

Early endorsements

Chamber of Commerce picks Hosterman, Pentin > **page 8**

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Gyms on hold

Funding issues
pause school
expansion projects

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

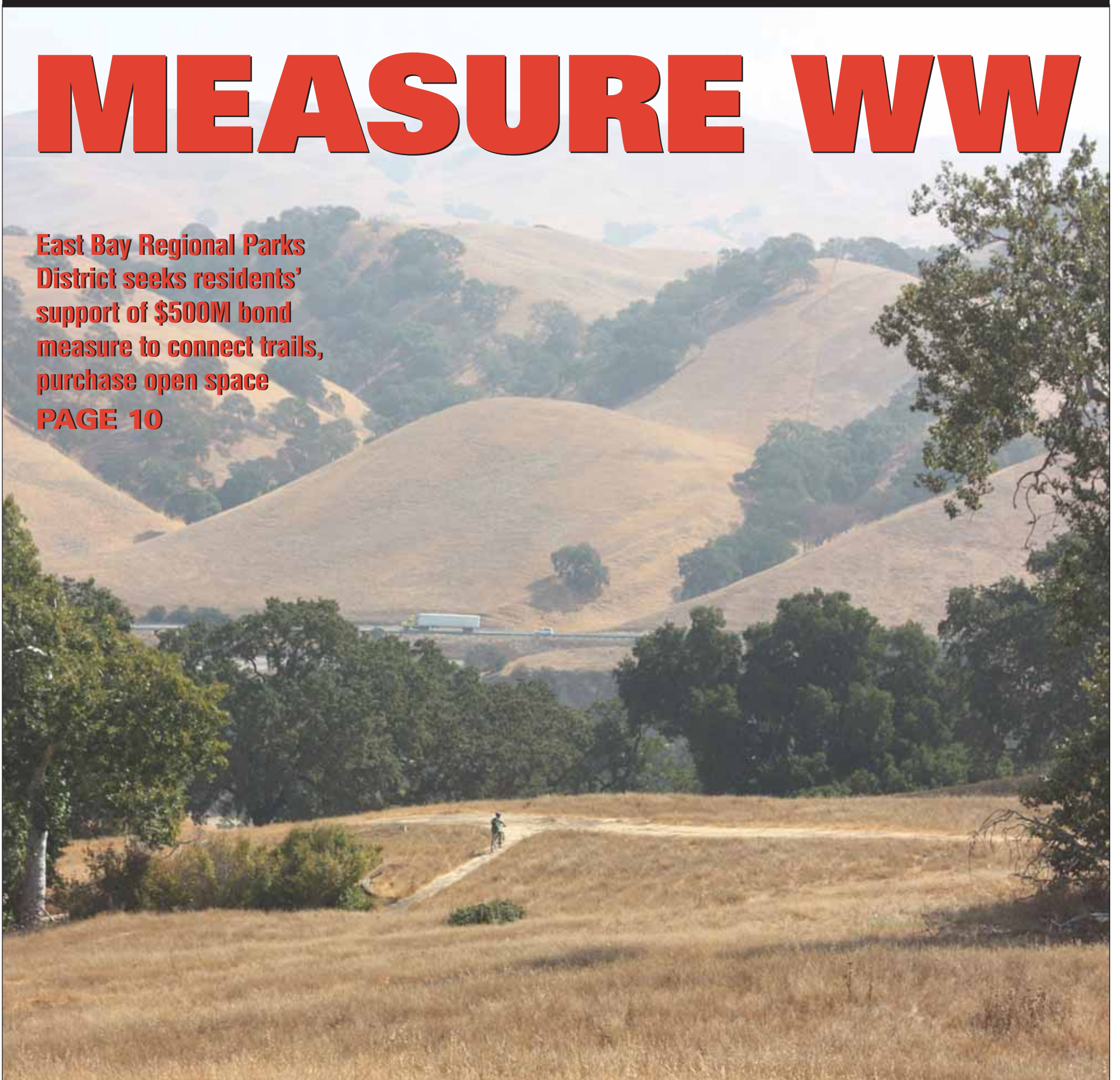
Arts season open

Civic Arts shows
opens tonight with
acrobats

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MEASURE WW

**East Bay Regional Parks
District seeks residents'
support of \$500M bond
measure to connect trails,
purchase open space
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Empty storefronts an eyesore

Watching the efforts this week to rescue the country's beleaguered financial system, I sensed a similar need on a much smaller—but still important—scale here in Pleasanton. Walking and driving down Main Street and through the Rosewood Pavilion near Interstate 580 and Santa Rita Road, I've been troubled by the growing number of empty storefronts and papered-over windows of retail businesses that are closed. Silver Palate restaurant at 680 Main St. is one of the most recent, with Cattelan's Antique Market across the street at 719 Main St. now empty for several months and no prospective tenant in sight. Thanks to Alexis Gass of Clover Creek, the dreary darkened windows at Cattelan's have been decorated with colorful items that can be purchased at Clover Creek. Next door at 725 Main, nothing's happened to the fenced-off dirt lot where the Union Jack Pub stood before the old building was demolished. At the time, contractor Mike O'Callaghan had a deal with a Cuban restaurant, but that fell through and he's waiting for the out-of-town family that owns the property to agree on another tenant before he can start building.

Across the street at 652 Main, Domus is closed, just at the start of the busy fall shopping season when Domus used to be packed with customers well past Christmas. The property's out-of-town owner is being encouraged to redevelop the site, including the large adjacent parking lot and a driveway that extends back onto Railroad Avenue. One possibility is a two- to three-story building across the entire property with ground floor retail, apartments overhead and underground parking. The suggestion would fall within the Downtown Specific Plan requirements and could give a major retail boost to Main Street and would likely have the support of city leaders who are anxious to see new business opportunities downtown.

Farther south, Bennie McKay, owner of the upscale Acc'sentials men's store at 520 Main, may be moving on. Active in community affairs and benefits with a courtyard suited to his frequent parties, the business, itself, has suffered.

Although a prosperous community with the highest median income level of any city its size, most Pleasanton men aren't fancy dressers, or at least there are too few who buy high-end men's wear which Bennie must sell to stay in business.

Over in the Rose Pavilion, retail conditions are just as unsettling. Levitz furniture is closed, with the huge retail space now being used to sell Halloween decorations and costumes temporarily. On the other side, Drexel Furniture is gone along with Foothill Optometric, which relocated, leaving their highly visible retail spaces empty.

There are bright spots. The British-owned Fresh & Easy small grocery store will move into the space now occupied by Express Fitness in January, with the workout gym moving to the corner space now used by Consignment Plus. A bakery and sandwich shop may move into the long-empty Copymat service center, and Centro Properties, a shopping center developer that owns Rose Pavilion, wants to add a new entrance closer to the I-580 off-ramp. It is also in negotiations with a major retailer for the Levitz space.

Downtown, Guaranty Bank has leased space at 234 Main St., which will finally fill those long-empty storefronts. Michael Hughes, who owns the downtown Baci Cafe, has purchased and is now renovating the former Coffee Beans & Bistro at 401 Main to house a new restaurant to be called Cafe Main that will serve hamburgers, brick-oven pizza and different blends of coffee. Celebrity Bound has moved from Beverly Hills' famous Rodeo Drive into the former Day Art Studio space at 720 Main. A new Italian restaurant named Amaroné has just signed on to take over the Silver Palate space at 680 Main. Another new bank, Comerica, will soon move into the restored Kolln Hardware building at Main and Division streets, with plans to add a not-too-historic ATM machine on the side. And, of course, work continues on the \$10-million Firehouse Arts Center at the end of Division Street on Railroad Avenue. When completed, this new theater and cultural arts center will boost interest in downtown Pleasanton and help to fill the still empty storefronts that are hurting its image. ■

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About the Cover
A lone bicyclist, seen here as merely an ant in the vast hills, travels on one of the many meandering trails in the Pleasanton Ridge. The East Bay Regional Parks District is asking voters Nov. 4 to approve Measure WW, a \$500-million bond measure. Cover photo by Elyssa Thome. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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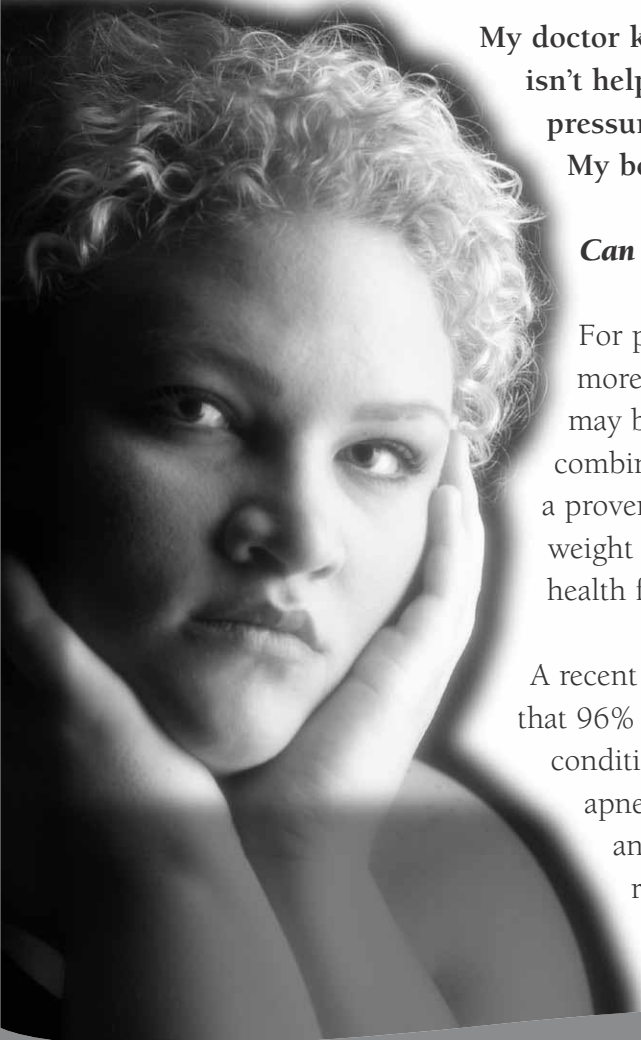


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Streetwise

Q: Should candidates' families be considered "off limits"?

Asked Downtown



Nick Lindsey
Hotel Manager

I think the character of the leaders in the family will trickle down into the character of the children and knowing about them would give the public an opportunity to see where the lead comes from and what the candidates ideology is. So, yes, I'm for families not being off limits.

Gaurav Aggarwal
Software Engineer

Yes, I do think they should be considered off limits. It is not always possible to control your own family members. Just because my child is misbehaved does not mean I support that behavior.



Jessica Reichling
Teacher

I think to a certain extent they should be considered off limits because that is someone's private family and I would not want people butting into my personal business. On the other hand, when in the public eye, one must expect public interest in your family because what your judgments are with your family reflects who you are and what you are on.

Becky Dennis
Former City Councilwoman

I certainly think they should be considered off limits. If we want people with families to be involved in public life, we have to respect that their children often aren't along for the ride. We want people who volunteer in our political process to feel that their families can lead a normal life. Intrusion into that private life might discourage qualified volunteers from participating.



Ishmel DeGante
Chef

Candidates want to show their family and let voters know about their own families values, but in doing that, it risks public opinion and criticism. How a candidate's family acts can be an asset or work against a candidate. I do not think it should be off limits because family is really the base of a person, their background and what they have to offer to society.

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

'DeLovely' concert supports seniors

Senior Support of the Tri-Valley presents a night of music from the Roaring '20s and Art Deco '30s at 8 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Called DeLovely Evening, it is the organization's first fundraiser. Attendees are encouraged to dress in 1920s style. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at the box office, by calling 931-3444 or visiting www.civcartstickets.org.

FHS cheerleaders seek sponsors

The competition cheerleaders at Foothill High School, reigning national champions, is one of four schools in California to have been invited to participate in the Holiday Bowl halftime show and parade in San Diego this December. The team is looking for sponsors to help them attend the event. Donations are tax deductible. To help, call Michelle and Danielle Koziel at 413-4560.

Local colleges help with Cal Grants

With the delayed state budget, students attending Las Positas College in Livermore or its sister school Chabot College in Hayward won't have to put their education on hold waiting on Cal Grants. The Chabot-Las Positas College District officials identified \$200,000 for approximately 500 students, according to Lorenzo Legaspi, vice chancellor of business services.

Hospital earns quality awards

San Ramon Regional Medical Center received four CIGNA quality designations, stating that the hospital has met rigorous quality criteria based on national medical standards. The awards were in the following categories: caesarean section, colon surgery, adult pneumonia and vaginal delivery. The designation measures and weighs complications, mortality and The Leapfrog Group Patient Safety Index.

Corrections

In the Living story "Acrobats take the Amador stage" (Sept. 19, page 23) the opening date was incorrect. The show is at 8 p.m. tonight at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road.

Mayors credit unity for area-wide gains

Newsman says 5-city cooperation is unique in U.S.

by Jeb Bing

The mayors of the greater Tri-Valley—Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon—credited their unified approach to dealing with regional problems for major improvements in the outlook for transportation, air and water quality and state and federal assistance for projects that can benefit the area.

Speaking at the Tri-Valley Mayors' Summit Tuesday, an annual event sponsored by the Chambers of Commerce in the five cities, the mayors talked about their trips to Washington, D.C., to meet with Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton). As a result, millions of dollars have been earmarked for Tri-Valley projects

ranging from a new carpool lane on Interstate 580, which was started two weeks ago, to assistance in funding a part of the new Alviso Adobe Community Park in Pleasanton, a historical site that is expected to attract thousands from throughout the Bay Area.

"I live in Danville now but I have lived all over the U.S. and have never seen five neighboring municipalities and five chambers working so well together," said Mark Curtis, master of ceremonies and a 30-year radio and TV personality who was most recently with KTVU (Channel 2) from 1993 to January 2008. "This is a unique thing and doesn't happen everywhere in the country."

Livermore Vice Mayor John Marchand, who was substituting for Mayor Marshall Kamena, agreed.

"We're always looking for regional solutions to problems," Marchand said. "Just two weeks ago, we were at the ground breaking for the new 580 carpool lane. That project is the result of a cooperative agreement among each of us as well as the county, state and federal governments. By improving travel for those who commute long distances to other cities, it will impact all of our communities."

Dublin's Mayor Janet Lockhart said she has been serving on the boards of several regional agencies to provide better housing opportunities for commuters coming into the area.

"Do I believe that regional efforts are necessary? Yes I do," she said in response to a question by Curtis.

H. Abram Wilson, San Ramon's mayor who is also the Republican

candidate for election Nov. 4 to the 15th State Assembly District, said it's imperative that the five cities work together on many issues, especially those that deal with transportation, traffic, housing and water.

"We are the envy of other cities because the five of us work so well together both here, at home and when we go back to Washington to seek help from our federal legislators," he said.

Added Mayor Candace Anderson of Danville: "I would like to say that as a councilmember, we have complete control over what happens in our town. But the fact is that we all share transportation routes, freeways, transit opportunities and much more."

(continued on page 6)



Foothill High School students meander through campus, which has several nearly complete construction projects going on.

High school gym expansions on hold

School board votes to approve master plan with new funding plan

by Emily West

Planned expansions to the gyms at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools has been put on hold as a downturn in residential building and a reduction in developer fees didn't support the projected cash flow.

As the school district prepared alternate cash flow plans following the changes in

capital facilities support, the school board unanimously voted to approve the master plan without the gym expansions, for now, pending grant money coming in the months ahead.

Superintendent John Casey said the CTE grants, totaling \$6.3 million, are from the state, but the delay is not a result of the historically late state budget.

"We were awarded and approved the appli-

(continued on page 9)

Area Jews prepare for new year

Chabad of the Tri-Valley celebrates Rosh Hashana

by Emily West

Instead of popping open a bottle of champagne, the Jewish community begins Rosh Hashana, their New Year, by eating apples dipped in honey. Tuesday marks the Jewish year of 5769 and the beginning of the 10-day High Holy Day celebrations.

Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of Chabad of the Tri-Valley said students in Sunday school already partook of the tradition Sunday, complete with a presentation from a bee keeper.

"Bees sting, yet they produce something sweet," he said, explaining the symbolism of honey in the tradition. "Even if we have a negative experience, through a right outlook it can be made sweet."

Translating to "head of the year," Rosh Hashana is celebrated with reverence and awe, Resnick said. The climax of the holiday is the sounding of the shofar, or ram horn.

"The sound that comes out is supposed to be a wake-up call, like Reveille," he said. "It's a pure, simple sound that's supposed to be piercing. It wakes us up to better us."

Like a new morning or other New Year celebrations, Jews see the holiday as a time to make a fresh start. Resnick said their group will go down to a creek of water after Tuesday's meal and symbolically cast away the negativity and sins.

Chabad of the Tri-Valley has a lot to look forward to in the new year as they are moving into a new facility on Palomino Drive. When it comes to planning programs, Resnick said their focus is on building a new community in the Tri-Valley area.

High Holy Days ends with Yom Kippur Oct. 9, which is the day of atonement and forgiveness.

There are several celebrations, many of which are at the Masonic Center in Pleasanton. For more information, visit www.jewishtrivalley.com. ■

Rotary club hosts charity gala

'A Starry Night' to raise funds for School of Imagination, Special Olympics, Hope Hospice

For the 20th year, the Pleasanton North Rotary Club will hold its annual fundraising gala Saturday night, titled "A Starry Night." The popular event will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Casa Real event center at Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton. The night will feature an evening of dining and entertainment, hosted bar, live/silent auctions and will support children and families in need.

CBS 5's "Eye on the Bay" host Brian Hackney will host the event. The fundraiser allows the Rotary foundation to fund and support local community projects and organizations, including Special Olympics Northern California; Hope Hospice; Easter Seals Kaleidoscope; Pleasanton Gardens; Pleasanton Partnerships in Education; House Inc.; Tri-Valley Special Needs; East Bay Stand Down and the Taylor Family Foundation.

The club's event has raised more than \$1.5 million over the past 19 years. Funds will help create a permanent home for the School of Imagination and Happy Talkers. School of Imagination serves more than 300 Bay Area children from

ages 18 months to 12 years with conditions including autism, Down syndrome and speech delays. Awarded 2007 Organization of the Year by the City of Dublin, School of Imagination is full inclusion preschool and kindergarten providing customized programs to bring out the extraordinary in every child.

"We are pleased to announce that we have signed the agreement with Discovery Builders to custom build the future School of Imagination at Schaefer Ranch in Dublin," said Charlene and Mitch Sigman of the School of Imagination. "Plans for our 14,000-square-foot dream school are now under way with the city of Dublin. While the land and construction is being donated, it is up to us to make this empty building into school and fill it with everything the children need. We have an amazing opportunity to help make this dream a reality and have a great time doing it."

"A Starry Night" will also help the club deliver wheelchairs to children, teens and adults in the world who need one, but cannot afford one. Pleasanton North Rotary Club has helped in the distribution of over 3,000 wheelchairs around the world with the Wheelchair Foundation.

Tickets are \$200 (\$125 is tax deductible). To register, visit www.pnr-rotary.org or call 556-2380.

—Janet Pelletier

Mayors

(continued from page 5)

Pointing out the conference room's window to the Bridges Golf Club course, Anderson noted that 15 years ago the land they were on wasn't part of San Ramon.

"Its development, along with many others by the five cities, is having a great impact on the entire region," she explained.

In looking at actions cities have taken to reduce energy consumption and improve air quality, Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said the city has mandated that all new development be green building, energy-efficient certified. Both Pleasanton's new firehouse on Bernal Avenue across from the Alameda County Fairgrounds and its Firehouse Arts Center now under construction rely on solar power. She also cited a new solar power partnership developed with Livermore to advance that form of energy.

"We are working within our city and with other cities to reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse emissions," she added.

Although Pleasanton does not use recycled water, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon do. All three communities now use recycled water for sprinkling their parks and recreational fields and Livermore, with its highly visible purple fire hydrants, also has recycled water piped to those hydrants instead of potable water.

"Ninety-six percent of our residents recycle thanks to special programs in our schools with messages that the kids take home to their parents and to practice," Marchand said. "We are looking at the global warming impacts of all projects under way in Livermore so that we never have to ask if we know what our carbon footprint will be."

On the sluggish economy and concern over both the state budget deficit in the year ahead and the financial restructuring under way in Washington, the mayors said their cities long ago learned to salt away cash reserves to meet any sudden municipal revenue downturn.

They also cited their cities' efforts to boost their own economy with more tax-generating retail and business developments.

"With 22 cultural arts organizations and our new Bankhead Theater, we are turning downtown Livermore into a retail and cultural center that will have a regional appeal," Marchand said. "We have two of the most technically-savvy centers in the world (Livermore and Sandia laboratories), a highly educated work force, good jobs and good schools—all which make Livermore a great place to live, work and do business."

Citing the U.S. Census Bureau's recent report that, for the second year in a row, Pleasanton is home to the highest median income for any city its size in the U.S., Hosterman said residents have a little more discretionary income to spend, which

helps the city's historic downtown and other retail centers.

"Location, location, location," shouted Lockhart, citing Dublin's crossroads at the I-580/I-680 interchange. "Plus, we've added more than 1,000 affordable housing units for people who want to live in this area and work locally."

"We have a responsibility to build smart, build green and at the same time save a lot of our open space," she added.

Wilson said he is the chief cheerleader for San Ramon's planned new downtown "that will be the jewel of our community and draw many others here."

Then, glancing at the four other mayors flanking him, he added: "But we're not trying to compete with other cities. We're trying to complement them."

Anderson said that Danville, which this year is celebrating its 150th year as a town, is nearing residential buildout.

"I don't see huge changes in Danville in the future except that we will keep updating and working to improve our downtown," she said. "We have a community that continues to attract new residents because of our excellent schools, a great downtown and yet still has that small town look and feel. I don't see Danville looking much different in future years, just becoming more charming."

Tuesday's meeting was hosted by the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce. ■

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Neely drops out of council race

Cites personal reasons; endorses Jerry Pentin

by **Jeb Bing**

Howard Neely, who has served on several Pleasanton commissions and committees since moving here in 1966, announced he is dropping out of the race for City Council.

Because his decision comes after the municipal election ballot has been printed, his name will still appear on the Nov. 4 ballot for City Council.

"I had many goals for Pleasanton, which I had hoped to get implemented in the next four years," Neely said.

Among these, are building an extension of Stoneridge Drive through Staples Ranch to connect Pleasanton to El Charro Road and Livermore, and building a three-story parking garage next to the

ACE train station on a 3-acre parcel across from the Pleasanton Library that is now owned by the city of San Francisco.

Neely, who had campaigned vigorously over the last three months, including talking to prospective voters from a colorfully decorated booth he had at the last two First Wednesday street parties on Main Street, said he is leaving the campaign for personal reasons.

"During the last 30 days, two circumstances have greatly complicated my retirement life," Neely said. "My wife Kathleen must move to a second home in northern California's Arroyo Grande with cooler climate for medical reasons. Also, I am the lone remaining board member of a residence home for 14 mentally handicapped in Sonora,

and must work to form a new board."

Neely, who served on the Parks and Recreation Commission, now is a member of the Task Force for Senior Housing and was a member of the city's Housing Commission. A retired high school teacher, he recently received the Ed Kinney Patriots Award, which was given by the Museum On Main.

"I feel this particular race is very important for Pleasanton because the past City Councils have not been following our General Plan with respect to road configurations," Neely said. "Our traffic circulation is quite poor and the signal synchronization does not exist. Too many local groups have those tails

(continued on page 8)

Man arrested for allegedly placing dead animals in lockers

Dublin police have arrested a 20-year-old man who allegedly admitted to placing two dead cats and a dead dog from a local veterinary hospital into unoccupied Dublin High School lockers as a practical joke.

Pleasanton resident Brian Goett was arrested at his home Sept. 19, Dublin police Sgt. Shawn Sexton said. Goett, who is not connected to Dublin High School, told police that he entered an unlocked enclosed area behind the VetCare hospital on Amador Valley Boulevard in Dublin, Sexton said. While "Dumpster diving" Goett found a freezer that

serves as the hospital's animal morgue. Goett allegedly took the two cats and small dog and stuffed each into separate, unoccupied lockers located in the same locker bay.

Goett told police placing the animals in the lockers was meant to be a prank, according to Sexton.

The school has about 600 unoccupied lockers, school district Assistant Superintendent Dave Markin said. The most recent discovery was made when a deceased cat was found in an outdoor locker near the school's counseling center in the middle of the campus Sept. 9. The first animal was found

during the first week of school, which started Aug. 25.

The Dublin School District offered up to \$250 for any information in the case.

"No one was taking it lightly," Markin said. "The students were actually very bothered."

Police located Goett after contacting students and using information from "the grapevine," Sexton said.

Investigators believe others may have been involved in the "prank," said Sexton, who added it might have been a group of friends with Goett.

—Bay City News

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—Brian Baer, CIO Dominics (Safeway)



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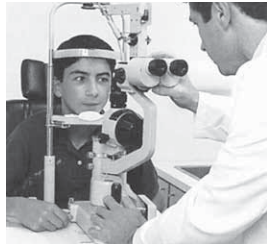
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Chamber endorses Hosterman, Pentin

Stoneridge extension factor in support

by Jeb Bing

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Wednesday endorsed Mayor Jennifer Hosterman for re-election in the Nov. 4 municipal race and businessman Jerry Pentin for one of the two seats open on the City Council.

The chamber's political action committee interviewed Hosterman and her challenger Steve Brozosky, and also Pentin and Councilman Matt Sullivan, who is seeking re-election. Councilwoman Cindy McGovern chose not to interview with the chamber committee, according to Scott Raty, president and chief executive officer of the chamber.

Although two seats are available, with both McGovern and Sullivan completing their first four year terms of office, the chamber endorsed only Pentin and neither of the two incumbents.

In its endorsement announcement, the chamber said it also interviewed Brozosky, but otherwise made no other mention of his candidacy.

Businessman Otis Nostrand, who chairs the chamber's political action committee, praised Hosterman's actions and accomplishments as mayor in the area of transportation improvement, a key chamber goal.

"In this regard, Mayor Hosterman was instrumental in securing a unanimous vote of the City Council to keep the Stoneridge Drive extension in the General Plan," Nostrand said.

According to Nostrand, this allowed Pleasanton to continue its process with Alameda County to annex the Staples Ranch property which, in turn, is a key component to keeping the Hendrick Auto dealerships (and their \$3 million in annual tax revenues), and the proposed plan for a community ice skating facility proposed by a

subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks in Pleasanton.

"Along the way, Mayor Hosterman has forged or improved her relationships with political colleagues in other cities and counties in the area and is now positioned as a senior politician who is in line to participate in or lead influential governmental committees in the area, including the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency," Nostrand said.

"These connections can enable (her) to influence highway and other expenditures that could be instrumental to securing strategic highway and other traffic improvements for the Tri-Valley area, including State Route 84," he added. "Based on her growth and maturation during her tenure as both a City Council member and mayor of Pleasanton, we believe Mayor Hosterman is the best candidate for the job and best positioned to be influential in helping Pleasanton achieve its goals," he continued. "Accordingly, we strongly endorse Jennifer Hosterman for another term as mayor of Pleasanton."

For the council seat, the chamber PAC said it believed Pentin is "the best qualified and most closely aligned with Pleasanton 2015: A Community Vision (a chamber program)," Nostrand said. "Our support of Jerry Pentin is not just because he is a longtime local businessman, it is because of the quality of Jerry's positions on issues and his track record of decisive leadership as a parks and recreation commissioner."

Members of the chamber's political action committee who interviewed candidates and voted on their endorsements were Nostrand, Bob Butler, Steve Clarkson, Gail Gilpin, Martin Inderbitzen, Dick Karn, Bill James, Joe Sasek, John Sensiba, Jim McKeenan and Raty. ■

Neely

(continued from page 7)

wagging the dog with respect to not letting through streets in their neighborhoods. The simple answer is the more roads that go through, the less traffic there is on the main arteries."

"Having Stoneridge Drive go through to El Charro Road is an absolute must for more reasons than just traffic," he added. "Our city coffers need the sales taxes from the car dealers and the other new businesses (planned for Staples Ranch), plus all the activities of the Sharks Center. (Alameda County) Supervisor Scott Haggerty has said he will spearhead the county to fund Stoneridge... which would save Pleasanton millions of dollars. Somehow this makes practical sense."

He also called on the future council to create a large area on the east

side for more affordable housing and to consider forming a Historical Commission, similar to Dublin's.

"I want to thank all of my supporters and request that they vote for City Council candidate Jerry Pentin, who is more aligned with my views than the two incumbent candidates," Neely said.

Candidates seeking council seats in the Nov. 4 municipal election are incumbent council members Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan, both seeking re-election to second four-year terms, and businessman and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jerry Pentin.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman is seeking re-election to a third two-year term. She is challenged by businessman and former Councilman Steve Brozosky, who lost to Hosterman by 188 votes in the 2006 election. ■

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Take Us Along



Phantom of the Weekly

The 2007 Phantom 10U-B players and coaches: Casey Eddy, Johanna Grauer, Victoria Molina, Jenni Beadle, Hannah Moreno, Roni Stone and Corinne Validx, Coach Mark Moreno, Katie Eppard, Malory Masajlo, Molly Phillips, Ashley Lotoszynski, Coach Tom Roush and Hannah Menk brought the Weekly in front of the gazebo in the Plaza of Old Mesilla, New Mexico.

School

(continued from page 5)

cation for the money," he said, adding that there are several steps and hurdles in the application process.

Other projects on the district's high school master plan funded through other sources—such as Measure B, state modernization grants and Career Technical Education (CTE) grants—are either completed or currently under construction.

Already completed are the turf football field replacements and portable classrooms at both schools, administrative spaces at Amador, and a science classroom expansion at Village High School. Remodeling projects going on at Foothill are administrative rooms, special education classrooms and the library, all of which are expected to be complete by December. The school's "sand fields" are also being worked on to be replaced with artificial turf, with an estimated completion date in 2009.

"While we approved the master plan in concept," Jim Ott, board president, said, "and some projects such as refurbishing the field at Foothill are getting started right away, we aren't sure that every project we approved will be constructed since in some cases the

funding will come from state grants that are still pending and from developer fees for future residential construction that hasn't been approved yet by the city."

Enrollment slightly lower

In a presentation to the school board Sept. 9, Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, reported enrollment numbers near the district's expectations.

The California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS) shows the enrollment at 14,823 which is nine more students than the 2007-08 school year. However, Johnson said that once things get settled in October, the numbers will drop to 20 fewer students than last year.

Johnson said the district expected a drop in enrollment and that they are currently in a comfortable position. Ott said generally schools like to see an increase in students as it increases funding by over \$6,300 per student. Yet, too many students could lead to problems.

"Our experience is that young families always find a way to move to Pleasanton because of our excellent schools," he said. "So even as we get closer to build-out in residential development in Pleasanton, we don't expect to see a significant drop-off our student enrollment for many years to come." ■

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MEASURE

East Bay Regional Parks District seeks voters' support of \$500M bond measure to connect trails, purchase open space



Janet Pelletier

A pair of bicyclists route their trip at the Pleasanton Ridge, beginning at the Augustin-Bernal Park staging area. Measure WW, on the November ballot, will fund \$13.7 million for access improvements to the ridge. Some, however, including Better East Bay Parks, claim the East Bay Regional Parks District isn't a good steward of the environment and points out that only 15 percent of the open space land is dedicated to cyclists.

by Janet Pelletier

The East Bay Regional Parks District was formed during the Great Depression, so it's no secret that despite the similarly fragile state of the economy, its members are hoping people will recognize as they did in the 1930s the importance of preserving land for future generations.

On the Nov. 4 ballot will be Measure WW, a \$500-million bond measure that seeks to extend Measure AA, which was passed in 1988 and runs out this year. Measure AA raised a total of \$225 million for the parks district to connect trails, purchase open space, restore creeks and build recreation areas and parks. But the money from AA has been spent or is already allocated for future projects.

That's where Measure WW comes in. It needs a two-thirds or 66.6 percent approval from voters and would essentially extend the tax of Measure AA, which is \$10 for every \$100,000 in assessed valuation. A resident who owns a home worth \$800,000 would continue to pay \$80 per year on their property taxes.

Local projects proposed

A project list for Measure WW funds includes 67 items. Locally, \$13.7 million would go toward the Pleasanton Ridge to acquire park land on Pleasanton and Sunol ridges and Devaney Canyon, a bicycle loop trail system, the construction of parking and staging areas, picnic, camping and visitor facilities. Money would also be funneled to acquire and construct trail connections from Garin Park to the Pleasanton Ridge for hiking, biking and equestrian use in the amount of \$2.02 million. Another \$2.25 million would go towards completing extensions south to Pleasanton and north to Concord on the 28-mile trail.

Other nearby projects include \$5.6 million to acquire land in Doolan Canyon and Tassajara Hills north of Dublin and Pleasanton; \$4.7 million to connect the Pleasanton Ridge and Calaveras Ridge Trail to west Dublin hills; \$630,000 to complete a trail connection under the Interstate 580-680 interchange linking Dublin and Pleasanton; \$4.9 million to renovate the Sunol Regional Wilderness visitor center, campground and picnic areas and expand park land there; and \$7.6 million to extend a ridge trail connecting Fremont and Sunol through Niles Canyon.

With the recent news that the financial industry is in crisis, park district officials acknowledge that it may not be the best time to be asking voters for money, but they're hoping

they will see the value in preserving open space and what Measure AA has already accomplished, adding 32,000 acres of open space.

"In tougher times, people want to find things to do closer to home, so they benefit from these parks," said East Bay Regional Parks District General Manager Pat O'Brien. "The park district was formed during the Great Depression in 1934. It's hard to believe in 1934 people voted for the park district and for a new tax which is a higher rate than we have today, but they did."

He said while the state of the economy has had an impact on support, a recent poll from June showed that 73 percent of potential voters support the bond measure and he likes the district's chances with a presidential election on the ballot and an expected record voter turnout. And, he adds, AA is really just an extension of what homeowners have already been paying for two decades.

The city's share

Of the \$500 million, \$375 million (75 percent) will fund regional park acquisitions and capital projects. Another \$125 million (25 percent) will go to cities, including Pleasanton, county service areas and the Oakland Zoo. Pleasanton will receive \$3.17 million.

Jim Wolfe, director of parks and community services for the city, said Pleasanton has a wish list for projects that the money could fund.

"I put some things in the report that are potential projects—Bernal Community Park is an example," he said. "We are going to be probably coming forward pretty soon with potential improvements to Lions Wayside, Delucchi parks in the Downtown Specific Plan now that the Firehouse Arts Center is under construction."

The downtown plan called for replacing the wooden bandstand where the popular summer Concerts in the Park series is held as well as connecting Lions Wayside Park with the adjacent Firehouse Arts Center by filling in the drainage ditch that separates them.

"We're not sure now if the permitting agencies will allow that, so we may have to modify that," Wolfe said of filling the ditch. "It would give us more area. People could walk between both facilities and it would provide for more space for Concerts in the Park seating areas."

Another project that Wolfe said is on the city's list is connecting the Alamo Canal Trail, which runs north-to-south along Interstate 680, underneath Interstate 580 to Dublin.

"That will give us a better route

ALAMEDA

2008 WW Local Grant	P
CITIES	
Alameda	
Albany	
Berkeley	
Dublin	
Emeryville	
Fremont	
Newark	
Oakland	
Piedmont	
Pleasanton	
San Leandro	
Union City	
Cities Subtotal	1

This chart shows that the city of Measure WW if passed for open

for the Iron Horse Trail," he said.

The city received \$1.4 million from Measure AA and used the funds for five different projects: Arroyo Trail improvements, Augustin-Bernal Park stage II improvements, Centennial Park, baseball field at the Sports Park and Pleasanton Upper Bernal Fields.

Aside from the portion going directly to the city, listed as \$48 on the park district's project list, \$13.7 million would be provided by the district to purchase land that would be used for staging areas on the Pleasanton Ridge, with one planned on River Rock Hill Road and Foothill Road.

"With Pleasanton Ridge, an important thing is access is and we already own some right across from Foothill," Ayn Wieskamp, president of the parks district board, who represents Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and Sunol, among other areas. "We're going to start a land use plan next year and we're looking at the Gateway property to see if we can put a staging area there. It's virtually right across from the high school."

While it's not included specifically as part of the bond measure project, many Pleasanton residents may be wondering what's happening with Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. The developer of the waterslides there had proposed a larger-scale water park that included what are now

WWWW

DA COUNTY

2008 Population	2008 Allocation
75,823	\$3,465,489
16,877	\$771,363
106,697	\$4,876,584
46,934	\$2,145,118
9,727	\$444,572
213,512	\$9,758,562
43,872	\$2,005,169
420,183	\$19,204,456
11,100	\$507,325
69,388	\$3,171,377
81,851	\$3,740,998
73,402	\$3,354,837
1,169,366	\$53,445,852

Pleasanton will receive \$3.1 million through space or recreational projects.

d. partially-built structures that remain vacant. It was and still remains controversial because residents are concerned about higher traffic volumes along Stanley Boulevard.

Wieskamp said park district staff is discussing what to do with the structures—tear them down or complete them. Either decision will come after holding a series of public forums so residents can give their input, she said.

“That project is really off the table,” O’Brien said. “(The owner) is still operating the current waterslides. He’s got it scheduled to open next year. It’s an older facility. It really needs to be rehabbed and a lot done to it but it’s still functional.”

Wieskamp adds that some work was done this past year to repair the waterslides. The Shadow Cliffs lake area is another subject. In August, the boat launch was closed earlier than usual due to the low water level. A neighboring cement company has an agreement to contribute excess water to the lake, but it currently doesn’t have any more to give. Zone 7 Water Agency, still grappling with a dry rainfall year and the Delta crisis, can’t afford to give any of its water.

The opposition

Not everyone is for Measure WW. A group called Better East Bay Parks contends that the parks district isn’t a good steward of the land it owns and manages.

“We find it bizarre that the EBRPD supports bicycle recreation on its urban parks and paved paths, but bans it from 85 percent of its back country trails,” said Better East Bay Parks member John Grigsby.

He added that bicyclists are accused of destroying the natural environment of the trails, but the reality is bulldozers and grazing cattle have caused that, measures he said are employed by the park district.

Wieskamp said she understands the group’s concerns and Measure WW will address adding narrower trails for bicycle use.

“Cyclists have their own perspective,” she said. “If you look through the language, we will say over and over again, in future trails, we are going to try to make the trails available, design them for all users. It’s very hard to retrofit trails when you’re talking about safety—blind curves that are so narrow that you can’t expand it without wrecking habitat.

“When you’re designing new trails, you’re much more likely to design a narrow trail, which is what (cyclists) want, with the proper curves so they can enjoy it, and so can equestrians and hikers,” she added.

“Some of the older trails like in Tilden (Park in Berkeley) are used by horses and the hikers and when we mix up the bicycles with it, you get issues—the horses panic, the bike coming down the road fast,” O’Brien said. “It’s something we have to balance. It’s not that they’re prohibited from access, it’s a question of where.”

If there’s one thing Wieskamp wants voters to know, it’s that the 98,000 acres of open space and 65 regional parks are a result of careful planning, something that should be continued for future generations.

“If you love the parks, you love the mission, you want us to connect those trails, protect the wildlife habitat,” you should vote in favor of WW, she said. “Land keeps going away and while it may be down in value right now, the value is likely to go up because California stays popular forever.

“And so by extending it, you give us the opportunity to keep doing what we’ve been doing for the past 20 years and that’s buying the land you need to connect the trails, expand the parks and recreation opportunities,” she continued. “We’re not trying to go off in odd places to purchase land; we’re trying to connect land to make viable parks.”

To learn more about Measure WW, visit www.EBParks.org.

To learn more about Better East Bay Parks, visit www.NoOnMeasureWW.org. ■



A pair of hikers descend down one of the many steep inclines at the Pleasanton Ridge.

Janet Pellerier

Opinion

Editorial

Good reading for the weekend

If you're looking for some deep, detailed reading for the weekend, grab a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report now available at the Planning Department desk in City Hall. This 451-page document, with maps and charts, supports the draft General Plan update for 2005-2025, and has maps, charts and addendums describing every aspect of Pleasanton's land use planning, designations and zoning. The EIR addresses the potential environmental effects related to implementing the proposed General Plan, which establishes a planning framework and policies to be followed to 2025. It will replace the 1996 General Plan which has been the guiding document for development until now. Although the new plan does not revise the Housing Element, which limits residential growth to the voter-mandated 29,000 housing units, it has, for the first time, special sections dealing with energy conservation and water usage.

It took 100 volunteers and city staff about three months to draft the first general plan in 1964. The 1996 plan took three years and more than 300 volunteers. The new plan has been under consideration since 2003, with public hearings, community meetings and multiple reviews of individual sections by various commissions and the City Council ever since. Still, the EIR and the general plan that may be available shortly are still drafts, with the finished documents finalized by the council early next year. To be fair, Pleasanton is larger in terms of population and land mass today with boundaries that now extend to the edge of the Callippe Preserve Golf Course at the far southwest end to El Charro Road and the Livermore city limits if Staples Ranch is annexed next year.

The draft EIR evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed general plan that has been prepared to respond to policy direction by the council, Planning Commission and community concerns identified through extensive public participation. It's a public information document intended to disclose to public agency decision-makers and the general public the significant environmental effects of a project and to present mitigation measures and feasible alternatives. For example, the council's objections to ever building a freeway interchange at Interstate 680 and West Las Positas Boulevard has led to the deletion of that proposal from the plan. Similar objections to extending Stoneridge Drive through Staples Ranch to El Charro and Livermore also were expected to lead to the taking of that option out of the new general plan, but the council reversed course and the extension stays, although just when the construction might take place is not stated. Traffic congestion also is analyzed by the draft EIR with the council eventually to decide if a higher level of peak hour congestion is preferable to spending millions of dollars to add new roadway and wider intersections. Oak Grove, the near-600-acre parcel above Kottinger Ranch, is also part of the new general plan and EIR review even though an appeal has been filed to a court decision that allows the council-approved development, including 51 large home sites and a 496-acre public park to continue. The project, meanwhile, is on hold pending the outcome of the citizens' appeal, asking the court to block the development.

Although the draft EIR is voluminous and detailed, thanks to the good work of Principal Planner Janice Stern it starts out with a three-page table of contents that is followed by a 25-page summary that includes tables, spreadsheets and more, quite suitable for statistic aficionados to better understand Pleasanton right down to the last buildable gully. The draft analyzes how the sand and gravel pits on the eastern edge of Pleasanton will evolve once digging stops there and the land is rezoned for high density residential, business, recreational uses. Also analyzed is how the city might complete buildout by the target date of 2025, where new housing will likely go and whether most of it will be high density apartments in the Hacienda Business Park or more homes such as those planned in Oak Grove. Keep in mind as you read this that an affordable housing coalition is challenging the city's housing cap as illegal. If a court throws out the cap, we'll need a new general plan well before 2025.

But at least we're nearing the finish line with a plan that better defines housing, business, parks and recreation and open space areas. Janice Stern and the hundreds who devoted many hours to bringing this long effort to a successful completion deserve everyone's thanks.

Copies of the General Plan Draft EIR are available at the planning counter from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays at 200 Old Bernal Ave. and a copy is available for review at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. during library hours. You can also view the EIR on the city's website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/genplan-DEIR-2005-2025.pdf.

Letters

Bob the cat arrives in Jersey

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to let all those kind wonderful people in Pleasanton that Bob the cat arrived safely ("Community rallies to reunite man, cat," News, Sept. 12, page 6).

He was in very good shape and the flight did not seem to affect him very much at all. I will say he was quite happy to get out of his cage. Unfortunately, both my husband and I then had to get on to work after we brought him home so we couldn't spend too much time with him. We have him in a room with a tile floor with his litter box and food and water and all his little blankets. Hopefully, he won't mind too much. Thank you to Valley Humane Society for all your caring, time, compassion and efforts in this huge project. Never would I have dreamed that all these things would come together in so short a time. It's truly miraculous and I'm so very grateful to Carol (Ott Olson), Derek (Ott) and David Stegman at Valley Humane Society and the compassionate people of Pleasanton who cared so much and made this happen.

Mary Ellen Tully
New Jersey

Brozosky: give persecution act a rest

Dear Editor,

I was amused to read Steve Brozosky's letter to the Weekly ("Emails deleted not my own action," Letters, Sept. 12, page 13). As I read about Brozosky's whining about his unfair treatment by the Weekly, I felt that he has not learned a lot from his election loss of 2006.

Thankfully, we have less than 50 days to hear about his sour grapes concerning the last election. I find Brozosky sanctimonious, self righteous and pontificating—especially since he and his campaign staff set a new standard of cynicism in Pleasanton politics while running for mayor in 2006. I urge Brozosky to give the persecution act a rest. It may grow tiresome.

Mike Hamilton
Pleasanton

I've been leader in Stoneridge Dr. compromise

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your editorial of Sept. 12 entitled "Build Stoneridge or lose Staples." The fact that this was an opinion piece doesn't relieve the Weekly from its responsibility for getting the facts straight. You state that "about all" of the City Council has agreed to keep the right-of-

way intact for a future Stoneridge extension and that I have "not changed my mind" about opposing the extension. The fact is the council has unanimously adopted the current city policy of leaving the Stoneridge extension in the General Plan and to work with our neighbors to develop a "roadmap" of necessary regional transportation improvements, timing, and funding sources before the extension is completed.

Both the regional and our own General Plan traffic studies indicate that if Stoneridge is extended before key regional improvements are made, no relief will be provided to our city congestion. In fact, the opposite will occur as commuters from a gridlocked freeway system will stream into Pleasanton looking for relief. I have been a leader on the council in forging this compromise policy, working with proponents of the extension and the affected neighborhoods. This compromise is the most sensible approach to achieve local and regional traffic solutions, maintains Pleasanton's local control of our land-use decisions, and puts us in a good position to advocate for projects that will truly benefit Pleasanton, such as widening State Route 84 over Pigeon Pass. This is the kind of responsible leadership we need on the City Council.

Matt Sullivan
Pleasanton City Councilman

Mayoral candidates should hold town hall debate

Dear Editor,

I suggest a town hall debate for the mayoral candidates. The Pleasanton Weekly should outline what exactly each candidate stands for and what the issues are. I would like to vote for someone who will improve our community and focus on issues that really matter. Trusting Hosterman seems like a stretch to me as she seems to think her time and our money ought to be spent on global warming activities and initiatives. I don't really know anything about Brozosky, but if the main reason to vote for Hosterman is that we can't trust Brozosky as one letter to the editor outlined last week, I question this, especially since the last election was so close.

We need to understand what each candidate stands for both on local issues and broader macro issues. Global warming is such a threat to the planet, that supporters now call it climate change. It seems some parts of the planet are still pretty cold.

Dominic Di Blasio
Pleasanton

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(continued on page 13)

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



News or commentary? It's essential to know the difference

In the wake of the MSNBC anchor-swap, the Charlie Gibson/Sarah Palin interview and the "lipstick on a pig," CNN anchor and best-selling author Lou Dobbs granted an interview where he spoke about the state of media during this election year. After all the feedback I received on the Sept. 12 Talking Points about MSNBC, I thought I would share with you Dobbs' opinion about objectivity and the news.

"Most everyone understands that the national media...has a liberal bias," Dobbs said. "I quite frankly have never been too worried about that. But for the first time objective news organizations, hiding behind the mantle of objectivity, said the heck with it and threw away any pretense and started talking with absolute straightforwardness about their biases and preferences for a candidate...It is ugly, and it is going to have repercussions for some years to come."

I wish Dobbs had elaborated a bit on the repercussions. If the results of MSNBC's experiment into rating-boosting commentary posing as news (and the backlash of that action) is that viewers begin to distinguish between news and commentary, we're all the better for it.

However, perhaps because com-

mentary has been confused with news for so long, I think we all need a refresher on which is which. For an example, a Town Square commenter doesn't seem to differentiate between news and editorial opinion when, in reference to the MSNBC anchors being removed from the anchor chair but not from the network, the poster said, "Nothing has changed...they're at their mikes [sic] spewing their bias, insults, and snarky comments. Big deal, called commentators, not newscasters, they're still on preaching bias on a major network."

The key here is that they are no longer called newscasters. The difference between news and commentary is that news doesn't (or isn't supposed to) include the opinion of the presenter. Interjections such as "get a shovel" and "a thrill running up my leg" are not appropriate. (Actually I don't think these examples are appropriate commentary either, but I digress.) There is a place for news and a place for opinions. Problems result when one is passed off as the other.

Also in the Sept. 12 edition was a story about Dublin mayor Janet Lockhart. There was almost immediate response online, with the first being from "Not a Janet Lockhart Fan" who said, "Sorry Jeb, Your 'cover story' is more of an op ed,

rather than a news story on Mayor Lockhart's impending end to her tenure as Dublin's mayor."

I read the story before publication; after reading "Fan's" TS post, I reread the story twice. Still I am at a loss as to where opinion entered into the story. Seemed pretty straightforward to me. No "shovels" or "thrills." I didn't even see an adjective that could be considered too negative or too positive.

(As a side note, the headline on this story was debated in the Pleasanton Weekly newsroom so it reflected the story accurately without undertones of opinion.)

I believe most of the mainstream media tries to be balanced and fair. When throwing out accusations, please remember that just because you don't like the subject matter, subject or a decision, that doesn't make the messenger biased or unfair. But, with that said, also make a conscious effort to distinguish when commentary is being passed off as news.

Gina Channell-Allen, a 21-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.

Letters

(continued from page 12)

Brozosky has compassion, vision, enthusiasm

Dear Editor,

I support for Steve Brozosky for Pleasanton's mayor. I've known Steve for a decade. I've been teaching at Vintage Hills Elementary School for many years and his dedication for our school is what first caught my eye. He was constantly on campus volunteering his time making our school more successful. He gave freely of his technological expertise to enhance our computer setup. Not only did he give his cerebral prowess, he wouldn't be afraid to roll up his sleeves to set up and tear-down of our fall carnival.

After working with Steve, I learned that he was such a great dad. Steve got heavily involved in 4-H, not only to help the organization, but to share and learn about his daughter's passion. He also found time to coach his daughters in soccer.

I truly look up to him as a role-model. When he approached me

about getting signatures to limit the housing number on Bernal property, I realized he's got great vision.

His work on the City Council has been outstanding. At a recent school field trip to city hall, our guide commented on how Steve Brozosky would immerse himself in all reports that have a bearing on Pleasanton.

I see him everywhere: parades, First Wednesday Street Parties, and recently at the PPIE fundraiser. He's always talking to people and listening about issues they have. I never see our current mayor anywhere. Please join me in voting for the candidate with such compassion, vision and enthusiasm for our great city; Steve Brozosky.

*Adrian Cukar
Pleasanton*

Intolerance of homosexuals is damaging

Dear Editor,

This is more directed towards Carol DeMars, ("Weekly shouldn't 'advertise' gay marriage," Letters, Sept. 19, page 13). She expressed her opposition to gay marriage

and clarified very well in her short statement that is headlined as "Weekly shouldn't 'advertise' gay marriage" that she does not like how evidently tolerant and progressive the Weekly is.

There's a cliché saying that when we are young we are Democrats, and upon aging are more Republican. There may be some truth to it, but as I am now at 17, even I see how your intolerance of homosexuals (or, possibly, just their marriage) is damaging.

I find nothing wrong or incorrect with gay marriage, and am adverse to Proposition 8, which would create a "civil union" for gays in place of marriage. Maybe it is your religious beliefs or how you feel otherwise, but love is blatantly love and always will be; if you can't handle that or the right homosexuals have to the sanctity of marriage, then perhaps you shouldn't be a part of this very liberal California. I'm not asking you to find some misplaced affection for a gay couple but "caved" to the "politically correctness" of the day"? Homosexual relationships have been around a lot longer than the past couple years.

*Amanda Bigger
Pleasanton*

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, October 1, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

COMMUNITY EVENTS

City of Pleasanton Co-Sponsors Tri-Valley Early Childhood Education Conference

The City of Pleasanton joins Las Positas College in co-hosting the Tri-Valley Early Childhood Education Conference on Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27 at Las Positas College, 300 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore. The conference is targeted for parents and educators of children ages 0-8 years of age. For more information, please call (925) 424-1170.

Tickets Now Available for "The Udderly Divine Bovine Event"

Spirited Local Event Combines Art and Fun to Benefit the New Alviso Adobe Community Park
Tickets are now available for Pleasanton's whimsical Udderly Divine Bovine Event slated for Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, presented by the Amador-Livermore Historical Society. This festive event will feature music by Tommy and the 4 Speeds, live and silent auctions, and cuisine tastings from local restaurants, all to benefit the Alviso Adobe Community Park and The Museum on Main. Tickets are \$65 each. Call (925) 462-4312 for more information.

'No Drugs Down the Drain' Event on October 10 Offers Tri-Valley Residents

Free, Easy Disposal for Unwanted Meds
Tri-Valley residents can properly dispose of unwanted medicines on October 10th at a free 'No Drugs Down the Drain' event sponsored by Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD). All prescription and over-the-counter drugs will be accepted, with no questions asked, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the DSRSD offices, located at 7051 Dublin Boulevard in Dublin. DSRSD will also accept items containing mercury during the event on October 10. All mercury items must be intact and sealed in a protective container and a plastic bag.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Associate Transportation Planner – Full-Time, Permanent
- Intern – Water Conservation Coordinator – Part-Time, Temporary
- Police Officer, Lateral or Academy Graduate – Full-Time, Permanent
- Senior Center Assistant – Part-Time, Temporary
- Senior Center Leader – 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



Wells Fargo inside Safeway robbed

Police continue to search for a suspected bank robber who fled the Wells Fargo inside of Safeway on Santa Rita Road with an undisclosed amount of cash Sept. 19.

The suspect, described as a white or Hispanic male in his 20s, allegedly presented the teller with a note demanding money. Police said there was no weapon mentioned or seen. The man fled the scene on foot and officers did not locate the man after a search around the area.

Reports said the man is about 5 feet, 6 inches to 5 feet, 8 inches tall with a thin to medium build and short, dark-colored hair. He was also said to have "two-day beard stubble," smell of cigarette smoke

and wearing a black hooded ECKO brand sweatshirt and jeans. Last month, a Wells Fargo bank on Main Street was also robbed. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 931-5100.

Woman hit by truck at Stoneridge and Hopyard

A 37-year-old Pleasanton woman was hit by a truck at Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road Sept. 18, according to police. The victim sustained serious injuries to her leg and was transported to Eden Trauma Center in Castro Valley.

Reports said a 40-year-old woman was driving a Toyota Rav 4 westbound on Stoneridge Drive at about 8 p.m., when she allegedly hit the woman who was reportedly in the crosswalk. While the cause has yet to be determined, police have ruled out alcohol or drugs. Lt. Tom Fenner said the investigation is still on going and couldn't confirm where in the crosswalk the woman was walking.

Last week, a 9-year-old bicyclist was hit on his way to school and Fenner said another bicyclist faced minor injuries from recently being hit by a vehicle. A woman run over by a car at Old Santa Rita Road and Rosewood Drive was killed July 28. There were also two pedestrian-auto collisions on First Street near downtown in the past few months.

Fenner said there were a couple witnesses to Sept. 18's collision, but police are encouraging others to come forward. While it is a major intersection, Fenner believes that Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road has seen few collisions in the past, considering the high volume of traffic.

Police Report

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

Sept. 15

- Theft:
 - 7:06 a.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road; stolen vehicle
 - 1:18 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; stolen vehicle
 - 1:24 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
 - 2:15 p.m. in the 7800 block of Creekside Drive; petty theft
 - 5:42 p.m. in the 4200 block of Sheldon Circle; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 8:34 a.m. in the 7700 block of Highland Oaks Drive; worth less than \$400
 - 9:54 a.m. in the 4100 block of First Street; worth less than \$400
 - 11:32 a.m. at the intersection of Valley and Case avenues; worth less than \$400
 - 5:42 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; vehicle tampering
 - 9:05 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street
- Public drunkenness:
 - 6:25 p.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue
- Fighting in public:
 - 7:07 p.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue

Sept. 16

- Theft:
 - 8:06 a.m. in the 1100 block of Mataro Court
- Vandalism:
 - 12:26 a.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive
 - 8:19 a.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Foothill Place; worth less than \$400
 - 11:07 a.m. at the intersection of First Avenue and Stanley Boulevard; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 3:43 p.m. in the 4600 block of Mirador Drive

Sept. 17

- Theft:
 - 10:06 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; stolen vehicle, possession of stolen property
 - 12:15 p.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; identity theft
 - 6:05 p.m. in the 5700 block of Belleza Drive; petty theft
 - 7:52 p.m. in the 700 block of St. Michael Circle; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 3:53 p.m. in the 2400 block of Santa Rita Road
- Burglary:
 - 11:27 a.m. in the 1000 block of Deer Creek Court
 - 3:10 p.m. in the 3900 block of Grand Canyon Court

Sept. 18

- Theft:
 - 3:33 a.m. in the 7200 block of

- Johnson Drive; grand theft
 - 3:16 p.m. in the 3900 block of Old Santa Rita Road; stolen vehicle
 - 4:01 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 11:01 a.m. at the intersection of Paseo Santa Cruz and Calle Reynoso; worth less than \$400
- Public drunkenness:
 - 9:15 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road
- Sept. 19**
- Theft:
 - 11:31 a.m. in the 1600 block of Cindy Way
 - 1:00 p.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
 - 5:14 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vierra Stree; identity theft, grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 7:44 a.m. in the 5100 block of Liveoak Court; vehicle tampering
 - 9:52 p.m. at the intersection of Old Santa Rita Road and Andrews Drive
- Burglary:
 - 9:06 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
 - 6:18 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular
- Drug violations:
 - 9:50 p.m. at the intersection of Old Santa Rita Road and Andrews Drive; under the influence of a controlled substance, syringe possession

Transitions

Obituaries

Tom Gowler

Tom "Heavy" Gowler died Sept. 16 of lung cancer at the age of 70.

Mr. Gowler was born May 3, 1938 in Valentine, Neb., but lived most of his life in California. He was an excellent horseman and will be missed by many at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

He is survived by his sister, Beverly Buffington. No services will be held.

Sarah E. Simmonds

Sarah E. "Sally" Simmonds died Sept. 16 at the Veterans Administration facility in Livermore. She was 87.

Ms. Simmonds, born Aug. 8, 1921 in San Leandro, was the daughter of George (Ernie) and Floyce Simmonds. She joined the Army Nurse Corps in July 1945 after receiving her registered nursing title at Providence School of Nursing and retired July 1970. She was an accomplished orthopedic nurse for the United States Army, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel before her retirement. During her years of service, she completed two tours of duty in Japan, two in Germany and one in France as well as coast to coast in the United States. It was in Japan that she developed her love for oriental art, though she always had a love for all art and was an artist in

her own right. Her other love was that of her dogs.

All her life, she wanted to be a nurse and care for people and fulfilled that goal even after retirement by providing loving care for her mother when she became ill. She also volunteered at the Senior Support Center in Pleasanton, serving the community.

She leaves behind her three sisters, Georgia Stapper of Hayward; Marjorie Sedlock of Weed, Calif.; Martha Dunn of Mt. Shasta, Calif. and numerous nieces and nephews. Her parents, Ernie and Floyce Simmonds, and her two sisters, Eizel Hetherington and Anne Whisnant, preceded her in death.

Graveside services were scheduled for Sept. 25 in Mt. Shasta Memorial Park with full military honors. Contributions can be made to one's choice, but it's suggested it pertain to the benefit of animals in her memory.

Larry Hauser

Larry Edward Hauser died Sept. 16 in Alamo at the age of 67.

Mr. Hauser was born May 18, 1941 in Los Angeles and was a Pleasanton resident.

He was an assistant general manager of Uniform Laundry Service. His hobbies included bowling, bocci ball, hunting, fishing and waterskiing.

He is survived by his daughter, Rhonda Lynn Ferriter; mother, Jimmie Jean Hauser, and brothers, Donald Craig Hauser and Duane Alan Hauser.

A service was held Sept. 19 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. Burial was to take place at Roselawn Cemetery in Livermore.

Weddings

Victoria Colton & Steven James DeCoite

Victoria Ann Colton and Steven James DeCoite, Jr. were married Aug. 2 at the Westin Market Street Hotel in San Francisco.

Tori is the daughter of Judith and Bradley Colton of San Anselmo. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 2003 and currently works for a commercial interiors firm in San Francisco.

Jamie is the son of Steve and Jane DeCoite of Pleasanton. He graduated from Arizona State University in 1997 and for the past 10 years, has worked in medical sales in San Francisco.

Along with close friends and family, included were the bride's brother Bryan Colton and the groom's three siblings Monique Jasper, Jennifer DeCoite and Jonathon DeCoite. Grandparents from the bride's side included Gloria Hartman and Bradford and Kathy Baruh. The groom's side included Lela Terrill and Pauline DeCoite, both of Pleasanton.



The newlyweds enjoyed their honeymoon in Maui, and returned to San Francisco where they live with their 10-month-old English bulldog Stella.

Births

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center.

Sept. 3

Sandra and Jacob Solis, a boy

Sept. 11

Monica and Anthony DeFreitas, a boy

Deaths, Weddings and Births

are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

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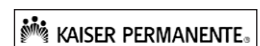
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Calendar

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.

Second Annual Dublin Reads Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, launches its second annual community book discussion, Dublin Reads, from Sept. 20 through Nov. 1. This year, Dublin will be reading "Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm," by David Mas Masumoto. Call 803-7266.

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 during the school year 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.

Classes

Basic Yoga Class Beth Fox instructs this basic yoga class that meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. No previous yoga experience necessary. Limited class supplies available. Fees are \$12 for drop-in or \$10 for pre-paid series. Inquire about seniors or students rates. Call 200-4060.

Divorce Care Recovery Seminar DivorceCare divorce recovery seminar and support group meets at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy., Thursdays at 7 p.m. starting Oct. 9 for 13 weeks. Free child care is provided through fifth grade. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. The cost is \$25. Call 846-6622 or visit www.valleycommunitychurch.org.

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.

Communication Arts Network The East Bay's Communications Arts Network (CommArt) meets from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Forli Ristorante in Alamo. Tickets are \$20 cash, includes lunch. Call Terry, 462-8083, or visit www.commartnet.org.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club The next meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club at 7 p.m. Oct. 9 at 1454 Santa Rita Road, will feature Bob Case who is on staff at the California Invasive Plant Council. He will speak on the identification and problems of invasive plants and will touch upon biologically sound pest management. Call 417-8809.

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.

Membership Brunch and Social The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch of the American Association of University Women invites current and prospective members to a membership brunch and social at 10 a.m. Sept. 27 at 5801 Valley Ave. Helen Nkuralya will speak about the educational work of the Asante Africa Foundation. Call 484-0614.

NARFE The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

Retired Public Employees' Association The Tri-Valley chapter meets at 10:45 a.m. Oct. 2 at Emil Villa's Hickory Pit, 3064 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Joanne Jarvis, national park ranger, will speak.

Soiree Singles Group The Soiree Singles Group hosts many events throughout the year for single seniors. Monthly meetings social dates will be shown on the club newsletter. Call 846-5900.

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@trivalley-rotary.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 Social The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California meets for a happy hour gathering at 5 p.m. the third Friday of the month at the Sheraton

Hotel across from JC Penney's at Stoneridge Mall. Guests welcome. RSVP prior to event. Call Lorraine, 846-5695.

Women's Networking Opportunity The local ABWA E2S chapter meets at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, which focus on personal and professional development for women in business. Meetings include a guest speaker and networking opportunities. Nonmembers are welcome to attend at a cost of \$5 per meeting. Visit www.expresstosuccess.org.

Concerts

Concert Pianist Daniel Glover to Perform Concert Pianist Daniel Glover will perform a piano recital to benefit the Valley Concert Chorale at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 4 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. It features the music of Liszt and Rachmaninoff. Tickets are \$25. Call 866-4003 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Percussion Group Cincinnati The Percussion Group Cincinnati comes to the Bankhead Theater, 2100 First St., Livermore at 8 p.m. Oct. 4. They awake audiences to the dynamic and visual delights as they make music on amplified cactus needles, newspapers and garbage cans, drums, bells and cymbals. Tickets are \$19-\$29, or free for high school students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingsarts.org.

Rickie Lee Jones Rickie Lee Jones' music transcends all of its historical touchstones, taking the elements to create something new. He performs at 8 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30-\$55, or \$12 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingsarts.org.

Events

Aikido Presentation Jim Alvarez Sensei, fifth degree black belt, will present information on the origin and philosophy of Aikido at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Call 373-5500 ext. 5574.

Autism Conference A conference about Autism for parents and professionals will be from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. The Exceptional Needs Network presents "Awareness 2008" with experts speaking on topics like early intervention and treatment. The cost

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Rosh Hashana Services:
At the Masonic Center – 3370 Hopyard Rd
Monday, September 29 - 6:30pm
Tuesday, September 30 - 10:00am
Wednesday, September 30 - 10:00am
Festive Holiday Buffet will follow all services

Yom Kippur Services:
At the Four Points by Sheraton – 5115 Hopyard Rd
Wednesday, October 8 - 6:15pm
Thursday, October 9 - 10:00am
Yizkor Memorial Service - 11:30am
Neilah, Closing Service - 6:30pm

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is \$100 for parents and \$125 for professionals. Visit www.ennetwork.org or call 443-3396.

Donlon Elementary Holiday Boutique Donlon Elementary School is looking for vendors for the Holiday Boutique from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 8. Special pricing is available for non-profit organizations. Email Patty at DonlonAHB@comcast.net.

Downtown Sidewalk Sale The annual Downtown Sidewalk Sale takes place Oct. 4-5 on Main Street. The event is sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association and runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Fighting Blindness Support Event From 9:30 a.m. to noon Sept. 27 at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave. in Walnut Creek, the Foundation Fighting Blindness East Bay Chapter will be hosting a Day of Caring and Sharing! for those affected by retinal degenerative diseases. The support-based meeting will feature group breakout sessions for affected adults, teens, parents of affected children and significant others of affected persons. Reserve a spot by calling 866-782-7330 or emailing eastbay@fightblindness.org by Sept. 25.

Ghost Walk and More Museum On Main, 603 Main St., hosts Halloween events, including guided and self-guided Ghost Walks, Haunted Museum, pumpkin carving contest, build a scarecrow, costume parade, trick or treat and more. Visit www.museumonmain.org for call 462-3373.

Hops and Vine Fall Fest The Hops and Vine Fall Fest is from 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 5 in the parking lot behind the Cheese Factory building, 830 Main St. The free event includes live music, dancing, food, and beverages derived from hops and picked from the vine. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Jobs Daughters Electronic Recycle Event Electronic Waste Collection Event takes place Sept. 27 at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. Items that are free to recycle: TVs, monitors, laptops, flat screens, cell phones and ink jet cartridges. All other items are a \$5 fee. Call 640-8085 or visit www.bethel14.com.

Lark In The Park Lark in the Park, led by a museum docent and sponsored by Museum On Main, takes people to parks to explore local history one Saturday each month. The Sept. 27 outing is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Main Street Green. Donations are appreciated and participants can just show up. Call 462-2766.

Once Upon A Time Once Upon a Time is a historical reading and activity program for preschoolers to third graders at 5 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. The evening weaves three stories through two activities/games and ends with a treat. Parent participation encouraged. Sign participation forms at museum. The cost is \$5 per child. Call 462-2766.

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

Signs of the Past—Today Take a look at some of California and Nevada's most captivating signs. Photographer Ann King has combed the west in a wistful search of Americana in his exhibit, running Sept. 26 to Oct. 25 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St. An artist reception is from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 3. Call 485-1183.

Film

A Sibling Event Exceptional Needs Network presents two films exploring family life with a developmentally delayed child. Created by Keri Bowers and her sons Jace and Taylor, "Normal People Scare Me" and "The Sandwich Kid" explore the world of autism from the eyes of a child. They show at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 27 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Admission is free.

Fundraisers

A Starry Night Gala Pleasanton North Rotary presents A Starry Night Gala at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 27. The evening includes food, entertainment, a hosted bar and auctions hosted by CBS 5's Brian Hackney, to support the School of Imagination in Dublin and the Wheelchair Foundation. Tickets are \$200, with \$125 being tax deductible, and raffle tickets for \$100. Call 556-2380 or visit pnr-rotary.org.

Furry Faces Pet Calendar Contest Make your pet a star by submitting pet photos to the Valley Humane Society's Furry Faces Calendar Contest. Entries are a \$15 donation each, which benefits VHS, and will be accepted through Oct. 1. Call 426-8656 ext. 11, or visit www.valleyhumane.org or 3670 Nevada St.

Jeans & Jewels Throw on jeans and jewels to join Tri Valley Conservancy for fun, food, dancing and live auction from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 2 at Casa Real, 410 Vineyard Ave. Bid on wine country estate picnic, dinner with winemakers, bottle your own wine, plane rides and more. Tickets are \$75. Call 449-8706 or visit www.trivalleyconservancy.org.

Rock-A-Hula Party Assistance League of Amador Valley is hosting their fall fundraiser Rock-A-Hula, a Hawaiian party to be held at the Livermore Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., from 6 to 10 p.m. Sept. 27. The event includes a barbecue dinner catered by Cabana Dave's, dancing music hosted by Mark Davis from KKIQ Radio, casino games and prizes. Tickets are \$35. There is also a raffle with a Hawaiian vacation as the grand prize. For more information please call 461-6401. Visit www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.

Sisters in Service Walk-A-Thon The East Bay chapter of Sisters in Service hosts a walk-a-thon fundraiser family event Oct. 5 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park to support destitute and oppressed women and children in India. Come any time between 12:30 and 3 p.m. Lunch is included in registration fee, plus there will be games and music. Visit www.sistersinservice.org or call Gloria Gregory, 998-3785.

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.

Health

16th Annual Celebration of Life Local health agencies are putting together a Celebration of Life event focusing on healing through touch—by word, by sight, by sound, by hand. There will be a healing touch practitioner, an acupressure therapist, complimentary chair massages for cancer survivors as well as refreshments. The event is from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 30 at Faz Restaurant, 5121 Hopyard Road. RSVP to 734-3319 with the name and number in the party.

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.

Fall Immunization Clinics for Children Clinics are from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 4, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6 at Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave. They are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755.

Free Seminar on Colon Health Jeffrey Mark, M.D., gastroenterologist will present the seminar on colon health from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Dougherty Station Community Center, Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. Please make a reservation. Space is limited. Call 275-8230.

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.

Welcome to Medicare Free Seminar The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) of Contra Costa will discuss Medicare A, B, C, and D; Medicare supplemental insurances, and drug plans at 7 p.m. Nov. 5 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Reservations required. Space is limited. Call 275-8230.

Yoga for Multiple Sclerosis Every Tuesday through Dec. 30 from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., Downtown Yoga, 220 B Division St., hosts a series of gentle stretching movements that can help to reduce stress within the body. Call 462-5285.

Holiday

Non-Religious Yom Kippur Observance Tri-Valley Cultural Jews sponsors an hour-long program of music and readings focusing on a non-religious examination of our lives and our places in the world at 2 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. There will be opportunities to donate to international, national and local charities. Tickets are \$10 for adult non-members and kids are free. Call 485-1049.

Kids & Teens

Competition for Young Musicians The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association's 36th annual Competition for Young Musicians is open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside or attend school in Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol, Dublin or San Ramon. Students are eligible through grade 12, or age 17 if not enrolled in high school. Each winner will be awarded \$250. Applications are due Oct. 5 and must include a \$5 fee. Call 447-1957 or visit www.livamsymph.org.

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.

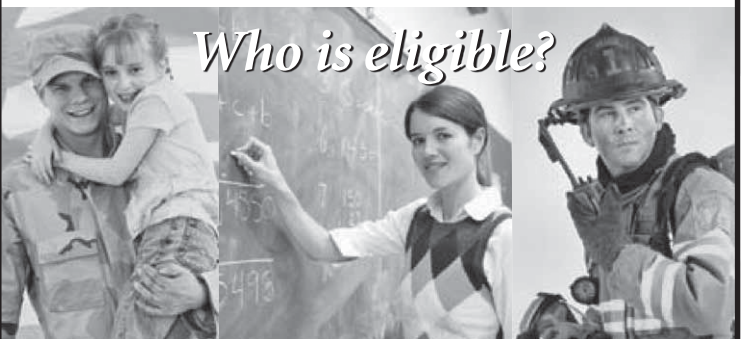
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gardening workshops Saturdays in the month of September. Topics include the basics, healthy soil, year-round edible gardens and managing pests naturally. Registration for these classes is required. Call 510-444-SOIL (7645) or visit www.bayfriendly.org.

Live Music

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.

DeLovely Evening DeLovely Evening, from 8 to 10 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, will feature music from the Roaring '20s and Art Deco '30s by internationally-acclaimed scat singing and period vocalists, The Jesters. Proceeds will benefit Senior Support, which has served residents of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol for more than 20 years. Tickets are \$50. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartickets.org.

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.

Tuesday Tunes Every Tuesday from 5 to 8 p.m. enjoy live music at either the Livermore Valley Plaza or the Flag Pole Plaza in downtown Livermore. Bring a blanket and lawn chairs. Visit www.livermoredowntown.com.

Miscellaneous

Century House Poetry Reading Pleasanton Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer will host nature poet Sandra Stillwell and Pleasanton naturalist Eric Nicholas from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. An open mic segment will follow when aspiring and accomplished poets of all ages will be invited to read a favorite or original poem of 40 lines or less. The cost is \$5. Call 931-5350 or visit www.civcartsliterary.org.

Free Health Fair HCCC Human Services Of Hindu Community and Cultural Center will be conducting a free health fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 27 at Shiva Vishnu Temple, 1232 Arrowhead Ave., Livermore. Open to everyone for free medical advice and free evaluation.

On Stage

An Evening with the Smothers Brothers Masters of timing and

practitioners of timeless comedy, the Smothers Brothers career surpasses all other comedy teams. They perform at 8 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$95 to \$125. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org. The fundraiser for LVPAC will feature complimentary wine, sumptuous desserts and coffee.

San Francisco Comedy Competition The San Francisco Comedy Competition has produced many of America's best known comedians, with former winners including Robin Williams, Ellen DeGeneres and more. The comedy show (appropriate for adults) comes to the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, at 8 p.m. Sept. 28. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartickets.org.

Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats offer family fun and thrills at 8 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$10-\$20 for children or \$20-\$30 for adults. Call 931-3444 or visit www.pleasanton-civcarts.org.

Political Notes

PUSD School Board Candidates Forum The Pleasanton PTA Council, Livermore-Amador League of Women Voters and Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin American Association of University Women are co-sponsoring a School Board Candidates Forum at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at the district board room, 4665 Bernal Ave. Six candidates are running for three open seats. The audience will be able to ask the candidates questions.

Seniors

Brain Matters Our brains are vital organs that deserve the same attention to care and maintenance as our hearts. Engaging in active learning will help maintain brain health. This new weekly program, meeting at 10 a.m. every Friday starting Sept. 5, combines lectures and interactive workshops dedicated to improving brain health and function. The cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Friday Night Dessert & Ballroom Dance Come "Trip the Lights Fantastic" and dance the night away at the Friday Night Dessert and Ballroom Dance at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at the senior center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Advanced reservations highly recommended. Tickets are \$7 for residents or \$8 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

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 visit pleasenor.googlepages.com for more info.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) SIR is an organization for retired men. The Pleasanton SIR holds a luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. the first Thursday of the month with golf, bridge, bocce, fishing and other activities and trips. Call 606-7189.

VIP Senior Club The Pleasanton VIP Senior Club hosts a fun-filled afternoon with Maginga the Magician and Magic Genii at 2 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale until Oct. 2. Dessert will be served. Call Joanne Kelly, 224-9888.

Spiritual

Bible Study Fellowship The 33-week study of The Life of Moses begins Sept. 8. Women's classes meet at 9:25 a.m. Wednesdays at Cedar Grove Church, Livermore; and 6:55 p.m. Mondays at Valley Community Church, Pleasanton. Men's class meets at 6:55 p.m. Tuesdays at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. Call 877-273-3228.

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.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., has Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m., with nursery for both services. Children's church, ages 3-12, meets at 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study meets at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. A prayer at 6 p.m. is held the first and third Monday of the month. Call 846-8650 for more programs.

Four-Week Class on Personal Transformation Based on the book "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho, Rev. Steve Maynard will be focusing on "spiritual alchemy," transforming ideas into manifest reality. Morning classes are Tuesdays at 10 to noon, and evening classes are Wednesdays from 7 to 9. Sept. 30/Oct. 1: Serving the Soul of the World. Locations vary. Call Tri-Valley Unity Church at 829-2733.

Returning Catholics Program Inactive & Returning Catholics: Consider this an invitation to take another look at the Catholic church. We provide discussion of important issues in today's church, education on current belief and practice. Tell your story and renew your faith in a supportive and non-judgmental environment. Meetings are from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Elizabeth Seton

Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Call 474-2760.

Women's Christian 12 Step Discover how much comfort there is in the journey of recovery walking with the Good Shepherd every STEP of the way! This group meets at noon every Friday and Saturday at Shepherd's Gate, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore. Call 443-4283.

Sports

5th Annual All Women's Triathlon Shadow Cliffs Regional Park will host the fifth annual All Women's Triathlon, nicknamed the See Jane Tri, Sept. 27. The event is for women of all fitness levels and it helps raise money for the Breast Cancer Fund. For more information on the event, visit www.seejanerun.com.

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.

Lacrosse Spring Registration Open Pleasanton Lacrosse Club Boys and Girls 2009 spring registration is open at www.pleasantonlacrosse.com for boys U9 to U15 (grades 2 to 8) and girls U11 to U15 (grades 3 to 8). Availability is limited. Late fees will be assessed after Nov. 1 for boys and Nov. 20 for girls.

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).

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This quarter's recipient is Barone's Restaurant located at 475 St John St., in Downtown Pleasanton. It is owned and operated by downtown residents, Joseph and Marciela Barone. Barone's Restaurant has been operating for over 13 yrs and serves a diverse menu of continental cuisine and has a full bar. They serve lunch and dinner daily. Barone's offers both a spacious banquet room and beautiful grounds for your next special event. Stop by soon and enjoy the wonderful cuisine and discover why they have been voted "Most Romantic Restaurant" by Pleasanton Weekly Readers!

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The "NEAT" Neighborhood Environment Attractiveness Team award is designed to highlight a particular downtown building or property that has been improved or that is considered unique in design, architecture or style.

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 ValleyCare 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 group 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 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.

Overeaters Anonymous Do you worry about the way you eat? You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you. This is not a diet club. OA is a fellowship of people recovering from compulsive overeating, starving and/or purging. OA offers mutual support and a helpful plan of action. They meet at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Visit www.diablovalleyyoa.org.

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 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.

Support Group for Caregivers of Seniors Support group for those taking care of seniors meets at 2 p.m. Wednesdays from Oct. 1 to Nov. 11 at Villa San Ramon. Group limited to 10. Prior registration required. Call Carol, 244-1185.

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 Monida at 462-7374.

Hats Off America Volunteers are wanted for the Hats Off America; Red T-Shirt 10K run/5K walk Nov. 8. HOA is a nonprofit organization benefiting families of fallen soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Email Sparky George, thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com.

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info@cardenwest.org

New Tutor Training Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., needs adult volunteers to provide free tutoring to adults who want to improve reading, writing, and English speaking skills. Tutors have flexible hours, volunteer once a week and we supply all the materials. The volunteer training is at 10 a.m. Oct. 4. Call 931-3411.

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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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

ARE RATES GOING DOWN?

Let's say the Federal Reserve is pushing most interest rates a bit lower, hoping to avert an overall economic slowdown. It does happen—quite often.

How do you know this is happening? Perhaps you're an avid reader of The Wall Street Journal and other news sources. To that, you should add the seasoned observations of your mortgage professional and real estate professional. These are people you should have a long-term relationship with, people with whom you should talk regularly. It's their job to read the direction of the market.

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Livermore Valley Opera
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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.



Courtesy Hugh Metzler

Foothill High School junior Soffia Metzler, 16, tosses and lifts her partner Hannah Douglas, 10, of Tracy, in recent competition. The pair was chosen as part of the U.S. national acrobatic team to compete Oct. 3-5 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Local acrobat wins U.S. National Championship

Metzler and Douglas to compete in world championship

by Elyssa Thome

While many high schoolers are playing sports like soccer, basketball or football, Soffia Metzler, a junior at Foothill High School, is competing—and excelling—in sports acrobatics.

Metzler and her acrobatics partner Hannah Douglas of Tracy recently won gold at the U.S. Acrobatics National Championship. Shortly after, they were chosen as part of the U.S. national team, which will be competing Oct. 3-5 in Glasgow, Scotland at the 2008 World Sports Acrobatics Championship.

"I'm very excited," said Metzler. "It's my dream and it's coming true."

While Metzler has competed internationally before, including competitions in England and Poland, this will be the first world

championship for both her and her partner.

Metzler said she began participating in acrobatics when she was nine or 10. She had been taking gymnastics in Livermore when she saw acrobats training. According to Metzler, it was love at first sight.

These days, the 16-year-old dedicates a lot of time to the sport, with training both before and after school, but she said she still loves it. The rigorous training schedule, however, is not entirely responsible for her and Douglas's success, according to Metzler.

"In my sport, the minute you walk onto the floor, the judges look at your face and decide if you're a winner," she said. "You need to present yourself like you have self confidence and nothing can get in your way."

And the girls must show plenty of confidence, because they were

selected for the national team over the champions of the higher levels at nationals. Acrobats are selected from levels eight and above for international competition. Metzler and Douglas compete in level eight and were selected, while no champions of levels nine and 10 were selected for the national team, according to Metzler's father Hugh Metzler.

"Just to get selected to the team is quite an accomplishment," he said.

Before competing in Scotland, Metzler and Douglas will train in London. Metzler said she enjoys traveling and is looking forward to seeing friends she has made internationally, as well as making new friends.

"I am looking forward to basically just enjoying the whole experience and everyone there," she said. ■

Sports Briefs

The Ballistic United U-15s continued their recent unbeaten run in league play this weekend with a thoroughly convincing 4-2 win over the East Diablo Lightning Saturday at the Sports Park. In what has become almost a tradition for this team, they fell behind early when the East Diablo right-winger beat his marker and cut in towards goal before firing an unstoppable shot into the far corner of the Ballistic goal.

True to form, Ballistic shrugged off the early set-back and equalized when Toby Harvey the Ballistic left-winger cut in from the flank and fired home past the keeper in similar fashion to the opening goal. A nicely-worked free-kick released Seth Niermeyer inside the box and he eagerly snapped up the chance to put Ballistic ahead. Spurred on, no doubt, by their coach's halftime talk, East Diablo came out fired up in the second half and drew level when defensive uncertainty by the Ballistic back-four allowed an East Diablo forward to sneak in behind them and hook the ball home off a defender. They were not level for long however as Toby Harvey restored Ballistics lead from the penalty spot minutes later after an East Diablo defender was adjudged to have handled the ball deliberately inside the penalty area. Ballistic maintained their composure in the face of some aggressive play by their opponents and put the game beyond reach when Jason Chow headed on a throw-in to Seth Niermeyer, who blasted home his second goal of the game to make the final score 4-2 in favor of Ballistic.

Rage tie San Ramon Illusion

The Rage U13AC Division 2 team came out strong in the third game of the season last Saturday, powered by offensive efforts in the second half. The game ended in a 0-0 tie against San Ramon Illusion at Athans Down. Many shots were made on goal, but kept out by the goal post. Offense of Melissa Muller, Molly Grozier, Keli Wheatley and Anjali Rai kept up the attack. Defense was led by Dani Leedeman, Paige Hughes, Lauren Fan and Evan Murphy.

A great game was played by the Pleasanton RAGE U11 Grey to result in a 2-2 tie against the Mustang Stampede last Saturday at Osage Park in Danville. Sophia Martinez and Sabrina D'Ambrosia (with an assist from Bailey Sanchez) tied the game at 2-2.

Awesome goalie play was made by Christy Jensen and Cara Ingram. Top Offensive Players: Sophia Martinez, Sabrina D'Ambrosia, Christy

Jensen. Top Defensive Players: Kayla Bowers, Hannah Schwartz, Hailey Bouchard

Raiders tame the Broncos

The Raiders started week three of the Pleasanton Junior Football League season kicking off to the Broncos. After picking up six yards, Raider defensive end Kane Millerstrom was called for off sides, giving the Broncos 1st and 10. The Broncos go to the air with LB Harrison Mayo nearly picking the pass. With redemption on his mind Millerstrom bolted into the Broncos backfield shooting between QB & RB, stealing the handoff and taking it untouched 39 yards for the Raiders first defensive TD of the season and the game.

On the Broncos next series they returned to their air attack only to have the ball picked by LB Trevor Berryman who returns it 20 yards to the Bronco 39 yard line. Seven plays later, RB Drew Imhof runs it for six more and LB Hayden Goldstein punched it in for the two-point PAT, 14-0.

The Broncos marched into the second quarter with a four-yard pass reception in the end zone picking up their first TD of the game, bringing the score to 20-6. The Raider offense controlled most of the second quarter sustaining a 6:56 drive only to give the ball to the Broncos on a fumble. The Raiders received the second half kick and march 69 yards for their fourth TD of the game, 26-6 was the score. The Broncos caught a break on a Raider fumble to return it for a second touchdown, but it wouldn't be enough to stop the Raiders, who won 26-14.

U15 prevail against Marin

The Pleasanton Rage U15 Premier played a determined Marin side Saturday, but after falling behind midway through the first half, came back to prevail 2-1 in nail-biting fashion. Rage's sluggish start caused them to trail at the break and in need of a spark, which came in the 62nd minute when Erika Emmanuel knotted the score courtesy of an error by the Marin keeper. From that point on, Rage applied relentless pressure but could not break the deadlock until very late in the game as Florife Nichols slotted home a perfect cross from Kiki Simmons. Darlene Dang and Gabe Stange keyed the late Rage attack, while the stout defense of Rachel Charkowicz, Brett Scheckla, Kiley Zietler, Sabrina Unglaub, and Jill Anderson limited Marin to only two shots. Rage goal keepers Ani Nahapetian and Phoebe Brown played well in stifling the opposition's attack by gobbling up several through balls that their forwards attempted to run onto. ■