-383-5185.

Gentle Yoga for 55+ Are you an active person 55+ years young? This free, gentle yoga class helps stress, flexibility, balance and overall health and is excellent for special/chronic conditions. Call Pleasanton school district at 426-4280 for times and locations.

Summer Immunization Clinic for Children Saturday clinics, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 6 at Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave., are open to Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records, information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755.

Kids & Teens

Library Book Clubs Begin Students are invited to join either our fourth

and fifth or sixth to eighth grade book clubs, which meet Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. starting in September at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Come for good books, snacks and lively conversation. Registration begins Aug. 18, and is limited to 18 per club. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

Lectures/ Workshops

Free Gardening Workshops Bay-Friendly Gardening presents four free gardening workshops Saturdays in the month of September. Topics include the basics, healthy soil, year-round edible gardens and managing pests naturally. Registration for these classes is required. Call 510-444-SOIL (7645) or visit www.bayfriendly.org.

Live Music

27th Annual Harvest Wine Celebration The 27th Annual Livermore Valley Harvest Wine Celebration Aug. 31 to Sept. 1 showcases 43 local wineries, each with complimentary wine tasting. Some feature live music, vendors and more. Saturday and Sunday tickets are \$50 or \$55 day-of and Monday tickets are

\$45. Visit www.LVwine.org.

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band Chris Bradley's Jazz Band plays music of the '20s, '30s, and '40s every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. No cover.

La Familia Pena-Govea La Pena-Govea performs a wide-range of traditional and original Mexican, Tex-Mex and Colombian music at 2 p.m. Aug. 24 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The Jambalaya Swing Band Dance to the oldies as performed by the 11-piece Jambalaya Swing Band on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St.

Miscellaneous

Healing Touch Therapy Seminar Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents a free seminar on Healing Touch Therapy at 7 p.m. Aug. 28. Thoughts and touch can positively impact the lives of others.

Seniors

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the music and learn the steps Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26 at the Dublin Senior Center (activity #18508). Call 556-4511 for details.

Brain Training Workshop Research shows that if we take care of our brains like we take care of our hearts, mental functions improve. Learn how to exercise your brain the fun and inexpensive way from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 26 at the senior center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Space is limited, so pre-register by coming in or calling 931-5365. The cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents.

Health Chat Health Chat takes place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. This group setting informs and educates seniors about various health issues. It is open forum and an interactive session. Sponsored by Amador Valley Adult School and the

senior center. Call 426-4280.

Pleasanton PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. Call 931-5365 or email pleasenior@yahoo.com for details.

Spiritual

Community Bible Study Join CBS for a nondenominational, in-depth study of the book of Revelation for women, along with a children's program (infant to elementary age), for 30 weeks. The class will begin at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 11 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. The women's and children's classes run concurrently.

The cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Call 209-0242 or visit www.communitybiblestudy.org.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Tri-Valley Unity Church welcomes guest speaker Dr. Richard Southern for a three-part series on "The Spiritual Practice of Welcoming." August 10 focus is "Welcome Home." August 17: "Welcome to the Journey." And August 24 is "Welcome to our World." All are welcome. Services are at 10 a.m. at the Radisson, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Visit www.trivalleyunity.com or call 829-2733.

Sports

Callippe Niners Callippe Niners is a fun group of nine-hole women golfers. We are currently welcoming new

members into our group. Our play days are Tuesday mornings. Call Joan, 462-1054.

Fastpitch Tryouts Lady Hustle Fastpitch will be holding tryouts in August for the fall season. Tournaments begin Sept. 6. For session details, visit www.ladyhustlefastpitch.com.

High School Mini Baseball Camp Tigers Baseball is sponsoring a back to school high school mini camp to be held at the Foothill High School varsity baseball field Sept. 6 to 7. All high school players and their parents are invited to learn what it takes to play collegiate baseball. Players will have a chance to training under the guidance of Coach Robert "Skip" Clapgood. Register at www.livermorepony.com.

Mountain Rides Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop mountain ride which lasts approximately two hours. Riders should be in good fitness, have a well-adjusted, safe mountain bike and general knowledge of bike handling skills. Odd-numbered months, the Cyclepath group goes to the Pleasanton Ridge and even-numbered months, they go to Lake Chabot. For the ridge rides, meet the Cyclepath group at the Foothill staging area. Rides are from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact rides@cyclepath.com or call 485-3218.

Saturday Morning Beginner Ride This weekly no-drop ride from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturdays is for those new to cycling, who haven't been on their bike for a while or just want to ride at a slower pace. Rides depart from Cyclepath Pleasanton and will generally be 12 to 15 mph, 20 to 25 miles and no more than two hours. E-mail rides@cyclepath.com if you plan to attend.

Sunday Morning Group Ride Join cyclists of all levels from 8 to 11 a.m. Sundays for this friendly, no-drop road ride. Routes vary weekly and last approximately two to three hours. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level (A--60 miles, B--35 to 40 miles, C--20 to 25 miles). Bring water and a snack. Rides depart from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St. (in the Bank of America building).

Tigers Fall Ball Registration is open for Tigers Baseball's third annual fall ball program. Players ages 10 to 14 from all leagues are invited. The 10-weekend training includes two weekends with Coach Robert "Skip" Clapgood, a collegiate coach hall of famer. The program starts Sept. 13. Download a form at www.livermorepony.com.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones is held from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. This group is facilitated by The Wellness Community. For information, call 933-0107 or email jblazin@twcba.org.

Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group This support groups meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

Domestic Violence Support Group On-going support for women dealing with conflictual issues is available at Tri-Valley Haven, Livermore, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays. A fee of \$40 for every eight weeks or based on a sliding scale. Call Elizabeth, 667-2799.

Fibromyalgia Plus Support Group Fibromyalgia Plus Support Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the first Thursday monthly at the ValleyCare Library, 5725 W Las Positas Blvd Suite 270. All are welcome. Call 734-3315.

Fibromyalgia Support Group This group meets at 6:30 the first Thursday monthly at the ValleyCare Library, 5725 West Las Positas Boulevard. Call 847-3000.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Contact Lorene Stack, 447-6158 or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

Pleasanton Military Families Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. The group includes families who have loved ones serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Global War on Terrorism. Meetings are held at a different group member's home each month. Call Chris Miller for information on the placement of a yellow streamer for the military person on Main Street and for information on the group, 730-1604.

Prostate Cancer Support Group The Man to Man American Cancer Society program is designed to help

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

THE PROVERBIAL GIFT HORSE

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Probably none. A deed is very often unenforceable unless it has been recorded with the county recorder. If Horatio had really wanted to will the property to you, he should have literally willed it to you. (Notice that the laws regarding deeds may vary from state to state, and be sure to consult your real estate attorney should a situation like the above develop.)

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Calendar

men cope with prostate cancer by providing community based education and support to patients and their family members. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at San Ramon Regional Medical Center's south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Men at any stage of prostate cancer and their family members are welcome. Michael Stephens, MST, facilitates. Call 933-0107.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group The group meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., to provide information and support for Parkinson's patients and caregivers. Call 831-9940.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club General meetings are at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Drive, and include round table discussion and dinner. Visit www.TVMOTC.com.

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

Volunteering

American Cancer Society Discovery Shop The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, a furniture store in Mission Plaza, needs volunteers. Do you like to decorate and rearrange furniture? If so, help is needed four hours a week. Call Monday at 462-7374.

Hats Off America Volunteers are wanted for the Hats Off America Casino Night April 19; Muscle Car,

Hot Rod, and Art Fair May 16 to 18; Red T-Shirt 10K runs/5K walks June 7, Sept. 13 and Nov. 8. HOA is a non-profit organization benefiting families of fallen soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Email Sparky George, thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Do you love animals? Become a volunteer or

a Foster with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Orientations are held at East County Animal Shelter (ECAS) from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month. Registration is not required to attend the orientation. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tv-ar.org.

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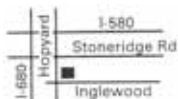
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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council – Planning Commission

Joint Workshop

Wednesday, August 27, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- A City Council/Planning Commission Joint Workshop to review and discuss options for the Hacienda planning process has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 2008. The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, at 6:30 p.m. The City Council may adjourn to a special council meeting after the workshop.

Planning Commission Special Meeting

Thursday, August 28, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• PCUP-229, John Pfund, Tri Valley Martial Arts Academy

Application for a conditional use permit to allow the operation of the following at 1262 Quarry Lane, Suite A, in the Valley Business Park: (1) a martial arts/childcare facility, Monday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.; (2) full time childcare program camps during school breaks and holidays; and (3) evening martial arts classes, Monday through Friday, from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

• PAP-123, Greg and Lisa Johnston, Appellants

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of an application for design review for rear yard improvements at the existing residence located at 927 Montevino Drive.

Trails Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Monday, August 25, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.
Council Chamber Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting

GENERAL INFORMATION

Job Announcements

The City of Pleasanton is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Director of Parks and Community Services – Full-Time
- Intern – Water Conservation Coordinator – Part-Time, Temporary
- Lifeguards – Part-Time, Temporary
- Permits Center Manager – Full Time, Permanent
- Police Officer, Lateral or Academy Graduate – Full-Time, Permanent
- Water Safety Instructor - Part-Time, Temporary

For more information, visit our employment page at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, please visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Police to host bike helmet event

The Pleasanton Police Department will be hosting a bicycle helmet event on Saturday. The event will run from 9 a.m. to noon at the Amador Theater parking lot located at 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton.

Free helmets will be distributed to children, ages 5-18 years, while supplies last. Each helmet will be properly fitted by a member of the Police Department,

and bicycle safety information will also be available. Quantities are limited.

According to police, bicycle or safety helmets have been shown to significantly reduce the risk of head and brain injury. The California Office of Traffic Safety has estimated that as many as seven out of every eight bicycle-related fatalities among children could have been prevented with a bicycle helmet.

For questions regarding the event, contact Officer Teresa Meyer at 931-5237. Funding for the program is being provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Police Report

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

Aug. 11

- Vandalism:
 - 7:41 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue; worth less than \$400
 - 9:41 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Pamela Place; worth less than \$400
 - 10:28 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; worth more than \$400
 - 11:05 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
- Alcohol violations:
 - 3:14 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
 - 6:01 p.m. at the intersection of Main and West Neal streets; public drunkenness
 - 9:19 p.m. in the 3700 block of Stoneridge Drive; public drunkenness
 - 11:35 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and First Street; DUI

Aug. 12

- Theft:
 - 10:25 a.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane
 - 11:22 a.m. in the 5700 block of Hanifen Way; grand theft
- Bank robbery:
 - 4:51 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; K9 track
- Vandalism:
 - 10:08 a.m. at the intersection of Laguna Creek Lane and Valley Avenue; worth less than \$400
 - 11:50 a.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; worth less than \$400
 - 11:52 a.m. in the 4400 block of Fairlands Drive; worth less than \$400
 - 12:02 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Kottinger Drive; worth less than \$400

-6:16 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400

•Burglary:

-3:29 a.m. in the 13:00 block of Orloff Drive

Aug. 13

- Theft:
 - 8:15 a.m. in the 6200 block of Guyson Court; petty theft
 - 9:44 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 10:43 a.m. in the 4300 block of Payne Road; grand theft
 - 12:17 p.m. in the 6200 block of Gibson Court; petty theft
 - 7:15 p.m. in the 6100 block of Homer Court; petty theft
 - 7:30 p.m. in the 4400 block of First Street; petty theft
 - 11:49 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Drive; identity theft
- Vandalism:
 - 3:44 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; worth less than \$400
 - 7:30 p.m. in the 4400 block of First Street; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular Burglary:
 - 10:45 a.m. in the 3400 block of Vermont Place
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:14 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; open container
 - 4:43 p.m. in the 4400 block of Seminole Way; under the influence of a controlled substance; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance
 - 5:31 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Rose Avenue; public drunkenness
 - 8:12 p.m. at the intersection of Hansen Drive and Black Avenue; driving with marijuana
 - 11:52 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Promenade Way; DUI

Aug. 14

- Theft:
 - 9:05 a.m. in the 3500 block of Nevada Street; petty theft
 - 10:14 a.m. in the 4600 block of

Willow Road

-3:48 p.m. in the 3300 block of Busch Road; grand theft

-5:05 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; grand theft

•Vehicular burglary:

-1:48 p.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive

•Drug/alcohol violations:

-12:48 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Main Street; driving with marijuana

-2:58 p.m. at the intersection of First and Ray streets; controlled substance for sale; selling a controlled substance; K9 service

-11:09 p.m. at the intersection of Main and Ray streets; public drunkenness

•Battery

-5:44 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and tawny Drive

Aug. 15

- Grand theft:
 - 8:46 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
 - 7:00 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
 - 9:18 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:12 a.m. in the 800 block of Aramon Court; paraphernalia possession; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance; threats
 - 6:54 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; under the influence of a controlled substance; DUI
 - 9:21 p.m. at the intersection of Deodar Way and Stoneridge Mall Road; DUI
 - 11:10 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive; minor in possession of alcohol
- Battery:
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

Obituaries

Edward Mullikin

Edward Delmar Mullikin died peacefully Aug. 16 at home. He was 79 years old.

Mr. Mullikin, a Pleasanton resident, was born July 1, 1929 and was in the Merchant Marines. He served

in the Army during the Korean War. He was a true family man who enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. He loved fishing, golfing, bowling and telling good jokes.

He is survived by his loving wife of



50 years, Emeline; son, Edward Mullikin; daughter-in-law, Denise; daughter, Esther Swyers; son-in law, Sam Swyers; and 4 beautiful grandchildren, with one on the way. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd, Ste. 100, Dublin, CA. 94568. A celebration of life will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Chapel of the Chimes, 32992 Mission Blvd., Hayward.

Sports

Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

One baseball gets bronze

In their final tuneup before their trip to Cooperstown, N.Y., One—an U12 travel baseball team—entered the Summer Finish Tournament at the Big League Field of Dreams, winning bronze.

One opened up with the Saratoga Hornets and jumped out early. Strong pitching performances from Ethan Glenn, JD Clark, Ryan Alley and Adam Kimmel held the Hornets to two runs. Hot offense came from Alex Hamm, Alex Zwingle, Andrew Taylor, Jared Chan and Ben Case.

Next up for One was the Backyard Boyz, players from all over Northern California. The Boyz jumped ahead early and slowly added to their lead throughout the game to win 6-1. One kicked off the next morning with a 7:30 a.m. game with the Brentwood Boyz. The teams traded the lead back and forth for the first few innings. That was, until One brought in Evan Anderson to keep the Boyz off the base paths and allow One to build on their lead and win the game. With their victory, One faced the Backyard Boyz again for their final game, taking another loss but still earning bronze.

CYO basketball registration

Registration for CYO Youth Basketball, boys and girls grades 3-8 from Pleasanton and Sunol is now available online at www.ccopyo.org.

Walk-in registration will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday at St. Augustine Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave., and from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. The second walk-in registration will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 3 at St. Augustine Hall. Late registration and evaluations are Sept. 7-9 at Pleasanton Middle School for boys and Harvest Park Middle School for girls. Call Greg Thome at 462-8189.

Rage plays strong in Shoot-Out

Both Rage 18U and U17 played at the Davis Shoot-Out youth soccer tournament last weekend.

The U17 AC team played well throughout the tournament, but had trouble scoring goals, finishing 0-2-1 over the weekend.

In their first game, the Rage fell 1-0 to the Heritage Strikers then dropped a 2-0 final against the ACC Mavericks in their second game on Saturday. Sunday afternoon, the Rage was able to find the back of the net when Breahna Berry scored, but they finished with a 1-1 final against the Santa Rosa United Fire. Rage 18U tied for first in pool play. They did not move on to championship round due to goal differential in the tie breaker. On Saturday they won the first game 2-0 against Alameda Fury with Katelyn Golik and Jill Blandino scoring for Rage, but lost their second game 2-0. In their third game against the undefeated team, they beat Santa Clara on a goal by Megan Davidson. Goalkeeper Megan Leoni and the rest of the defense held Santa Clara scoreless.

Seahawks conditioning

The Pleasanton Seahawks' Fall Swim and Varsity Conditioning sessions start Sept. 15 and run to Dec. 31. Both swim programs feature professional coaches, individual instruction, daily pool time (daily attendance not mandatory), and regular (optional) USA Swimming swim meets. For the eighth year in a row the Seahawks have been recognized as one of the top 75 USA Swimming teams in the nation.

Swimmers of all abilities are welcome. Fall swim does not affect summer league eligibility. USA Swimming registration is included. For more information regarding Fall Swim or Varsity Conditioning with the Pleasanton Seahawks USA Swimming Team, email recruiting@pleasantonseahawks.org.



Harvest Park Spirit Squad dominates Cheer Camp

Harvest Park Middle School Spirit Squad won two first place awards, a third place and the Spirit Stick at the UCA Camp attended at UC Davis last weekend. Harvest Park was the only middle school in attendance.

Every day of the four day, three night camp, the Spirit Squad Team had the opportunity to bring home a "Spirit Stick" for being one of the most spirited teams at camp. They brought one back to the dorm every night and on the final day the team got to take one home.

They entered into the "Camp Champs" competitions on Tuesday in the freshmen and under category for cheer and dance. The team brought home first place, beating out other high school freshmen teams with their Camp Cheer Competition.

They also placed third in the Extreme Routine Competition and received a superior ribbon and first place in the freshmen and under category in the Home Pom Competition. With these first place trophies the girls are awarded the opportunity to attend the Pro Bowl in Hawaii and perform in the halftime show.



U17 takes title at home

Ballistic United hosted the Summer Classic Tournament last weekend. After two days, the BUSC U17 United beat out 15 other teams to win the Boys U17 age bracket. In four games they only gave up one goal.

In the first game, United took down Bullard FC Blue 6-0. The dominant offense saw six different players score, with goals by Wes Moar, Alex Laughton, Phillip Bartlett, Andrew Noble, Derrick Walcott and Alex Blidy. In their second game, United again held the opponent scoreless while putting in two goals of their own. Laughton and Blidy scored one each for the win over Bay Oaks Scicluna.

Thanks to stellar defense, it only took one goal to win the third game, and Brandon Smith's goal put United ahead of Walnut Creek Azzuri 1-0 and into the final. United faced Bay Oaks Gold for the tournament title. Smith United's first two marks on the scoreboard and Darrick Walcott sealed the game with the third United goal, leaving the final score 3-1.

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