

Pleasanton Weekly

The Weekly's makeover: Editor Jeb Bing explains how and why we've changed the design of the paper **PAGE 3**

A helping hand: City Council considers loaning up to \$1.2 million to school district **PAGE 5**

INSIDE

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TRULY SPECIAL

Developmentally disabled
have their day on the court

PAGE 10

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Woman hijacks highway patrol car

“ A woman hijacked a California Highway Patrol car in Sunol at 3:40 this afternoon, leading sheriff’s deputies on a high speed chase on northbound Interstate 680... ”

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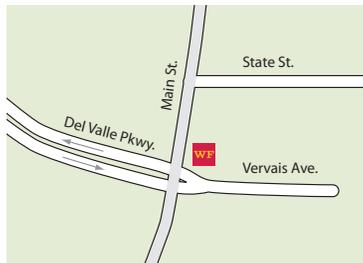


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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

The Weekly:
Newly designed,
easier to read

Ever find yourself looking at a co-worker who just shaved off his moustache or a female colleague who's sporting a new hairstyle, but you just can't quite pinpoint why they look different? That might be what some of you are thinking about the new look of today's Pleasanton Weekly, where we've made a number of subtle, or in the case of our new nameplate, not-so-subtle changes. Even newspapers, like individuals, occasionally get a facelift, and this is ours. Gone is the stark block nameplate with Pleasanton in green positioned atop Weekly in big black letters. And there's a reason. Art Director Rick Nobles, who was asked to update the design of this newspaper when he joined our staff last year, likes to think out loud about how headlines, section designations and nameplates sound when readers talk about them. While the block-style nameplate Pleasanton Weekly looked good in print and on local billboards, say at the back of the bandstand at the Friday Concerts in the Park, which we sponsor, it's different when spoken. People call us the Pleasanton Weekly, with no particular emphasis on either word. But to Nobles, the green-colored "Pleasanton" accented that word unlike the way it's usually said. Some newspapers with long-standing nameplates, such as the News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.) or Sun-Times (Chicago) don't use their city's name. That wouldn't work for the Weekly, of course, so Nobles' new nameplate is more horizontal in the same InDesign software program, with our signature green flowing under the name to the right. Even that is a Nobles unique design. A 12-year resident of Pleasanton, he's looked at and walked the Pleasanton Ridge as most of us, always awed by our city's eye-popping western skyline.

So that ridgeline has now become part of our nameplate, again adding to our hometown image. Nobles, who has many years of design, newspaper production and editing experience dating back to the 1980s and pre-computer design work at a small Nebraska daily, honed his skills as a designer and editor at the San Jose Mercury News for 15 years and then seven more at the San Francisco Chronicle. He's paid attention to changes in typography, fonts, section identities (or flags, as he calls them) more than most. Words such as point sizes, Berkeley Old Style, sans serif, Helvetica, Gothic and other popular typefaces are as much part of his vocabulary as Main Street, police log and Streetwise are for editors. You'll notice a number of Nobles' subtle changes as you read through this edition. This column, for instance, uses Berkeley Oldstyle with a drop cap tag for the first paragraph. The column also runs ragged right, which besides separating it from the justified flush right for editorials and most other copy, also tends to reduce the number of hyphens that have to be used to move part of a word to the next line. Nobles also has created new column, editorial and other special feature heads, again using InDesign guidelines. Speaking of the Editorial, we're now using a larger type face to set it off from conventional news stories, which are generally in 9-point type. Calendar listings have also been boosted which may be helpful for those with maturing eyes. You'll also find the newly designed Pleasanton Weekly a bit more organized, with stories, columns, listings, sports and features more clearly identified. We'll try to make photos larger where space permits and do a better job of playing them off accompanying stories with, as Nobles calls it, "a rhythm of perspective." That's harder in a magazine format such as ours, but we're also easier to handle and read than broadsheets, which is the style of most dailies. Typeface aficionados will find news headlines in more readable ITC Legacy Sans Ultra, with cover stories and Living section titles specially designed by Nobles and his staff with InDesign. This desktop publishing software has enabled Nobles (and publication designers throughout the industry) to move more quickly and creatively from his days at the Nebraska daily where pencils, pica rulers and page drafting forms were the tools of the trade. ■



About the Cover

Kerri Klass of Team RADD of Alameda County held the torch to open last month's Special Olympics competition at Amador Valley High School. The event, also at Pleasanton Middle School, brought in hundreds of volunteers from the local community, as well as 65 competitors from all over Northern California. Photo by Jay Flachsbarth.

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Judy Braaten

I recently read "The Thirteenth Tale" by Diane Setterfield. It's very literate and the style of the writing is wonderful. It's got a perfect combination of mystery and romance and the ending keeps you guessing. In fact, we're still talking about the ending in my book club two months later because everybody has a different perspective on why it ended the way it did.

Michelle Kozlowski

"The Snowball" by Warren Buffet is very interesting if you're starting up your own business or even if you've been in business for many years. You can pick up some financial tidbits (especially if you follow the stock market), and it's very entertaining since it lends some insight into both his professional and personal life.



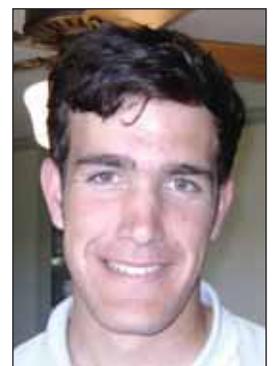
John Bessiere

I know this sounds funny, but I like "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney. Lately, I spend more time reading to my 8-year old twin boys than I do reading books for myself. I enjoy reading it to my kids because they laugh at every page and it retains their interest. I also find that they read it over and over which improves their reading skills.



Stephen Boals

"The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini. It's about a boy who betrays his friends but comes back to find them many years later to ask for their forgiveness. I liked the plot because the ending was written so that the reader was left guessing since there were many ways it could've ended.



Mathieu Albrand

I liked "The Transall Saga" by Gary Paulson because it was different from any other book that I've read. It's about a boy who goes backpacking and a mysterious beam transports him to a different time and area where he has to adapt to this new lifestyle that he's not used to.



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—Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

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

DIGEST

Pleasanton Middle receives honors

Pleasanton Middle School was one of 136 middle schools, and the only in Pleasanton, named a 2009 California Distinguished School. Schools were required to describe two "signature" practices, of which PMS focused closing the achievement gap with small group lesson studies and SDAIE (Specially Designed Academic Instruction for Everyone) that is applied to science and history instruction.

Celebrating healthy kids

The Tri-Valley YMCA hosts Healthy Kids Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Val Vista Park, 4451 Payne Road. This free event includes games, crafts, food and entertainment for kids, as well as materials for parents. Area health experts and members of the police and fire departments will be in attendance. For information, visit trivalleyymcaeastbay.org or call 475-6107.

Parenting classes available in May

Amador Valley Adult and Community Education has a new round of parent classes available in May. Classes include financial planning for children with special needs, parenting an aging parent, improving couples' communication, and helping young children succeed with the 40 Assets. Registration is recommended. To learn more, call 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted.

Eat ice cream, help junior firefighters

From 5 to 10 p.m. April 29, local Baskin-Robbins ice cream stores will celebrate the third annual 31 Cent Scoop Night. The location at 4001 Santa Rita Road, Ste. 2 will be participating, as well as one on Regional Street in Dublin and one on First Street in Livermore. As a part of the event, Baskin-Robbins will also donate \$100,000 to the National Volunteer Fire Council's National Junior Firefighter program, which educates youth about the vital work of emergency service crews and prepares future firefighters.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

3 new tenants sign leases at Rose Pavilion

By JANET PELLETIER

The owner of the Rose Pavilion shopping center on Santa Rita Road and Rosewood Drive announced this week that three new tenants—two grocery stores and a popular takeout restaurant—have signed leases.

99 Ranch Market, a specialty Asian food store and the country's largest Asian supermarket chain, will occupy approximately 45,000 square feet in the center where Levitz Furniture used to be, and is expected to open in spring 2010, according to Carol Merriman, who is the senior vice president of marketing for Centro.

When it opens, it will be the third Asian grocery store in the Tri-Valley to open in three years' time—a result of growing diversity here. A 99 Ranch Market opened at 7333 Regional St. in Dublin in 2007 and that same year, Le Asia

Grocery stores slated for opening next year, takeout restaurant to open in coming months

Supermarket opened in San Ramon.

Another grocery chain, which has gone through the city approval process, is Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market, a British-based operation which specializes in healthy, easy-to-prepare meals. They will occupy a 15,000-square-foot space where Express Fitness is now located in the shopping center and has plans to open in summer 2010. Express Fitness will be expanding and relocating into a 19,000-square-foot space formerly occupied by Consignment Plus in the same center, with a projected opening this November.

Golfsmith, a nationally known golf and tennis retailer, opened its new 28,500 square foot Pleasanton superstore in the shopping plaza in August. Golfsmith and Fresh & Easy will be just 50 yards apart and will share parking spaces.

The Rose Pavilion will also welcome a popular takeout restaurant. Panda Express has signed a lease for 2,200 square feet in the center and is expected to open later this spring or by summer.

Not to be outshined by the Rose Pavilion, the Stoneridge mall has its own share of positive business news.

Simon Property Group, Inc. has announced the addition of three new retailers: Michael Kors, Teavana and AT&T, all scheduled to open this year.

See ROSE PAVILION on Page 9



PHOTOS BY EMILY WEST

About 2,000 people registered to attend the Pleasanton TEA party demonstration Wednesday. Participants held decorated signs, large American flags and some even donned colonial garb to show their protest for new taxes.

Hundreds gather for 'TEA Party'

Protesters against increasing taxes fill Amador Valley Community Park

By EMILY WEST

As people rushed to put their tax filings in the mail by Wednesday's deadline at the post office on Black Avenue, hundreds of people were protesting increased taxes across the street at one of several Bay Area "TEA parties."

The group, Taxed Enough Already, is a nationwide movement channeling the original tea party of 1773 when Americans dumped tea to protest Britain's tea tax. Bridget Melson, a Pleasanton resident who operates a psychiatry practice in the city.

"(Originally) I expected about 60 to 100 people, but over 2,000 have registered," she said at the protest, which she described as bipartisan. "The public needs to understand how fed up we are. We all know we need to pay taxes. We all wanted common people to have a voice."

Melson said the feedback from her involvement was "99 percent positive," but that they also alerted police of some threats to interrupt the protest. There were several police officers patrolling the park, as well as nearby neighborhoods.

Participants held signs, many adorned with tea bags, and several lined the sidewalks of Santa Rita Road, encouraging drivers to honk in support.

A small stage was home to several speakers, including Melson, KSFO DJ Brian Sussman, local business owner



Tea bags were a popular accessory of choice for protesters. Several school-aged children were in attendance as schools were off for spring break.

Judy Lloyd and San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson.

Also speaking was Lance Buckley, who got the crowd cheering when he spoke of bringing common sense back to government and wanting elected officials to read the bills and laws they pass.

"We are the people, the first branch of government," he said. "Government, you work for us."

See TEA PARTY on Page 8

Council to consider \$1.2 million schools loan

Mayor said one-time loan would not hurt city services

By EMILY WEST

At their next scheduled meeting Tuesday, the City Council may loan up to \$1.2 million to the Pleasanton Unified School District.

District spokeswoman Myla Grasso said it was the result of people asking how the city could help the district in tough financial times, facing an \$8.7-million cut in state funding over the current and upcoming school year.

She also said it was to help compensate for the lack of developer fees from new construction that helps the district pay off a debt service.

The school district recently put an initiative on the June 2 ballot, now called Measure G, that would bring in just over \$4.5 million to the school district. The funds collected from the parcel tax, however, would not be able to pay off the debt service. Instead, the ballot language states that only the following would be funded by a \$233 per parcel tax: class size reduction, reading and math support programs, libraries, music, counselors, technology instruction, music, and maintaining safe and clean schools.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said the loan would not negatively affect city services and offerings.

"It's one-time monies that the council identified and can be made available without dipping into city coffers," she said.

The money would be available for four years and would be need to be paid back in 10 years with 3.25 percent interest. Hosterman said there are funds available in the city's investment portfolio that were

See LOAN on Page 9

TAKE US ALONG



The Weekly? How romantic: Lindy and Jim Silk celebrated their honeymoon with the Weekly in the Canary Islands. The pair were married March 15, 2008. Here they are with Mt. Teide in the background, which is on the island of Tenerife, the highest point in Spain at an altitude of 12,000 feet.



Thumbs up from Germany: Alyssa Woods and two of her friends took the Weekly along to Heidelberg, Germany studying abroad. The girls all go to Pepperdine University in Malibu and were abroad for eight months.

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eFair will focus on climate prosperity

Eco-friendly businesses, groups urged to participate

BY EMILY WEST

Climate prosperity is the theme of the upcoming environmental fair April 25 put on by district schools. The idea is to encourage children and families to learn how they can be more "green" in everyday life.

Held from noon to 5 p.m. at Amador Valley High School, the fair will include an opening address from UN Advisor, CEO and Climate Prosperity Project Director Marc Weiss. There will be a fashion show featuring clothes made with recyclable materials at 1 and 4 p.m. There will also be activities for children, a "green" art show, live music from San Francisco band General Jones and several educational booths from students and professionals.

A screening of "Fuel," winner and recipient of 11 standing ovations at the Sundance Film Festival, will be at 12:30 in the school's multipurpose room. The film is 120 minutes long and is a documentary about America's oil use and the need for new energy solutions.

Bill Radulovich, principal at Wal-

nut Grove Elementary School, said each district school will be participating and he hopes more local business engaging in "green commerce" can as well.

"We need a network of businesses not to market, but to help educate the public about how to be socially responsible, as well as talking to kids about their career paths," he said.

In the past, environmental causes had carried hefty price tags, but Radulovich's work has helped save the schools money. In May 2007, he started the eCoach program, where each district school would have a "go green" guide teaching students and staff to save energy. In comparing energy costs from the previous year, he said the school saved \$9,400 in energy costs in the first month. Now the schools are hoping to use the saved money to save some of the jobs that are being threatened by budget cuts.

Businesses and groups interested in participating can contact Radulovich at 766-4529 or bradulovich@pleasanton.k12.ca.us. ■

Breast cancer walk approaching

Bras for the Cause set for Mother's Day weekend

The fourth annual Bras for the Cause breast cancer walk is quickly approaching. Tri-Valley SOCKS will host the fundraiser at 7 p.m. May 9, Mother's Day weekend.

The 10-kilometer moonlight walk will be held in downtown. Participants are encouraged to not only don their athletic shoes, but also decorate a bra and wear one outside their clothing. Men will be included.

Proceeds will benefit Axis Com-

munity Health, which has offices and clinics in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore; and the San Francisco affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Last year, the walk generated more than \$100,000.

To register as a walker or for more information, visit www.trivalleysocks.org or email walk@trivalleysocks.org.

—Janet Pelletier

Pleasanton farmers' market implementing green measures

Pilot program by market operator aims to eliminate usage of plastics

By JANET PELLETIER

With Earth Day just days away (April 22), the Pleasanton Farmers' Market will soon roll out a new initiative to eliminate the usage of plastic.

Held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. year-round, the Farmer's Market is always well attended by residents looking to buy local produce and purchase meals. It's run by Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association, a nonprofit that also operates the Livermore Farmers' Market and more than 60 total markets in the Bay Area.

Recently, PCFMA received a grant from Stop Waste, a nonprofit agency operated by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board.

"We got a grant from Stop Waste in eight of our Alameda County markets to implement recycling and composting and part of that is going to be trying to reduce the number of plastic bags," said Sarah Nelson, who is the special projects coordinator for PCFMA.

By the end of next month, consumers will notice the campaign.

"All of the farmers' markets are

focusing on our hot food vendors and getting them to switch over to paper and cardboard that can be composted, that will break down just like food in a composter and try to educate consumers to bring their own bags to the market and bring their own containers, coffee cups, forks and knives, whatever they want to bring so they don't have to take that plastic away from the market," Nelson said.

Nelson said this summer, representatives from the farmers' market association will be present at the Pleasanton market, which is located at Main and West Angela streets downtown, to educate residents about the initiative and composting. The cost is estimated at \$5,000 for the effort, including one-time and ongoing costs, but Nelson said the goal is for it to eventually pay for itself and then some.

"Ongoing, we're hoping that it will be a reduction in cost for vendors who won't have to buy plastic bags because people will reuse their bags," she said.

Single-use bags, made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) material, can take an estimated 400 to 1,000 years to break down, and their

constituent chemicals remain in the environment long after. It's estimated that less than 1 percent of plastic bags are recycled, and many enter local waterways, endangering animals that ingest the plastic debris.

The push for eliminating plastic bags has already had an effect on other local farmers' markets, such as Berkeley's, which will stop distributing the bags this month. Monterey's farmers' market has phased out plastic bags and the San Francisco Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market is working to phase them out as well. The city of San Francisco became the first major U.S. city to ban plastic grocery bags in 2007.

"Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association has really led the way in looking at this material. They're doing some pretty innovative things," said Roberta Miller, who is a program manager for Stop Waste. "I really applaud their effort."

Stop Waste receives money from local garbage companies, who pay a percentage to the agency based on how many tons of garbage they drop at landfills, Miller said. That money is then given back to cities and municipalities in the county and in the form of grants. ■



RICK NOBLES

A pilot program by the Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association, which operates the Pleasanton market, will begin late next month to eliminate use of plastics.

Farm tour planned for May 17

The Pleasanton Farmers' Market will host a farm tour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 17.

Guests will visit Victorine Valley Farms, a new local olive oil producer, and Terra Bella, a family farm on Foothill Road growing vegetables on the grounds of an old Hearst family hunting lodge. Farmers' market chefs will prepare lunch at Terra Bella, using produce from

the farm.

Those interested should meet at the farmers' market at 8:45 a.m. that day; the bus leaves at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids, and lunch is included. To purchase tickets, visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/62270. For more information, email sarah-nelson@freshapproach.org or call 825-9090. ■

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Dr. Sharma graduated from Medical College, Calcutta, India. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at Charles Drew University in Los Angeles, where she also completed an internship in Otolaryngology. After completing her residency, Dr. Sharma worked at Kaiser Permanente and served rural communities in the Central Valley before joining ValleyCare Health System. Born in Nepal and raised in India, Dr. Sharma is fluent in English, Hindi, Nepali, Bengali, Punjabi, Bhojpuri and Spanish.

Dr. Sharma joins Dr. Yatin Shah in the ValleyCare Medical Foundation — Pediatric practice at 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 110 in Pleasanton. **For an appointment, please call (925) 416-6767.**



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Cities, Realtor group win award for housing center

Five Tri-Valley cities and the Bay East Association of Realtors have been selected as one of five public-private partnerships nationwide to receive the Ambassadors for Cities award from the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The award honors the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and the town of Danville and the Realtor organization for their work establishing and promoting the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center (TVHOC).

"We're delighted that our work with the Tri-Valley cities in establishing the TVHOC is being recognized at the national level," said Pat Huffman, who is president of Bay East. "The TVHOC is a crucial resource for families considering home ownership or looking for affordable rental units."

The housing center, located at 20 South L St. in Livermore, was created as a nonprofit homebuyer education center to provide regional homeownership and rental information in the Tri-Valley region. Working with the Bay East Association, the center provides homebuyer education programs, income and asset development education and workshops on lending and funding sources. Realtors serve as trainers for orientations and workshops and help to develop unique sales solutions for prospective low and moderate income homebuyers.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors

and NAR launched the Ambassadors for Cities program in 2003 to encourage cities and local Realtor organizations to form partnerships to promote and expand affordable housing opportunities in their communities. The goal of the program is to highlight such partnerships that can be emulated in other communities.

The five 2009 award winners will each host public events during the year to highlight the success of their partnership and provide an opportunity to further discuss and encourage affordable housing. The winners each receive a plaque and \$5,000 to help promote their event or initiative.

The center has the following meetings scheduled, which are open to the public.

Housing orientation: 6 to 8 p.m. May 6 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza and 6 to 8 p.m. May 12 at the City of Dublin Regional Room, 100 Civic Plaza; homebuyer class: Part II from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.; early delinquency and pre-foreclosure workshop from 6 to 8:30 p.m. May 13 at the Pleasanton Tennis Complex, 5801 Valley Ave.

Those interested can register for classes online at www.tvhoc.org and mail class fee to the center to confirm registration. The cost is \$65 for individuals, \$75 for couples and can be adjusted for low-income individuals.

—Janet Pelletier

Zone 7 Water director resigns

By JANET PELLETIER

Zone 7 Water Agency Director Dale Myers announced last Friday that he is resigning. His last day was Monday.

Myers, who was elected director last July, cited time constraints as the reason for his abrupt departure from the board of directors. He has not responded to requests for comment.

Before becoming director, Myers was general manager of the agency, which wholesales treated drinking water to Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, from 1997-2007. In that role, he was principally responsible for guiding Zone 7's acquisition of groundwater drought storage

facilities in the Central Valley; purchasing state water entitlements, which nearly doubled long-term water supplies for Zone 7's customers; and initiating the early participation for the agency in Bay Delta Conservation Plan negotiations, a plan focused on addressing ecosystem issues in the Bay Area and Sacramento Delta regions while also increasing the reliability of future water supplies.

The vacant seat will be filled through an appointment that will be made by the board of directors, according to Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer. Just over three years are left on Myers' term. ■

TEA PARTY

Continued from Page 5

Glenn MacDonald, a Danville resident who came with wife Merrily, is a tax consultant. Even though Wednesday was the busiest day of the year for him, he said it was important that he attend his first-ever protest.

"My clients are being killed with taxes," he said. "They only go up."

Pleasanton resident Alan Wiese was in attendance to be heard.

"It seems taxation is punishing those working hard and achieving,

and rewarding those who don't," he said. "It seems backwards."

"Passing laws to tax individuals, it's a slippery slope," he added. "It's like they penalize anyone who doesn't believe their ideology."

A booth with petitions against Pleasanton school parcel tax Measure G and other area initiatives was set up at the event, with dozens of people waiting in line to sign. When asked if he was supporting Measure G, Wiese said no and that he wouldn't support it even if the economy were better. ■

Meeting on future of Shadow Cliffs planned

East Bay Regional Park District to host meeting May 4 to gather public input

By JANET PELLETIER

The East Bay Regional Park District is in the process of making a new land use plan for Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area and wants the public's input.

The park district will hold a community scoping meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 4 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

The plan, which will amend a previous one, will set a long-term vision for the facilities and management at the popular park located on Stanley Boulevard. Shadow Cliffs, comprising 266 acres, includes an 86-acre lake with a beach for swimming, boat launch, fishing piers, picnic areas and a four-flume waterslide park.

The future of the park is a topic has been discussed at length over the years and has made for some contentious battles. A developer of the waterslides, Glenn Kierstead, had at one time proposed to ex-

Meeting schedule

6:30-7: Informal open house

7-7:30: EBRPD staff presentation

7:30-8:30: Question and answer session

pand it into a multi-million-dollar California Splash waterpark. Kierstead, who has owned the waterslides since 1980, won approval for the expansion in 2004, but only after a number of public meetings and to the chagrin of many residents who were concerned about increase traffic and noise.

At the time, the project was backed by the East Bay Regional Park District, which saw the waterpark as a revenue generator. But after many delays, the project never came to fruition. Steel frames are all that can be seen of the new construction by drivers passing by on Stanley and in

2007, Kierstead said he was abandoning the plans due to an illness and the lack of ability to raise money to cover costs, which were exponentially increasing.

In November, park district board member Ayn Wieskamp, whose district covers Pleasanton, said park district staff had been discussing what to do with the structures—tear them down or complete them—and that a decision will come after holding a series of public forums so residents can give their input.

Wieskamp said some repair work was completed last year on the slides. The Rapids Waterslides will open for the spring and summer season on weekends beginning May 23. It will be open every day beginning June 13 through Labor Day weekend.

Those who aren't able to attend the meeting can submit their input to the park district by email to park planner Anne Rivoire, arivoire@ebparks.org. or by calling 510-544-2351. ■

LOAN

Continued from Page 5

left over from a previous project.

"The whole idea is that while we have to maintain our own fiscal responsibility, we also recognize that the school district is a very integral part of our community. In our continued relationship with one another, the city will aid the district in any way it can," Hosterman said.

While the discussion comes before the June 2 special election, Hosterman said she didn't think it would impact the vote.

"[The loan] is not a tremendous amount," she said. "If we were in the position to loan them \$10 million, then it would have an impact on Measure G."

Also on the agenda is a discussion about an agreement with San Jose Arena Management to potentially operate an outdoor holiday ice rink in downtown Pleasanton. A prior deal fell through last fall when the city was asked to join the firm in covering all risks, which could have cost them as much as \$200,000. This would be in addition to the electrical hookups, water and free space for the rink that the city had already agreed to donate.

Both items are scheduled to be discussed at the April 21 council meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. and meets in the council chambers, located at 200 Old Bernal Ave. ■

ROSE PAVILION

Continued from Page 5

Luxury women's boutique Michael Kors Michael Kors, slated to open this summer, will be located on the upper level near the main elevator.

Beverage retailer Teavana, selling tea and tea accessories, will be located on the lower level near the grand court and is expected to open this month.

AT&T will open a retail store on the lower level near JC Penney late next month. ■

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TRULY SPECIAL

Developmentally disabled have their day on the court

By JEB BING

There's a reason they call it the Special Olympics. Everyone and everything about the program are special, from the hundreds of children and adults with developmental disabilities who participate to the even more hundreds of coaches, referees and volunteers who make it happen to the dedicated staff that manages the Special Olympics of Northern California that serve Pleasanton and surrounding communities.

Late last month, 500 Special Olympics athletes competed in a two-day regional basketball competition at Pleasanton Middle School and Amador Valley High School. Under the direction of Laura Cohen, sports manager of the region's Special Olympics program, the organization fielded 47 teams with 65 "individual skills" participants from Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Solano, Fresno, Siskiyou and San Joaquin counties. The Amador Valley Boosters Club brought more than 200 volunteers from their school, alone, and there were more from throughout the Tri-Valley who helped individual participants play the game as part of a regional end-of-season tournament.

"On one court, you would think it was your typical high school basketball squad, while on another, the players worked hard at dribbling the ball down the court and trying to make a basket," Cohen said. "No matter what their disability, the coaches and referees look at what their abilities are and we work very hard to let them use those skills."

Tomorrow, from noon to 8 p.m., local law enforcement officers will trade in their handcuffs and badges for serving aprons and gourmet burgers at the Red Robin restaurant at 4503 Rosewood Drive near Wal-Mart for a Tip-A-Cop fundraiser for the Special Olympics. The effort is part of an annual Law Enforcement Torch Run

involving 85,000 law enforcement officers worldwide to help the organization, with the local campaign aimed at raising more than \$60,000 for the regional group, Cohen said.

Started in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics is now a global program of year-round sports training and athletic competition for more than 1 million children and adults with developmental disabilities. These range from mental handicaps to autism to Down syndrome to adults who have suffered brain injuries or damaging diseases.

The goal is to give all persons with these disabilities a chance to become useful and productive, and accepted and respected in their communities, Cohen said. This is done through year-round sports training and competition that lets athletes develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy and participation with family and other athletes.

Cohen said basketball is one of the favorite sports, with many Olympics participants also fans of teams they follow on television sports broadcasts. It's also relatively simple to teach at the start, such as dribbling, and allows individual players to develop their skills gradually into actual competitive play with other similar teams.

"We have about 25 basketball sites where we hold practice during the week, all the way from Brentwood to Union City," Cohen said. "It's a sport where you can focus and get involved."

This month, with the basketball season ending, Olympics participants are turning to outdoor sports such as track, swimming and softball. Softball is more difficult for some of the players because it's more complicated, requiring throwing, batting and running skills that many can't master. Swimming is popular, but it also requires more skilled volunteer swimming instructors and supervisors because of the risks of the sport.

Although the regional program is open to all with developmental disabilities, there are limitations. Children must be 8 years old to compete in Special Olympics programs, although 5-year-olds can enroll for training. Practice sessions are held at least once a week and participants must find their own transportation to the sites, which vary depending on the sport. This year, the organization secured 25 basketball courts for use during the 10-week-long season. Some participants live in group homes that offer transportation; others take public transportation; some are able to drive to practices on their own.

Ken Mano of the Amador Valley High Athletic Boosters and a Special Olympics coordinator, said his club hosted 47 basketball teams and 60 additional athletes who competed in the "skills" competition last month.

"The original intent of getting involved with Special Olympics was to provide a way for our student athletes to give back to the community," Mano said.

"This is our sixth consecutive year hosting these games and it is through the cooperation of Amador Valley High School and the school district that the Boosters were able to provide the facilities and volunteers to host these tournaments," he added. "The basketball tournaments used over 200 volunteers in various capacities from volunteer check-in to serving lunch, scorekeeping, refereeing and helping with a skills competition and handing out awards."

In addition to Amador Valley athletes, AV Leadership, AVID, Foothill High School Honors Society, the National Charity League, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also provide additional volunteers.

Mano said the Amador Valley Boosters will host track meets and volleyball tournaments for Special Olympics participants on Saturday,

May 30 at Amador Valley High School.

Cohen said that although the Special Olympics calls its participants developmentally disabled, it's really the individual's "ability" that matters.

"There's not a big focus on what the individual disabilities are," Cohen explained. "It's more about what their abilities are and what they can do in the program. When you look at abilities, there are a lot more than what people might think."

"We have a very special coaching community," she added. "We're all volunteers. We come out and look at our athletes for what they can do."

Cohen, 25, took the job of managing the Special Olympics for the Northern California organization when she graduated from Chicago State University in 2006 with degrees in women's studies and child development. A lifelong athlete, she also contributed her time to organizations that helped those with disabilities.

"It's pretty amazing when you go out there and see a community like Pleasanton interacting like it does," she said. "These kids go back to school the next day and talk it up and their work becomes even more important. They gain a new perspective on the people around them, including those with disabilities. They realize that we're not all 3.5 grade point jocks."

"It's important to recognize who is in your community, that everyone has something to offer," she added. "They might look totally different from what you're used to seeing, but they are still members of your community and it's important to acknowledge that."

Cohen urged everyone to participate in the Special Olympics event when it comes back to Pleasanton.

"It's a lot of fun and I guarantee you'll walk away with a smile on your face," she said. ■





PHOTOS BY JAY FLACHSBARTH



Above: A Union City player drives for a lay-up in one of many basketball games held last month.

Far left: A well-guarded Libby Mumper of the Tri-Valley Youth team readies for a two-point shot.

Center: Just a portion of the many athletes and coaches await game time during the opening ceremonies at Amador Valley High School's gym.

Near left: In the end, it's all about sportsmanship as opposing teams high five each other after a game.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

Suspected burglar Tasered, arrested

Pleasanton police arrested a 59-year-old man for allegedly burglarizing a home after a resident reported seeing a suspicious person in a backyard April 10, according to the Pleasanton Police Department.

Around 9 p.m., the resident called police when he

saw a suspicious man in the 2300 block of Meadowlark Circle. Percel Costello of Oakland ran away when officers confronted him, prompting a pursuit and one officer to deploy a Taser, police said.

Costello was not injured, but he was taken into custody without further incident, police said. He had property from the home on him at the time, police said.

Police are commending the resident for reporting suspicious activity.

—Bay City News

POLICE REPORT

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

April 4

Theft:

- 8:25 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; petty theft
- 9:17 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway; stolen vehicle
- 1:32 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; embezzlement
- 6:08 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft

Vehicular burglary:

- 5:23 a.m. in the 3500 block of Arbor Court
- 8:24 a.m. in the 700 block of St. Michael Circle
- 3:07 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

April 5

Petty theft:

- 5:29 a.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism:

- 1:24 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations:

- 1:05 a.m. in the 6400 block of Owens Drive; DUI
- 1:02 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; marijuana possession

Burglary:

- 5:48 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; public drunkenness
- 9:14 p.m. in the 100 block of Neal Street; public drunkenness

Battery:

- 1:24 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- 1:32 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

April 6

Theft:

- 1:08 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 5:06 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 7:10 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; stolen vehicle

Vandalism:

- 7:11 a.m. in the 3100 block of Paseo Robles

Burglary:

- 11:09 a.m. in the 3200 block of Runnymede Court
- 8:33 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; vehicular

DUI:

- 4:31 p.m. in the 200 block of Rose Avenue

Robbery:

- 9:43 p.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

April 7

Vandalism:

- 9:02 a.m. in the 600 block of Main

Street

Burglary:

- 7:21 a.m. in the 400 block of Adams Way

Drug/alcohol violations:

- 7:54 p.m. at the intersection of Pimlico Drive and Santa Rita Road; paraphernalia possession, controlled substance possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- 10:58 p.m. at the intersection of Pleasanton and Bernal avenues; public drunkenness

April 8

Theft:

- 4:37 a.m. in the 8200 block of Regency Drive; petty theft
- 7:56 p.m. in the 7400 block of Highland Oaks Drive; petty theft
- 8:52 a.m. in the 1300 block of Montrose Place; identity theft
- 8:03 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; forgery

Vandalism:

- 1:01 p.m. in the 3800 block of Pimlico Drive

April 9

Identity theft:

- 12:47 a.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway

Burglary:

- 12:50 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- 5:19 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
- 7:03 p.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 10:16 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Public drunkenness:

- 2:53 a.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and West Las Positas Boulevard

April 10

Theft:

- 7:50 a.m. in the 3700 block of Smallwood Court; petty theft
- 1:05 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; grand theft
- 6:46 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft

Vandalism:

- 8:09 a.m. in the 5200 block of Franklin Drive
- 8:46 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Burglary:

- 8:20 a.m. in the 5100 block of Johnson Drive
- 8:46 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- 5:02 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:59 p.m. in the 2300 block of Meadowlark Drive; lock picking

Drug violations:

- 8:21 p.m. in the 3100 block of Lansdown Court; under the influence of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consideration of an agreement with Pleasanton Unified School District for a Revolving Line of Credit in an amount not to exceed \$1.2 million
- **Public Hearing:** PUD-77, Dutra Trust – Consideration of an application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan approval to subdivide a ten acre site located at 1053 Happy Valley Road into five single family residential lots and one open space parcel, and consider a negative declaration for the project
- **Public Hearing:** PAP 134, Chris Studzinski (PCUP-237, Rimma Radayeva) – Consideration of an appeal of a Planning Commission decision modifying a previously approved Conditional Use Permit for Radayeva Music Studio located at 1228 Quarry Lane, Suite A, to increase the number of instrument and vocal instructors from one to five at any one time and to extend the hours of operation from 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Consideration of a license agreement with San Jose Arena Management to operate an outdoor holiday ice rink in Downtown Pleasanton
- Consideration of the Wayfinding Sign Program to direct visitors to Downtown Pleasanton

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Monday, April 20, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Old Vineyard Avenue Trail and Machado Place – Modify 300 feet of Old Vineyard Avenue Trail from pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trail to public street
- Pedestrian Crossing Flags – pilot program to install pedestrian crossing flags at 10 intersections in Pleasanton
- Bicycle Detection at Traffic Signals – Review of bicycle detection technologies and methods to improve bicycle detection at traffic signals

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view workshop information for the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee meeting on Monday, April 20th.

**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

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OBITUARIES

Daniel Hendrick Cardoza

Born at home on Rose Avenue in the shadow of his beloved foothills of Pleasanton on Jan. 22, 1918, Dan Cardoza completed his journey March 31. He was 91 years old.

Waiting for him was his beloved wife of 46 years, Dixie, who preceded him in death in 1995. Mr. Cardoza was No. 5 of 11 children born to the late Mary and Manual Cardoza. Throughout his life, he said goodbye to his siblings: Polly, Manuel, Emma, Mary, Joey, Johnny, Dorothy and Belmeda.



The path that Mr. Cardoza traveled was paved by the love of his family, friends and his position as a heavy equipment operator for the Alameda County Road Department. He was known for his quick wit, the twinkle in his eye and finding a joke at every turn. He is best described a man who was not only funny, but knew how to have fun. His legacy lives on in the eyes of his son, Dan, Jr. (Sharon) and their children, Tony (Stephanie), Stephen (Rachelle) and Mariah; and son, David (Teri) and his children Jennifer, Nick and Leslie (Joey). Great-grandchildren, Zoe, Christopher and Trenten will know his legacy through the stories that will continue to be shared by family and friends.

His youth was spent working on his parent's ranch until October 1941 when he joined the Army. He was honorably discharged in December 1945. Mr. Cardoza had fond memories of serving his country and his tour of duty with "The Captain." After discharge from the Army, he was employed by the Alameda County Road Department as a grader operator. He was responsible for keeping the rural roads of Alameda in a premier state for the local ranchers and farmers. He became a one-person public relations department by making friends with the people he came in contact with.

He enjoyed spending time in the hills above Livermore working on the ranch of his late brother-in-law, Russ Devaney. His love for the outdoors was apparent by his preference for being outside keeping an immaculate yard, camping, hunting and cruising in his "Old Blue." He and his wife belonged to the Livermore Rodeo Association where they assisted in organizing the annual Livermore Rodeo.

Services were held April 6 at St. Michael's Church in Livermore. He was to be buried at the Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 8178, Pueblo, C.O., 81008 or to your favorite charity.

Margaret Cherolis

Margaret L. Smith Cherolis died recently at the age of 88.

Mrs. Cherolis was the loving wife of the late James A. Cherolis, beloved mother of James A. Jr. (Joan), Patricia A. Durbin, Carol M. (Terry) Shannon, William A. (Sue), George T. (Lita), Joseph M. (Patty), Nicholas E. (Lynne), Charles R. (Terry), John C. (Dottie) and the late Paul G. Cherolis. She was also the dear grandmother of 31; great-grandmother of 25; great-great-grandmother of one; sister of Libby Ahern and the late Pauline Yeiser, Lou McDaniel; Bill, Tom, Richard and Bobby Gene Smith.

A service was held April 3 at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Entombment followed at Arlington Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Yai Yai and Papyui Scholarship Fund, c/o George Cherolis, 150 Quintana Road, Los Lunas, N.M. 87031, www.nmrh.com.

Carol Kaufman Briggs

After a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease, Carol Kaufman Briggs died March 24 at the age of 78.

She was born April 18, 1930 in Pittsburgh, Pa. She graduated as part of the Class of 1952 from Mt. Holyoke College with honors where she majored in chemistry. Her prior achievements also included teaching biology and chemistry at Oak Grove School, Vassalboro, Maine; laboratory assistant, National Heart Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, M.D.; and research assistant at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she worked part time for 20 years.

She was a past active member of the American Association of University Women, Mulberry Branch of Children's Hospital, Castlewood Country Club (Castlettes) and she loved the Spinning Wheel Antique Club. Before moving to Lafayette, she was a resident of Pleasanton for 42 years.

Her parents were Albert R. Kaufman, M.D. and Ardis M. Kaufman, M.D. Her sister, Ardis C. Reid and brother, Albert Samuel Kaufman, both predeceased her.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, John Allen Briggs; three children, Samuel Kaufman Briggs (Carol Diane), John Ransburgh Briggs (Irene T.) and Anne Carol Stern (Roland); and five grandchildren, Kristen, Casey, Katie, John T. and Gabriel. In addition, she will be missed by her loving sister-in-law, Margaret F. Kaufman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Internment will be private, but a memorial service to honor her will be held at 2 p.m. April 24 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550

Diablo Rd., Danville, followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 1060 La Avenida St., Mountain View, CA 94043, or St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville, CA 94536.

George Anthony Gregoire

George Gregoire died April 8 at the age of 85.

Mr. Gregoire was born Nov. 2, 1923. He was a World War II hero and veteran, horseman, musician and devoted family man.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 37 years, Margaret; two loving daughters, Loretta (Robert) Russell and Leslie (John) Villanueva; five grandchildren and one great-grandson. He is also survived by three sisters, Yvonne, Barbara, and Geri; and many nieces and nephews.

A service was held April 15 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. Burial was planned for April 16 at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, Calif.

Alfred Robinson

Alfred Robinson died March 25, surrounded by family, at Carol's Guest Home of congestive heart failure. He was 87.

Mr. Robinson was born Aug. 27, 1921 in Pittsburgh, Pa. and was raised in Toronto, Canada. His mother was from England and his father was from Ireland. They immigrated to the United States after his father's discharge from the British Army following World War I. His father was a carpenter and moved his family, which also included Mr. Robinson's older sister Annie to Canada during the Great Depression when Mr. Robinson was 7 years old.



At the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Robinson joined the Canadian Air Force, and after earning his wings, he trained recruits to become light plane pilots. At the end of the war, he entered the University of Toronto and four years later, graduated with a degree in civil engineering. He worked both in Canada and the U.S. as a structural engineer and in 1959, he joined Standard Oil, where he worked until his retirement. In June of 1959, he married his wife of 49 years, Joyce, in San Francisco.

Mr. Robinson was a devoted husband, proud father and grandfather. He was an avid bird watcher, loved wildlife and the great outdoors and could always be talked into a hike or camping trip. He joined Gideons International in 1976 and was active in school and jail distributions for 30 years. Both he and his wife enjoyed traveling and during his retirement, took eight cruises, covering Alaska, Canada, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Far East.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce; daughters, Gillian and Jacqueline;

son-in-law, Phil Aufricht; and grandchildren, Julia and Jack Aufricht.

A memorial service is planned for 3 p.m. April 26 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gideons International, P.O. Box 11803, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Manuel M. Alcalde

Manuel Montes Alcalde died of natural causes April 7 in Folsom, Calif. He was 87 years old.

Born Sept. 24, 1921 in San Leandro, he and his family lived in San Lorenzo for 18 years and then lived in Pleasanton until shortly before his passing. He worked as a machinist in Los Alamos, N.M. during World War II, served in the Army, and retired after 40 years of service as a radiation lab machinist from the University of California's Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore Laboratories.

He had a curious mind, enjoyed tinkering in his garage, fixing things, and working on various projects, especially his meticulously and lovingly restored 1923 Model T Ford. He was a paragon of patience, and all who knew him will dearly miss his good-natured disposition.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary; daughters, Janet Alcalde of Murphys, Calif. and Jackie Alcalde Marr of Folsom, Calif.; brother, Joseph of San Leandro; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A service was held April 13 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Diaz Dance, 655 Broadmoor Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Olga Mary Toschi

Olga Mary Toschi died April 11

at the age of 82.

Mrs. Toschi was born Feb. 24, 1927 and was a Pleasanton resident. She touched many with her kind and loving heart. She was challenged with many illnesses throughout her life, yet her warm smile and gentle spirit inspired both young and old.

She grew up in the Temescal district of Oakland and attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and Holy Names High School. She married the love of her life, Armando Toschi, in June of 1948 and spent the last 20 years in Pleasanton, near Paula Clovis and her family, who provided her with daily support and love. She was blessed with two compassionate caretakers, Lidia and Connie.

Her Italian heritage was important and she was a member of the Italian Catholic Federation. She loved meeting with the Fridays Angels group from St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. Some of her special things were her angel collection, her rose garden and buying birthday cards for family and friends.

She is survived by three loving daughters, sons-in-laws and eight wonderful grandchildren: Rosemary, Bill, Rocky and Nicole Fox; Genevieve, Joe, Jarod, Joanna, Nicholas and Amanda Holtz; Paula, David, D.J. and Katrina Clovis. She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law, John and Carla Spalasso; and several nieces and nephews.

A service was held April 16 at St. Elizabeth Seton. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the charity of your choice.



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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Pleasanton intensifies its recycling efforts

Before 1969, a single garbage truck traveled the streets of Pleasanton, picking up neighborhood refuse and depositing it in a large pit off Vineyard Avenue, just south of where Western Garden Nursery is now located. Then, Pleasanton Garbage Service took over with a long-term contract with the city, taking garbage to acceptable landfills and later building its state-of-the-art recycling center on Busch Road where crews manually sort through everyone's garbage to pull out recyclables and other materials too toxic to go to landfills, such as old thermometers, fluorescent tubes, empty pool acid containers and more. Those are now banned entirely from garbage cans, but otherwise recyclable materials are still being placed in residential 96-gallon containers for the PGS crews to sort into special containers at the recycling center before letting the rest of the waste go to the landfill.

Although innovative at the time, Pleasanton's belt-sorting operation is lagging behind. The city's diversionary rate of refuse kept out of landfills measures 56 percent, a once commendable figure that is now dwarfed by what other cities in Alameda County are achieving and well behind the 75 percent rate soon to be mandated by Assembly Bill 939, passed in the early 1990s with gradual step-increases that Pleasanton no longer meets. In fact, a report by the Integrated Waste Management Board for 2006, the board's most recent report, shows that Pleasanton and Dublin are dead last among Alameda County cities in diverting waste from landfills, each with a 56 percent rate. Emeryville scored a 74 percent rate, Albany with 70 percent, and most other cities, including Livermore, well into the 60 percent categories.

Now Pleasanton is joining these other Alameda County cities—and really, most cities and counties our size throughout the country—in asking residents to pitch in at home to keep unnecessary waste out of landfills and even out of kitchen sink disposers. In addition to the all-purpose refuse cart most residents now have, they'll also be provided with a second 96-gallon cart for recyclables only. These will be used for materials clearly capable of being recycled, including cardboard, aluminum foil, aluminum, steel and tin cans, glass jars and bottles of all colors, and plastic bottles with the numbers 1 to 7 printed on the bottom, including most water bottles. Only the contents of these cans will go to the PGS recycling belt where workers will sort out the recyclable materials into specific bins to go to regional recycling contractors.

Residents can keep the large all-purpose refuse can which will be dumped directly into the landfill, or do a better job of cutting their landfill waste by using a smaller 35-gallon cart. They'll also save money. Opting for the smaller cart will cost only \$1.09 a month more from current rates, which otherwise are being raised from \$28.04 to \$34.57 a month for those sticking with the 96-gallon all-purpose container. These will be used for all refuse that is not recyclable, such as broken glass and plastics that don't meet recyclable standards. Residents will keep the 64-gallon carts they now use for grass clippings and other yard debris, and are encouraged to place all food scraps—egg shells, coffee grounds, chicken bones and used pizza carton—in with the grass to be taken to composting centers.

Recycling at home should be easy. Children have been doing it at school where special waste containers marked for bottles, cans, and even disposable food trays at the end of cafeteria lines are part of students' ongoing concerns for a better environment. Now these children and their families can take an active role in this effort that will benefit everyone. ■

LETTERS

Teachers, managers have stepped up

Dear Editor,

April 3, the Pleasanton Weekly reported the concessions made by the Association of Pleasanton Teachers regarding professional development days for the 2009-2010 year. I thank the teachers for showing their dedication to students once again. By accepting a reduction in pay, they have taken constructive action to help close the budget gap that the state government has created.

At the PUSD board meeting April 7, it was announced that PUSD management employees have stepped up as well. Their concessions will yield a total of \$250,000 in savings. In this way, the management employees have shown an equal level of dedication to the continued high quality of education provided in Pleasanton schools. I thank the PUSD management for their dedication as well.

Both teachers and management employees are working to shelter our students from the brunt of the state's budget cuts to education. Soon it will be the voters' turn to protect our students, by voting in favor of Measure G on June 2. I urge my neighbors to follow the example that PUSD employees have set. Please vote for Measure G.

Sandy Piderit

Recycling plan isn't going to work

Dear Editor,

I will not take the time to sort through my garbage. Nor will I tolerate another can. If you have the ability to send this message to whoever came up with such an idiotic idea, please forward on. A lot of residents will not comply, therefore putting Pleasanton lower for recycle plans.

Yolanda Gann

Axis thanks community for Holiday Fund support

Dear Editor,

On behalf of our patients and clients we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Pleasanton Weekly, the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and individuals and families of the Tri-Valley community for your support of our work.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund giving campaign has been a longtime supporter of nonprofits in the Tri-Valley. Despite feeling the effects of the declining economy we are touched by the generosity

of our community. Our resources are stretched beyond capacity, so this contribution makes a great difference in our ability to meet the health care needs of our community.

We are grateful for your generosity and appreciative of your efforts in helping us continue to provide "safety net" services to our community. You are the Spirit of the Season in action.

Carol Bedomme
CEO, Axis Community Health

Senior Support thanks Weekly, Holiday Fund

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Senior Program of the Tri Valley, the Board of Directors, staff and especially the seniors we serve, I would like to extend my most heartfelt thank you for the outstanding success of The Weekly's Holiday Fund. We are so honored to be a recipient of this charitable campaign.

The Weekly is a true leader for all businesses in our community. You make an enormous difference in the lives of those needing the services of our organizations.

We also would like to thank all of those that worked on the Holiday Fund to make it possible. We extend gratitude to all of your staff, the writers, the photographers and all of the others that put forth a lot of effort in order to make the Holiday Fund a success. We love to work with The Weekly, and we are always pleased with your professionalism and admire how you continue to keep the Tri Valley aware of problems and solutions for those who are in need.

Thank you again for the charitable donation. The Senior Support Program will use the money wisely for the betterment of our program in this remarkable community. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Marlene Petersen
Executive Director, Senior Support Program Of the Tri Valley

Downtown "Belongs to Everyone"?

Dear Editor,

"In the grand scheme of things, downtown really belongs to everyone," begins R.W. Byrd's big ad in the Pleasanton Weekly March 27, propagandizing for public-private partnership (fascist) seizure of value in our businesses, properties and homes with a "retail-only" rule—social engineering.

Markets (and revenue) prosper most with least regulation, whether

See **LETTERS** on Page 15

Code of ethics

The Pleasanton Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.PleasantonWeekly.com

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 14

Congress forced lending of our bank deposits to people unable to repay, or lengthy, expensive business permits. Milton Friedman told me 20 years ago that starting a new business took one day in Hong Kong, one week in the USA and one year in India. Pleasanton has degenerated. It now requires a year of hassle.

As a family doctor and resident on St. Mary Street for 49 years, I feel about Byrd's retail-only taking with police power, like East Europeans feel about increasing USA collectivism: "a road to hell"—a hell they know only too well.

Spreading the wealth is not fooling the markets. Half of everyone's savings disappeared as government recently printed twice the money to redistribute. Private property is greater for all where least "ruled". Customer choices, not political dictates, grow wealth.

Howard Long

Disappointed in mayor's performance

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to voice my disappointment in Mayor Hosterman's job performance as our mayor of Pleasanton. I feel overall, she is doing an inadequate job of ensuring that our community is continuing to grow and improve in the necessary ways.

The main flaws I see in Mayor Hosterman's plans are the application of the taxpayers' money to trivial pursuits such as building parks and other leisure sites.

At a time when teachers are losing their jobs and schools are having their funding reduced in phenomenal increments, another patch of grass and set of swings will do us no good. Education should be the priority in a compromised economy. When we pay our taxes, we pay them in exchange for the rights, privileges and benefits. One of these privileges is a community that is always improving and enhancing our quality of life. Granted, this does include parks, community centers, etc., but only when we have the funding for such amenities.

At a time with limited funding, money would be better put to improving community staples such as Foothill Road. Hundreds of cars drive on that road daily, on the deteriorated, narrow two-lane road. There is certainly room to expand and allow for two more lanes and renovation of the existing road, and yet Ms. Hosterman feels that money would be better spent building a new golf course.

I am a freshman at Foothill High School and I find that my commute daily is uncomfortable, inconvenient and unpredictable due to the state of Foothill Road.

Reet Randhawa

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

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Parent photographers

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



Pleasanton Monsoon boys lacrosse win sudden death

The U13 B1 Boys Lacrosse team won in overtime in a sudden match against Livermore Phantom March 28 by a score of 5-4. Phantom scored four in a row before Monsoon really started coming together as a team. Monsoon had good individual plays with Imhof winning a hard-earned faceoff, great defense moves by Sereda and Johnson, save after save by goalie Watkins, fast-dodging footwork and smart teammate blocking by Brawley, a wicked check-from-behind by Zatorski, and interceptions by Beston and Burnap. Steiner began a trend of always being in the right place at the right time, and assisted Klahr to the first Monsoon goal right before the half for a score of 1-4 Phantom.



Hurricanes remain undefeated

The Pleasanton Hurricanes under-13 boys A lacrosse team moved to 12-0 on the Northern California Junior Lacrosse Association season, after beating a pair of teams by a combined 29-5 last weekend. Thus far this season, the Hurricanes have outscored their opponents 136-20 in the 12 games. The weekend started off with a 15-5 win over the South Valley Chiefs in San Jose and on Sunday, the Hurricanes made the trip up to Napa and pounded the Napa Force by a 14-0 final.



STAN MONTALBO II

Amador cheer team finishes with sixth place

Amador Valley Cheer's journey to the Nationals competition was fought with challenges March 28-29. Although the team had a winning Regionals season, being plagued with injuries in January and February hampered their skilled team from practicing enough to have a flawless performance as second nature by Nationals only weeks later. Varsity Novice did make it to finals only to be awarded sixth place, which is something to be proud of despite injuries on the team. Team members include: Ashley Patula, Danielle Butler, Michelle MacNamara, Sarah Mahoney and Shelbie Chubb placed second in their division out of 49 teams. The Advanced Stunt team of Alexa Pullen, Alyssa Browning (injured), Casey Caspersen, Lauren Bayly, Lauren Bricker (injured), Lisa McFarland and Morgan Cater placed first in their division out of 22 teams.



Safe at first

At a recent T-ball game of the Mets versus the Cubs, the Mets' Austin Nicolas is called safe at first.

SPORTS DIGEST

Thunder pound Firehawks 8-1

The Pleasanton Lacrosse U15A Thunder won their game before the Easter break against the Burlingame Firehawks with a convincing score of 12-4, pushing their record to 8-1. Outstanding defense was led by George Curtis, Colin Dal Porto, Trent Morgan and Ryan Almeida controlled the Firehawks offense. The team also got excellent middle plays from Zack Wilhite, Brandon Becker, Elijah Caluya, Conner Francesca, Cale Rubinson, Daniel Arthur, Tommy Yozzo, Mike Barbier and Josh Yu. Attackmen Josh Allen and Jeff Snyder played hard and kept the offense moving.

Woo finishes 1st on bars

Alicia Woo from West Coast Olympic Gymnastics competed at the Level 7 State Championships last weekend in Stockton. She had a great season taking first place AA in every invitational meet she competed. Her results were: third place on the vault with a score of 9.450; first place on the bars with a score of 9.550; fourth place on the beam with a score of 9.525; a score of 8.87 on the floor.

PGSL and Community Appreciation Day

Amador Valley's Softball Program will host its first PGSL and Community Appreciation Day Tuesday, April 21. The program will hold its home game against Foothill at the Pleasanton Sports Park; JV will play at 5 p.m. and Varsity will play at 7:30 p.m.

This is a way for the Amador softball players and coaching staff to say thank you to all the hard work of the many volunteers in Pleasanton.

Dons swimming teams beat Granada

It was closer than expected, See **SPORTS DIGEST** on Page 17

SPORTS DIGEST

Continued from Page 16

but in the end, the result was as expected—Amador Valley varsity girls swimming and diving team came in as heavy favorites in their meet with Granada High School. The match was tied 86-86 going into the final event, the 400 free relay. The winner of the event would take the meet. The Matadors took an early lead, but Catherine Breed, swimming the second leg after Casey Coughlin, pulled away, and Danielle Stickler and Casey Wong expanded the lead to secure a 96-90 win for the Dons.

Amador came into the meet down two points from the diving competition held previously. Alex Hernandez finished second for Amador in that event. The meet was tied 16-16 after the 200 free in which Wong and Marie Schmidt went 1-2, but Granada swept the IM and gained two points in the 50 free, despite Breed's first-place finish, to take 45-33 lead.

The men's Amador Valley swimming and diving team got off to a slow start, but dominated the short freestyle events to win their meet with Granada 102-82.

Despite Tyler Pullen's first place finish in the diving event, held earlier, the Dons trailed 9-6 com-

ing into the meet and even with Jake Bahls winning the 200 free and Andrew Seitz taking the 200 IM, the Dons trailed 32-28 going into the 50 free.

In an extremely tight race, Amador went 1-2-3 with Kyle Surber edging out Scott Arellano by .04 and Jason Cunningham, only .50 out of first, in third. The raced vaulted the Dons into first 41-35. They expanded their lead to 51-41 when Seitz took the fly with Edward Zhang finishing third and essentially put the meet away with a 1-2-3 finish in the 100 free. Arellano got to the wall first this time with Cunningham second and Eric Gates third. ■

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AMERICAN

Bridges
44 Church St., Danville, 820-7200.
Executive Chef Kevin Gin interprets California-American cuisine with European and Asian influences with expansive lunch and dinner menus. Add dessert, wine and cocktails and you have Bridges' casual fine dining experience. Visit www.bridgesdanville.com for event and private party details.

Eddie Papa's American Hangout
4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal under \$20", Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World Hospitality,

and hand crafted artisan cocktails. www.eddiepapas.com

Vic's All Star Kitchen
201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a starry mix of American food, fast service and a cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience. Vic's is open daily 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Evening banquets and daytime catering are available.

with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill
3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill
4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax

CHINESE

Chinese Szechuan
3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials and carry-out. A banquet room is available.

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Full Slab of Ribs & Whole Chicken	\$32.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Slab	\$36.99

Sides
Small Side Salad
French Fries
Roasted Corn Salad
Potato Salad
Creamy Cole Slaw
Santa Maria Style Beans
Chicken Tortilla Soup
Mashed Potatoes

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ON THE TOWN



Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com.

CONTINENTAL

Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

MEDITERRANEAN

Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kabobs, rice and vegetarian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit www.OasisGrille.com.

ITALIAN

Amarone Ristorante

680 Main St, Downtown Pleasanton, 270-0500. Cucina Italiana! Freshly prepared authentic Italian specials on a full-course menu that changes often! A special Vegetarian and Vegan menu also. Owner Matteo Pasotto is from Verona and he wanted to name his restaurant after the famous Amarone wines from the Valpolicella region. Amarone is a very peculiar wine, not

easy to produce. The final result is a very ripe, big-bodied wine with very little acid. Come and experience unique dining at Amarone Ristorante. Buon Appetito!
www.amaronepleasanton.com

La Vite Ristorante

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. La Vite Ristorante was rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic and voted the best Italian restaurant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. We're located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

JAPANESE

Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in

Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

PIZZA

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

288 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-2520. Gay Nineties is family-oriented with an extensive menu, including our renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. We also have wine, beer, patio dining and games for kids. Come for groups, take out and call-ahead lunch orders. We're open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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

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www.amaronepleasanton.com



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