

Pleasanton Weekly

Buying and Selling
Special Real Estate pullout section
showcasing the local real estate market



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Pleasanton Realtor heads statewide association

Building on this week's special Buying & Selling section that focuses on real estate, I'll take this opportunity to salute one of our town's prominent Realtors who is rapidly gaining statewide and national prominence. Don Faught of Alain Pinel Realtors is president-elect of the California Association of Realtors and will become president of this prestigious organization next month.



Don Faught

Locally, he's vice president and managing broker of the Pleasanton and Livermore offices for Alain Pinel, a firm currently ranked No. 5 nationally by Real Trends magazine. With more than 23 years of experience and, in fact, a second generation Realtor, Faught manages a group of sales associates equipped with the best in training and technology skills who keep the agency among the top in regional sales.

Faught holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, is a certified real estate Residential Specialist and is a graduate of the Real Estate Institute Designations, a nationally recognized educational institute. He was president of the Bay East Association of Realtors in 2000 and has held numerous key positions in local, state and national organizations ever since. With all of these commitments, it's a wonder he has time to sell real estate, yet he's a top agent in that category, too.

Faught is on the road frequently, representing, lobbying and speaking for CAR in Sacramento and joining with representatives of the National Association of Realtors in Washington, D.C., where they stay on top of legislation affecting homeowners and the real estate market. On a trip last month, he was part of a delegation working to keep in check the Obama administration's move to curb mortgage interest tax deductions starting with those holding \$1 million-plus loans. Faught says Obama wants to reduce that to \$500,000 and eliminate deductions for second homes. He thinks the administration might press in a second term for the deduction to be eliminated entirely, which Faught warns would have a negative effect on the real estate market across the country, not to mention the increased tax li-

abilities for homeowners.

Known throughout the Tri-Valley, Faught is a frequent speaker at professional and civic meetings. And when Faught speaks, other Realtors listen. They take notes and even tape record his comments, including his recent talk about the changing work environment in real estate to a large audience at the Valley Real Estate Network meeting at Tommy Ts. With new regulations, a still-tight mortgage money market and banked-owned (REO) and short sales now accounting for 40% of all home sales, Faught told the group that the good old days of handshake deals and quick transactions by home buyers and sellers are over.

Because the real estate market is becoming increasingly complicated, Faught says Realtors are the best "go-to" people that home buyers and sellers should deal with. Not only do Realtors have the professional experience and ongoing and regularly updated training to steer transactions through the multitude of hurdles now in place, they're also the ones who can help those who might be in danger of losing their homes.

At last week's meeting of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, Faught said that although REOs are on the decline in the first four months of 2012, short sales are increasing. That's better news for those under water on their mortgages who can't qualify for loan modifications. With a short sale, the troubled homeowner may be able to re-purchase within two years. Foreclosure sellers typically must wait close to seven years before they can re-enter the market, he said. More troubling are the insensitivities in the mortgage field where he has found many cases of banks in the process of foreclosure at the same time sellers are negotiating with the same lenders for a short sale. Faught also cautioned about scams that promise loan modifications and offers to rent homes they do not own. He suggested two helpful websites: www.keeppyourhomeocalifornia.org and www.makinghomeaffordable.gov.

Faught said home sales hit bottom four years ago and are now moving up. Today's improved market here in the Tri-Valley is buoyed by younger buyers with the median age at 35 years. Buyers are also better educated every year, with his statistics showing 47% are college graduates with another 12% having post graduate work. With historically low interest rates still available, Faught insists that this is a great time to buy. With that positive message and as the new president of the California Association of Realtors, even more Realtors will listen when Don Faught speaks. ■

About the Cover

A task force is recommending that rules governing entertainment in downtown Pleasanton be eased to encourage more sizzle and later night hours along the Main Street corridor. Design by Lili Cao.

The San Ramon and Danville Express websites are seeking talented, experienced freelance reporters to cover meetings and events in the San Ramon Valley.

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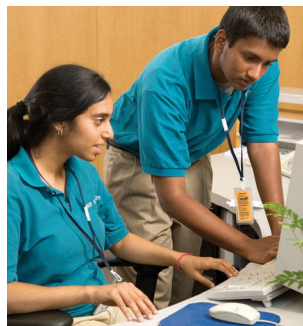
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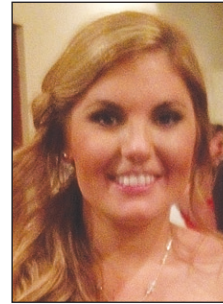
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Streetwise

ASKED AT THE WEDDING OF ARICKA REDIGER AND GARRETT THOMSEN

What were you most looking forward to today?



Aricka Thomsen
Bride

I was most excited to see Garrett waiting for me as I walked down the aisle. I was also looking forward to seeing how everything came together after months of wedding planning, and I've really enjoyed spending time with all of my family and friends.

Garrett Thomsen
Groom

I have been so looking forward to marrying my best friend. The wedding has been a lot of fun, and now I'm excited to build a life together, and to continually deepen our love and friendship over the years.



John Rediger
Father of the bride

I have been looking forward to welcoming Garrett into our family, and to enjoying every moment with my daughter. It's also been wonderful to spend time with a lot of relatives that I haven't seen for a while.

Alyse Little
Cousin of the bride

I was excited to see my cousin get married, and to spend time with my family. I'm a freshman at Colorado State University, so it's been nice to vacation in California together while we celebrate Aricka and Garrett's marriage.



Kristen Dube
Friend of the groom

I was excited for them to learn what it is like to be married, and to know they have a lifetime together to discover new things about their partner. I've been married for a year and a half, and I love being with someone that I can share everything with and that truly makes me happy.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

City Council, School Board to meet in joint session

Pleasanton City Council members will meet with their counterparts on the school board in a special meeting set for 7 p.m. Monday at the council chamber at 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Discussions will include the future need for a school in the Hacienda Business Park after the City Council on Monday night approved a multi-million-dollar housing project there. BRE will build 18 three- and four-story buildings on two sites with more than 500 rental units ranging from studio apartments to three-bedroom units.

Also likely to be on the agenda is the district's ongoing budget problems stemming from state cuts.

Send in mom-daughter photos

The deadline is approaching to send in photos for the Pleasanton Weekly's annual Mother-Daughter Lookalike contest. Digital photos must be emailed to contest@pleasantonweekly.com by 6 a.m., Thursday, April 26. They can be black and white or color, and need to be in JPG format, at least 300 dpi. Include the names of the mothers and daughters.

The Weekly staff will choose the finalists, and readers will vote online for their choices from April 27-May 3 at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. First-place prize is a \$100 gift certificate for Whole Foods; second-place prize is a \$50 gift certificate to Strizzi's restaurant.

Photos of the winners will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly on May 11.

Family Earth Day Celebration

The city's second annual Family Earth Day Celebration begins at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the library with environmentally friendly information and activities.

A "Green Street Mock City" bike rodeo will be hosted by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition and Cycles for Change, and middle and high school students will create bio-degradable Earth Day sidewalk chalk art. Bay Area "Kindie" rocker Andy Z will wrap up the day with a concert for all ages at 3 p.m. in the library.

On Sunday an environmental program for children ages 5 and up entitled "Beasts in Our Backyards" will take place at 2 p.m. in the library.

Council approves BRE housing project for Hacienda

5-0 vote for non-union project comes as 100 union leaders, members crowd council chamber

By JEB BING

Facing a packed meeting room of more than 100 construction union leaders and their members, the Pleasanton City Council on Tuesday night nevertheless voted 5-0 to approve a multi-million-dollar housing project in Hacienda Business Park to be built by BRE, a national affordable housing developer that uses non-union labor.

Union members applauded speakers who urged the council to insist that BRE agree to use union members, although they also endorsed the project and recognized the council's inability from a legal standpoint to add that provision in the final approved measure.

Both council members and union leaders said that efforts to come to an agreement with BRE over mixing the workforce complex with union and non-union labor had failed.

The vote came after two hours of discussion and ended more than a year of public hearings, workshops and task force considerations on the

mammoth housing project that will help meet the city's court-ordered requirement to provide more affordable, workforce housing here.

BRE will build a total of 18 three- and four-story buildings on two separate sites in Hacienda that will have just over 500 rental units ranging in size from studio apartments to three-bedroom units, although most will be two bedroom apartments. Of the 500 apartments, roughly 15% will be reserved as subsidized units for low income households, in accordance with the court-approved settlement agreement.

BRE representatives told city officials that the company has financing available to start construction after permits have been issued, with groundbreaking to take place later this year.

In terms of the council's consideration of the BRE project, there was little that was new in Tuesday night's final public hearing. Details of the project had been discussed at scores of public meetings involving hundreds of people. In

addition to the months of meetings by a council-appointed Hacienda Task Force, the project also went through environmental reviews and hearings before the city's Parks and Recreation, Housing and Planning commissions.

BRE agreed to keep the apartment densities at 30 to the acre, not much higher than in other Pleasanton apartment and condo complexes, and far under the high density housing seen across I-580 in Dublin. Even so, with their somewhat stark, four-story architecture, the new buildings may not have "that Pleasanton look," as some critics suggested.

The two building sites include a mixed-use, high density residential and commercial development containing 251 residential units, four live/work units and approximately 5,700 square feet of retail space at the southeast corner of Owens Drive and Willow Road.

The second, similar project will have 247 resi-

See **COUNCIL** on Page 11



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Youngsters at Monday night's Parks and Recreation Commission meeting hold signs reading, "Save the waterslides for me." Horatio Wolffe, 9, front, addressed the commission, saying, "The waterslides provide good clean active fun in the local community."

Parks commissioners agree: Keep waterslides open

City setting up liaison meeting with Park District

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimous Monday night in requesting a liaison meeting with East Bay Regional Park District to convey its strong interest in keeping open the waterslides at Shadow Cliffs park. Members asked that the talks be held soon so perhaps the facility can be renovated and reopened in 2013.

"We already lost this summer. We don't want to lose next summer, too," Commissioner Kurt Kummer said.

Each commissioner noted what a boon the waterslides have been to Pleasanton and to their own families as a place for outdoor fun, away from televisions, computers and cell phones.

"You can't text on a waterslide," Commissioner Herb Ritter noted.

They agreed that every avenue of funding and partnerships should be explored before the amenity is abandoned.

The commission heard an update on plans for Shadow Cliffs from Jim O'Connor, assistant general manager of the Park District, which includes Shadow Cliffs, after residents expressed concern at a proposal to close the slides permanently.

Although the slides are not part of the long-range Land Use Plan passed by the Park District last May, they were expected to remain open for another 10 years or so.

The Park District's operations committee decided at its March 15 meeting to close the slides this summer after inspections showed a need for repairs but declined to close them permanently although that was the recommendation of administrators. Instead committee members directed staff to begin the process to find an operator who might renovate or rebuild the facility as well as run and maintain it.

O'Connor said estimates to renovate the waterslides are \$6.3 million although it may

See **WATERSLIDES** on Page 11

Central Valley's Mar-Val Stores takes over Gene's Fine Foods

New owner says Pleasanton market is 'perfect fit' for Central Valley chain's expansion

Mar-Val Food Stores in the Central Valley assumed ownership of Gene's Fine Foods in Pleasanton on Monday in a transaction the new owner promised would be "seamless" with few changes in products and store employees.

Mark Kidd, president of Mar-Val, which has its corporate office in Lodi, said the six-store supermarket chain has been negotiating with the owners of Saratoga-based Gene's for several months and wrapped up the sales agreement last week.

Kidd said his company also obtained the right to continue using the Gene's name in Pleasanton.

The ownership change comes just a few months before Walmart is expected to open one of its Neighborhood Markets in the former, long vacant Nob Hill supermarket site on Santa Rita Road.

The supermarket Gene's occupies, which has 23,000 square feet of floor space, is located at 2803 Hopyard Road at the intersection of Valley Avenue, and was built in 1971 with Gene's taking over the business in 1990. Don Smejdir, the long-time manager of Gene's, has chosen to retire as the new owners take over.

"We tried to keep Don, but he and his wife decided this was a good time to step back and retire," Kidd said. "But a high percentage of Don's employees have agreed to stay on board and become part of our new team."

Mar-Val stores are non-union, although the meat departments in the stores are unionized, as are the meat section employees at Gene's.

Mar-Val, named after Kidd's father and his brother who started the business in 1952, has supermarkets in Escalon, Georgetown, Groveland, Clements, Prather and Valley Springs in the Central Valley. Two are slightly larger than Gene's, but all are smaller than the typically larger, multi-product supermarkets.

"We like to stay on the small size and stay within our communities, give good service and

See **MAR-VAL** on Page 11

Downtown Sizzle

Entertainment task force wants later hours, more attractions for revelers

BY JEB BING

An 11-member task force is recommending that rules governing entertainment in Pleasanton's downtown be eased to encourage more sizzle and later night hours along the city's Main Street corridor.

Just how much sizzle and how late should alcoholic beverages be served is what's being debated by the Downtown Hospitality Guidelines Task Force. No one wants to return to the honky-tonk days of the 1960s and '70s when bars filled the downtown along with numerous Saturday night street fights. But no one wants to see the sidewalks rolled up at 10 p.m., which downtown critics say is happening now.

The task force was created by the Pleas-

anton City Council last October at the request of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, which long has been grappling with concerns that there's too little nightlife here and that rules allowing music, dancing and late night alcoholic beverages are too strict.

Its goal is to develop more lenient, uniform rules for downtown businesses that serve food, alcohol or simply want to feature live entertainment and music during business hours in their retail locations.

At a committee meeting of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce last week, Laura Olson, the mother of two toddlers and the executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, said she'd like to see more piano bars downtown where she and her husband could spend a quiet night out without the kids. At the same meeting, former Councilwoman Sharrell Michelotti recalled the more lively days of

dancing on the tables, although she never said she was one of the dancers. Both agreed that what the entertainment committee is proposing are nighttime activities that will be less exotic than table dancing but more lively than a piano bar.

All at the Chamber meeting agreed that Pleasanton's downtown needs to be livelier, especially after 10 p.m. when most bars and restaurants quit serving alcohol unless they have conditional use permits issued by the city government. Those can be costly and require considerable time in gaining approval, including public hearings before the city Planning Commission and even the City Council if they're controversial. It took Mari Kennard six months before she was able to open Redcoats on St. John Street and she was still restricted to fewer late night hours than Barone's a block away.

In fact, Barone's, Redcoats, Main Street Brewery and Hap's are among the few that have permits to have live music and serve alcohol into the late night hours on Fridays and Saturdays. For those that don't, most close at 10 p.m., including many restaurants.

PDA President Mike Hosterman said he picked up his wife Jennifer (the mayor) from the airport a few nights ago and they passed through downtown looking for a late-night sandwich. They had to continue on to the TGIF restaurant farther north on Santa Rita Road to find a meal.

That's what the Downtown Entertainment task force wants to change. By allowing any business in the downtown corridor to serve alcohol and have live music or a DJ at least until 11 p.m. with no special conditional use permit required, Olson believes more restaurants would stay open later and attract more late night customers to downtown Pleasanton.

Live or electric amplified music is a concern of some whose homes are on downtown side streets or along the east side of First Street. Although they've learned to handle the crowds, neighborhood parking and the loud noise during the summertime's Friday night Concerts in the Park, they don't want more. A restaurant in the old railroad station building at Neal and First streets closed several years ago when it was ordered to move its patio DJ and dances inside, even on hot summer nights.

The same neighbors successfully blocked the city's consideration of an outdoor skating rink during the winter months at First and Angela streets because of concerns over noise and parking in their neighborhood.



PLEASANTON DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Tommy Kennard, managing partner of Redcoats, serves drinks on a busy night in downtown Pleasanton. Bottom left: Maureen Montgomery (from left), Nicolette Felker and Andrea Heggelund enjoy a bit of revelry in downtown Pleasanton.



COURTESY OF ANDREA HEGGELUND

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Noise levels at 60 dBA (decibels) have been allowed in the downtown area without special use permits. But to accommodate louder late night live and amplified dance music, the task force is suggesting raising those levels to 78 dBAs between 8 a.m. and 10 or 11 p.m. in the Main Street Core zone, and to 70 dBAs from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Transition zone. Non-amplified music would be permitted at all hours until 11 p.m. anywhere in the core downtown area.

Nor are all the objections to changes in the downtown district entertainment policies limited to residents. Joe Barone was surprised when he found the committee's "Core Zone" for permit-free late night entertainment excluded his restaurant although Handle's and the Rose Hotel next door were in that zone.

"If someone had told us that our restaurant would be in a transitional zone, we wouldn't be here," Joe Barone told a meeting of the Downtown Hospitality Guidelines task force earlier this month, with his wife Maricela at his side. "Are we being punished because we didn't buy Main Street properties?"

Later, the task force redrew the lines to include the Barone's restaurant and home in Core zone.

As it is now, properties along Peters Avenue and those fronting on Ray, Spring and First streets in the downtown district will be in the Transition zone, where businesses of all types will still be required to seek conditional use permits for any entertainment activities after 10 p.m.

"We're not trying to be like Livermore or Walnut Creek," Olson told the Chamber meeting. "We want to build downtown Pleasanton as an entertainment destination by enhancing the hospitality within our commercial district."

The Downtown Hospitality Guidelines task force plan, which is still a work in progress with at least three more discussion sessions yet to come, will eventually go to the city Planning Commission and then the City Council for approval as a Downtown Specific Plan amendment. Both Olson of the PDA and Pamela Ott, the city's economic development director who also directs the task force meetings, see the multi-faceted guidelines as a plan to be implemented over the next five years.

"Our vision concepts include increasing vitality in a manner compatible with downtown residents and with safety," Ott said.

She said that the preliminary drafts that are updated after each meeting with a host of blue lines and yellow highlighted lines marking the suggested changes could be in final form by June.

"This plan calls for more opportunities for nightlife that's reflective of the composition of the community, a place where authenticity and historic character are retained, with core service establishments for residents and an inviting business mix with more to do, and more choices of where to go at night," Ott said.

"Let me add, however, these concepts are still just concepts and have not been formally recommended by the task force," Ott explained. "I expect more discussion at the (next) meeting on all the key elements of the guidelines and so some of the standards could change."

The most recent version of the task force document will be considered at the group's next meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 3, in the city's Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road. The meetings are open to the public and comments are welcome. ■



Pleasanton Downtown Association presents...

1st Wednesday Street Parties to feature exciting new elements!

Downtown events will include a farmers market, movies and ArtBlock

The Pleasanton Downtown Association's 1st Wednesday Street Parties return May 2 — and they will be better than ever.

PDA staff and members have been working tirelessly to make the beloved events even more of a draw for the residents of Pleasanton and others in the area. In addition to 200 booths, live music, the beer and wine garden, and youth activities, PDA is excited to announce new enhancements for this year's 1st Wednesday Street Parties:

• **Market on Main** — The Pacific Farmers Market Association, the organization that produces the Downtown Saturday Farmers Markets, is bringing a certified Farmers Market to each of the 1st Wednesday Street Parties this year. It will be located on north Main Street near the Rose Hotel and Handles Restaurant.

"Because of the incredible success of our Saturday Farmers Market we knew that Market on Main would be the perfect fit with our 1st Wednesday Street Parties," said PDA Executive Director Laura Olson. "We are truly working to make downtown your one-stop-shopping destination."

"1st Wednesday Street Parties are wonderful community events and the PDA is so proud to be able to add even more elements to them."

Laura Olson,
PDA Executive Director

See **DOWNTOWN**
on Page 10



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DOWNTOWN

Continued from Page 7

• **1st Wednesdays Movies on Main — (June, July, August)** — The Pleasanton Downtown Association and the city of Pleasanton are co-sponsoring a free movie shown on Main Street beginning at sundown, approximately 8:45p.m. The exact location will be announced soon.

“By featuring Movies on Main we are just adding another wonderful way for our community to use and enjoy downtown,” said Olson. “The PDA is working hard to increase opportunities for entertainment and hospitality in downtown.”

First to be screened will be the 2011 version of “Footloose,” “Super 8” and “Green Lantern.” Moviegoers are invited to bring chairs, blankets and snacks to enjoy the movies under the stars.

• **1st Wednesdays ArtBlock** — The Pleasanton Downtown Association and Studio Seven Arts are sponsoring the 1st Wednesday ArtBlock to promote arts and crafts in downtown Pleasanton. This event will be located on East Angela Street and will feature artists of all kinds demonstrating and selling their work. Plus there will be an interactive art area for kids of all ages.



“1st Wednesday Street Parties are wonderful community events and the PDA is so proud to be able to add even more elements to them,” said Olson. “We hope residents and visitors alike will truly enjoy these new event features.”



PDA

1st Wednesday Street Parties take place in Downtown Pleasanton from 6-9 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month from May through September. This year July's Street Party will be held July 11, the second Wednesday, due to Independence Day falling on the first Wednesday. The PDA would like to sincerely thank their event

sponsors for their continued support of these wonderful events: The Pleasanton Weekly, the City of Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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Two busted in daytime burglaries

Homeowner video used to trace car used in heists

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Surveillance video taken at a March 26 daytime burglary in the 8000 block of Regency Drive has led to the arrest of a two males from Tracy.

Detectives from Pleasanton and Livermore served search warrants on the homes of Andrea Pina, 22, and a 17-year-old early April 12 with help from their counterparts in Tracy. Evidence linking the pair to a string of burglaries here and in Livermore was recovered, and a Pleasanton police news release says the investigation is continuing in order to determine the extent of crimes committed by the two.

"This investigation was successful due to the clear, high-definition video system that captured video of the suspect vehicle and the suspects," the release stated.

The video was provided by the would-be victim, who was at his

home on Regency Drive at about 11:35 a.m., when he heard his doorbell ring. The resident opted not to answer the door but spotted a man trying to enter the home by forcing open a sliding window on the side yard moments later.

The would-be burglar fled to the street and into a black, four-door sedan with two occupants; the car sped toward Foothill Road.

While police were headed to the scene, a driver turning onto Stoneridge Drive from Foothill saw the occupants of a black sedan throwing items out of their car. The driver lost sight of the car near Interstate 680 but drove to the police department to report what she had seen.

Officers who recovered the property on Stoneridge Drive found items showing an address in the 800 block of Hopkins Way. When police went to that residence, they

discovered the home had been broken into and ransacked.

The video from the attempted break-in was turned over to police who initially identified the car as a Lexus. It was later identified as a Cadillac Deville and was located in the city of Tracy, which led to the identification of the pair of burglars.

Meanwhile, the Livermore Police Department was conducting its own investigation regarding residential burglaries. Pina was identified as a suspect in its burglaries as well.

The Pleasanton and Livermore police departments developed information that Pina and the juvenile had been working together and had committed residential burglaries in both cities.

Pina was booked on burglary and conspiracy to commit a felony. The juvenile suspect was booked on one count of burglary. ■

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

dential units, another four live/work units and a half-acre public park at the northern corner of Gibraltar and Hacienda drives.

The project is an outcome of the settlement agreement between the city and Urban Habitat, an Oakland-based affordable housing coalition that successfully sued the city over its 1996 housing cap and lack of adequate affordable, workforce housing.

Much of the discussion Tuesday night centered on union and non-union labor on city construction projects. Labor leaders said that by using below-scale non-union construction workers, those working on the BRE project will not have incomes sufficient to actually

ever live in the buildings. Health care and other benefits also will likely be below union standards, which union leaders said always includes "fair wages," health insurance, pension plans and often 401(k) savings plans.

"We're a key player in this area in providing benefits for our workers and in supporting projects benefiting the area, such as BART to Livermore and our Friendship program for training apprentices," Rick Silva of the Sheet metal workers' union said. "Beyond this BRE project, I know that Pleasanton will be building some 1,600 new homes in the future and we hope you'll work with developers to make sure they consider union labor."

Another union leader told the council that BRE is "a wealthy company and they need to learn

to share."

"The development agreement should say that you expect BRE will hire a certain number of union workers," he added. "You should make sure they pay fair wages."

But Frank Capilla, whose Pleasanton-based Can-Am Plumbing business is one of the largest in the area, said that although he was a long-time union supporter and booster, he became disenchanted when he found that union rules prevented him from using his local workforce in other counties as his business expanded. He was required to hire workers from local union halls, workers he didn't know and whose skills might not have been as good as his own workforce. Eventually, he said, he abandoned his closed shop policy and began using non-union labor. ■

WATERSLIDES

Continued from Page 5

prove to be lower. He said the evaluation will probably continue through the summer.

"We are currently working with engineering services staff," O'Connor said. "We still have a lot of hurdles."

For instance, an evaporating pond behind the waterslides facility would need to be replaced, he said. Also engineers must evaluate the stability of the hill where the four fiberglass flumes and landing pools along with their operating equipment are located.

The concession area is about 3.5 acres and includes a maintenance building, office, storage, separate men's and women's restrooms with dressing areas, and a picnic area.

The Rapids waterslides were built in 1980 by Glenn Kierstead who opened them in 1981 and continued to operate them on a one- to two-year agreement after his 20-year lease expired in 2006.

Kierstead told the commission that he estimated it would cost \$270,000 to renovate the slides back to better-than-original condition.

"East Bay Regional Park District can expect a return on the investment and a profit," he said, explaining that last year parking for waterslides patrons raised \$81,000 for the district.

The concessions have brought in \$1.5 million over the years without a cost to the Park District or the city, he added.

Resident Chuck Bierdeman told the commission he created an on-line petition to save the waterslides that has received more than 250 signups, many with strong, passionate comments.

"The operation was originally brought to us by Glenn Kierstead," he said. "If he is still willing to run it, I think we should take advantage of that."

Several other residents told the commissioners how much the waterslides have meant to their families, both as a healthy outdoor activity and for teen employment.

"The waterslides provide good



Glenn Kierstead

clean active fun in the local community," said Horatio Wolffe, 9, who used the recording secretary's microphone to speak since he couldn't see over the podium.

His father, Vaughn Wolffe, said Horatio went down the slides about 50 times one day.

"I don't think an interpretive center would have interested him as much," he said. "And I worry about kids in front of TVs and computers, and getting obese."

Another speaker said he would like to see Pleasanton take over running the waterslides from the Park District, noting that the city built a golf course.

"That was a huge outlay and I, as a resident, don't even use the golf course," he said.

Director of Community Services Susan Andrade-Wax told the commissioners that Pleasanton has a liaison meeting with the Park District every year or so on matters of mutual interest and this would qualify.

She said Tuesday morning that she hopes to schedule the meeting in four to six weeks, and the date will be posted on the city's community calendar at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. ■



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Taxed Enough Already

Kevin McGary, president of the Frederick Douglass Foundation, speaks at the TEA party tax-day event at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on Saturday, saying, "The TEA party has been demonized" by the media. Pleasanton police Officer Penelope Tamm estimated a turnout over the course of the day at about 400, while event staff at the Fairgrounds pegged the number at about 800. Reports of attendance at a similar event at San Francisco's Justin Herman Plaza of 10 Northern California TEA party groups estimated a range of the number attending from 200 to 600.

MAR-VAL

Continued from Page 5

quality, and just be good neighborhood stores," Kidd said. "We specialize in quality meat and fish and will continue that same specialty that Gene's also has been known for."

He said Gene's location in the heart of Pleasanton is a perfect location for Mar-Val's first store in the Bay Area.

"The shopper Gene's has attracted is the same as ours," Kidd said. "It's entirely different than any other store in Pleasanton is going for. You have Safeway, which is a huge corporate type operation with 60,000 square feet, and other

stores, such as Walmart coming in. They have their own, very different type of customers."

"Gene's has a unique customer that really wants quality and service and a small store, and really we're the only one in town that has that," he added.

Kidd and other Mar-Val managers will work at the company's new Pleasanton store for the next few weeks to help in the transition "and to make sure we know where all the switches and the safe are," Kidd said.

Once settled in, Kidd said the new Gene's will have a grand opening to introduce the public to the Mar-Val team.

—Jeb Bing

TAKE US ALONG



Off to college: Naomi Thompson, a 2011 Amador Valley High grad, stops at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., in August before heading to Howard University where she is a freshman studying psychology. Her parents Troy and Lynne Thompson and brother Cory reside in Pleasanton Meadows.

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LETTERS

Explore waterslides issue

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the nearly 300 citizens who have signed a petition to save the Shadow Cliffs Water Slides (www.saveshadowcliffswaterslides.com). We understand the slides are in need of repair and upgrades and that in this day of budget gaps everything has to be reviewed and shown to be fiscally sound in order to receive support. At the same time, one must take into consideration the public sentiment and, whenever possible, support programs the public clearly desires.

This letter was sent as an official request to the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors to consider allowing, for a limited period of time, the creation of a volunteer advisory committee that would provide a non-binding re-

view of options for keeping the Shadow Cliffs waterslides open.

■ This advisory committee would likely include representatives from the public and private sectors (i.e., EBRPD, city of Pleasanton, residents).

■ This committee would seek to explore reasonable options for keeping the waterslides open and viable now and into the future.

■ Any options offered would be required to be fiscally sound and would offer a revenue stream to the EBRPD.

■ If the committee were unable to provide reasonable options then it would be incumbent on the committee to say so.

The local community has indicated quite clearly a strong desire to keep the waterslides open, and it is up to all of us to be confident that all reasonable options have been explored before making a final decision to close the slides.

Chuck Bierdeman

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

A housing initiative well handled

“We will likely be doing a lot more building in this town than we have over the last five years.”

Those were Mayor Jennifer Hosterman’s closing comments Tuesday night after the Pleasanton City Council approved a multi-million-dollar housing project in Hacienda Business Park to be built by BRE, a national affordable housing developer. Coupled with the council’s earlier vote this year to rezone 73 acres in different parts of the city for moderate to affordable housing, Pleasanton’s more than two decades of managed slow growth policies have ended.

BRE’s project will add 18 new apartment houses in Hacienda, with some 500 studio, one, two and three bedroom units once developed. Using the same 30 units per acre ratio as BRE’s, the 73 acres should accommodate about 3,100 units. Pleasanton’s population, which has limped along at just under 70,000 during the no-growth years, should jump to well over 80,000 over the next few years, but even then, there will be more to come.

With Tuesday’s decision, along with the rezoning earlier, the council has now satisfied requirements imposed by the Alameda County Superior Court at the behest of the Oakland-based Urban Habitat affordable housing organization that Pleasanton meet its current state housing obligation to provide more workforce/affordable homes. In 2014, though, another set of housing requirements will be issued by the state and the Association of Bay Area Governments. Pleasanton’s obligations, because of our large business parks and workforce, will no doubt be asked to build more. Those who work here should be able to live here, not have to commute over the hill where emissions are damaging the environment, Gov. Brown told the city when he was still Attorney General.

Tuesday night, Hosterman and others on the City Council heaped deserved praise on the many community participants on various commissions, committees and task forces that quickly came together to respond to the Urban Habitat and Superior Court requirements. They met in groups and offered their comments at various public hearings. As BRE’s proposals began unfolding, they helped to shape the project, which were also reviewed by the Housing, Parks and Recreation and Planning commissions, and several times at workshops and public hearings involving the City Council. Because of this work, the people of Pleasanton had a voice in what BRE will now build, which is much more to everyone’s liking than if we’d allowed Urban Habitat and the court make those decisions, which they were quite willing to do.

Councilman Matt Sullivan said he has never seen a community process work so well. He and others on the council said they hope that this process has set a precedent and a pattern for “more building in this town” as Hosterman says will happen. We do, too. ■

YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE VALLEY — MUSIC, THEATER, ART, MOVIES AND MORE

PTA to the rescue

In a high-tech world, laptops are essential teaching aides



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fairlands teacher Brian Esse uses his tech tools for a daily math lesson with his third-grade class. Teachers at Fairlands Elementary School say the 35 MacBooks bought for them by the PTA help them work smarter.

When the technology at Fairlands Elementary began to fail, its PTA came to the rescue. Thanks to donation by parents during the last several years, the organization was able to purchase 35 MacBooks, one for each teacher at the school.

"Technology can be frustrating when your tools don't enable you to be productive," said third-grade teacher Brian Esse. "These new MacBooks will give teachers the tools to work smarter and more effectively."

Teachers are being asked to use more and more technology in the classroom to keep their students up to date with the "real world," Esse explained.

Not only will the MacBooks help with instruction, he noted, but they will help teachers communicate effectively with parents.

"Teachers have already received training in Gmail, Google Docs, Google Forms and Google Calendar," Esse said. "They are using these and other applications to collaborate with colleagues at the school — some around the world — and to work more efficiently."

Teachers are using the laptops for their record keeping and assessments.

"Also, all of PUSD's adopted classroom series have a technology component to them that they are able to show to the class, which is very helpful to those students who may not get online access at home," Esse said. "They use Envision math, which has animations for every lesson that teachers can show their classroom via their LCD projectors."

Science and social studies texts also come alive through the endless visuals and resources available via the web.

"Laptops have literally changed instruction in our classrooms," said Principal Kim Michels. "Five years ago, when we made the decision to invest one-time technology funds in conjunction with PTA funds to purchase laptops, LCD projectors and document cameras for each classroom, I would have never predicted the impact this would have on teaching and learning in the classroom."

"It is amazing to see how technology use has grown since the PTA first purchased laptops for the staff," said fifth-grade teacher Lisa Highfill. "Having a laptop enabled

teachers to take home their work, build integrated lessons, and better organize the 'business' side of the job.

"Technology takes time to master," she continued. "With a laptop, I am able to work from home and late into the night exploring the latest strategies for bringing 21st-century learning skills into the classroom."

This includes creating websites and "Flip teaching," with the teacher creating projects or videos that students can use outside the classroom.

"My time in the classroom, sharing content, motivating creativity and thinking, is spent in a more individualized way, working one to one with those needing support or re-teaching," Highfill said.

Technology Specialist Tina Davis said that giving laptops to teachers has resulted in a tremendous growth in the daily use of technology in the classroom.

"They have become more comfortable using the Internet to teach educational skills since we no longer purchase software that becomes obsolete after just one year," Davis said. "It is not cost effective to continually upgrade software when there are free or low cost sites available to us on the Internet."

Principal Michels noted that teachers' knowledge and experience with technology varies greatly, but said that they have all embraced the opportunities offered by the new laptops.

"In partnership with their students, teachers have learned and taught technology skills to their students that are preparing them for the future, i.e., Google Apps, iCloud, communicating with other students around the world via Skype, tweeting their learning and more," she said.

"This has been made possible by simply placing a laptop in the hands of each teacher," she added.

"We firmly believe that by purchasing these new laptops for our teachers we are not only investing in our teachers, but also our children," said Fairlands PTA president Laurie Walker-Whiteland. "With all the budget cuts at the state and local levels, it has been really hard on the teachers to maintain their standard of excellence for our children."

—Pleasanton Weekly staff

'SHOUT!' gives new life to '60s-era classics

Five great voices make one great show

By Glenn Wohlmann

"SHOUT! the Mod Musical," now playing at the Studio Theatre, is well worth the trip to Serpentine Lane, especially since it's the last show that will perform there since the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre venue is closing.

"SHOUT!" is largely a vehicle for five talented singers to belt out some '60s-era classics by some of the female icons of the day. These are songs that are part of the collective consciousness: "These Boots are Made for Walkin'," for example, is probably known by 20-somethings as well as 60-somethings.

The show may be light on plot but more than makes up for it in musical energy. "SHOUT!" is nominally about the emotional evolution of five young women in England, known not by name but by color, as they sing and dance their way through the 1960s, experiencing Beatlemania, experimenting with drugs and casual sex, thanks to the pill, confronting divorce, domestic abuse and sexual identity. Along the

way, they deal with their problems by writing to an advice columnist at SHOUT! magazine (hence the name of the show) and, of course, by song.

Those topics may have once been controversial, but propelled by the music and lively choreography by Justin Isla, the five women singers give the show a PG-13 rather than an R flavor.

Orange, played by Sherrill-Lee McCuin, is the first of the group to get married, have children and get divorced. Blue, performed by Amy Lucido comes out of the closet; Green, Katie Pogue, is a party girl; Red, played by Katie Potts is the nerd; and Yellow, Morgan Breedveld, is the girl from the U.S. in love with Paul McCartney.

The opening number, a medley of "Downtown," "England Swings," "Round Every Corner" and "I Know a Place" establishes right off the bat that these five actors have an excellent combination of vocal abilities and moves. Each is also given an opportunity to showcase her talent

several times during the performance and each threatens to steal the show in her own way.

Even without a plot, the show would stand on the merits of the songs alone, admirably done by the performers. McCuin shines in "Wishin' and Hopin'," as does Lucido in "Don't Sleep in the Subway."

"Son of a Preacher Man" is so ubiquitous that it almost doesn't need a singer, although Breedveld's version does Dusty Springfield justice. "Coldfinger" (not Goldfinger, although the melody was the same) was well handled by Pogue, with help from the rest of the cast, which mimicked instruments, while Potts' rendition of "Those Were the Days" drew the audience into clapping and singing along.

The performers' names should be familiar to Tri-Valley Repertory fans. Three of the five — Breedveld, Potts and Lucido — have already appeared together in the 2010 TVRT production of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change." Pogue and Potts appeared in "All



ROBERT SHOLTY

Starring in "SHOUT! the Mod Musical" are (l-r) Katie Potts, Katie Pogue, Sherrill-Lee McCuin, Morgan Breedveld and Amy Lucido.

Shook Up" last year, and McCuin and Breedveld were in TVRT's production of "Hairspray" at the Bankhead Theatre in Livermore in November.

It takes a certain amount of bravery to stage a show that was panned by the New York Times. But "SHOUT!" is in good company:

"Wicked," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Evita" all received bad reviews from the Times but went on to win Tony awards.

The show runs through April 29. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors, \$20 for students; purchase online at www.trivalleyrep.org or call 462-2121. ■

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

April 10

Identity theft

- 7:13 p.m. in the 700 block of Foxbrough Place

Vandalism

- 10:05 a.m. in the 4500 block of Lin Gate Street

Drug violation

- 4:32 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

April 11

Sexual abuse of a minor

- 2:10 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Theft

- 9:52 a.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane; grand theft
- 6:40 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 9:14 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and I-680

April 12

Battery

- 11:50 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Vandalism

- 8:22 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

DUI

- 12:41 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

April 13

Auto burglary

- 5:57 p.m. in the 5900 block of Laurel

Creek Drive

Vandalism

- 8:24 a.m. in the 2700 block of E. Ruby Hill Drive

- 10:32 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:11 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Ave; sale of tobacco to a minor

- 10:10 p.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Castlewood Drive; DUI

- 11:50 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Drive; possession of a controlled substance

April 14

Theft

- 10:19 a.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road

Vandalism

- 6:21 a.m. in the 2600 block of Minton Court

- 10:59 a.m. at the intersection of Flora Court and Belleza Drive

- 12:28 p.m. in the 4100 block of Amberwood Circle

- 7:30 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:58 a.m. in the 500 block of Neal Street; public drunkenness

- 2:19 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Inglewood Drive; DUI

- 9:18 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Hansen Drive; DUI

- 11:42 p.m. in the 4300 block of Second Street; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

- 11:47 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and W. Las Positas Blvd; bicycling under the influence

April 15

Sexual abuse

- 3:04 p.m. in the 3600 block of Fieldview Court

Theft

- 10:58 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; auto theft

- 4:16 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Court; identity theft

- 7:39 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:37 a.m. in the 4200 block of Silver Street; possession of a controlled substance

- 1:27 a.m. at the intersection of Del Valle Parkway and Harvest Road; underage drinking and driving

April 16

Theft

- 8:55 a.m. in the 7100 block of Valley Trails Drive; grand theft

- 7:22 p.m. in the 3900 block of Churchill Drive; identity theft

Auto burglary

- 11:47 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:35 a.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hopyard Road; possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

- 11:59 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

April 17

Theft

- 8:28 a.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road; misappropriation of property

- 1:11 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft, burglary

- 2:18 p.m. in the 7400 block of Stonedale Avenue; identity theft

- 6:24 p.m. in the 11500 block of Dublin Canyon Road; auto theft

Auto burglary

- 3:24 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Stalking

- 4:29 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stalking, threats

Vandalism

- 6:45 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

POLICE BULLETIN

Tire slashers hit 18 more vehicles

For the third time in less than a month, car tires have been slashed in a specific Pleasanton neighborhood, this time in the Birdland area.

On Monday morning, police began receiving calls about a tire or tires slashed on vehicles in the 2400 block of Raven Road, in the 4700 block of Mohr Avenue, in the 2400 block of Crestline Road, and on Woodthrush and Willowren ways. In all, 18 reports were filed Monday and Tuesday.

That's less than a week after at least 13 tires were slashed in the Sutter Gates neighborhood.

Residents on Sutter Gate Avenue, Laramie Gate Avenue, Laramie Gate Circle and Laramie Gate Way found tires of their vehicles had been vandalized overnight April 10. The following day, nine more residents of the same neighborhood discovered the tires on one or more of their vehicles had also been vandalized, according to a police report.

The damage had been inflicted sometime overnight each night, and the police report said a vandal had punctured one or more tires of vehicles parked along the street or in the driveway of the residents with an unknown object.

Police said there is no indication that the Sutter Gate incidents are related to similar vandalisms on March 24 in the Valley Trails area. A total of 28 cars on four streets were vandalized in the Valley Trails neighborhood late March 23 or early March 24, according to police reports. Fourteen vehicles parked on Valley Trails Drive were damaged, along with 10 on Yellowstone Court, three

on Cumberland Gap Court and one on Isle Royal Court. There are no suspects.

The sidewalls of the victims' tires were punctured in the earlier vandalisms, making the tires unfixable. The vehicles were all parked on the road in front of the victims' homes; the puncture marks looked like they were caused with a half-inch knife blade in what police are calling apparent "random acts of vandalism."

In other police reports: • Concord resident Vahid Reza Bateni, 38, was arrested for shoplifting, theft with three priors and possession of burglary tools in an incident at Nordstrom at around 5 p.m. April 12. A \$500 watch was taken; police also recovered a set of wire cutters.

• Three burglaries over the last week netted, among other things, electronics and tools. In an April 15 burglary in the 4400 block of Shearwater Court, a vacuum cleaner worth \$500 and a \$250 golf club were stolen. Entry was gained through an open garage door. Electronics worth an estimated \$650 were taken in another April 15 burglary in the 5600 block of Belleza Drive. A notebook computer, a monitor, a computer, a zip drive, guitar amplifier were taken, along with two types of saws and a box of financial documents.

• Tools worth \$175 were reported stolen from a shed in the 5300 block of Case Avenue on April 14. A padlock was cut to gain access.

• A \$100 wallet, an \$80 purse and \$60 in cash along with prescription medications were taken in a smash and grab theft from a Honda CRV parked at 24-hour Fitness on April 13.

Under the law, those arrested are considered innocent until convicted.

THE CITY OF
PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council/PUSD Joint Meeting
Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

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

Planning Commission
Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **P11 0977, Salon Esencia**
Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision requiring the proposed (existing) green body color of the building located at 335 St. Mary Street to be repainted to a muted earthtone color.
- **P12 0017, Spira Institute of Healing Arts**
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a massage school and wellness center from an existing building located at 6654 Koll Center Parkway, Suites 160 and 170.

Energy & Environment Committee
Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.
Operations Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Climate Action Plan update
- Polystyrene ban status
- Committee reports
- Community outreach events

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

OBITUARIES

Emilie Milton Seebach

Born Jan. 27, 1935

Died April 2, 2012

Resident of Pleasanton

Emilie Milton Seebach died Monday, April 2, 2012, at home and peacefully, in the company of family. She was a great woman who lived and loved fully.

Born in Houston, Texas, to Earl and Gladys Milton, Emilie graduated from Lamar High School in 1953 in Houston, Texas, and attended the University of Texas in Austin, Texas. She married Robert Green in 1953 and reared her three children - Ron, Lori, and Lisa in Dallas, Texas. She was a charter member of Ridgeview Presbyterian Church in Farmers Branch, Texas, as well as church secretary and a member of the choir. She helped launch the HEMI initiative in the Dallas County Community College District as an Asst. to the Administrator and later served as Executive Asst. to the President of Corey Hebert, Inc. Emilie moved to California in 1988

with her marriage to Howard Seebach and was very active in the life of First Presbyterian Church of Livermore serving on the Session and on many committees. She was especially known for her creative leadership and organization in the church's social activities. Along with Howard, in January, 1991, Emilie started a sales training, events, and meeting company with clients such as DuPont and the Valley Care Hospital Foundation.

Emilie's life centered around her family and friends. She was a loving wife and mother, rearing three children, enjoying time with seven grandchildren, and later blending in Howard's four children and their families. Emilie's friendships were very important to her. She was always available for a family member or friend in need. She was active in Presbyterian Women and founded a support group for mothers whose children had passed before them.

Emilie created a beautiful home and garden filled with flowers, color, and reminders of a life full of travel,

experiences, love, and friendship. In her garden, she had a special place for the Texas Bluebonnet and in her heart, a special place for her family and friends in the Lone Star State.

She is survived by her husband of 24 years, Howard G. Seebach of Pleasanton, CA, brother George C. Milton of Emporia, Kansas, son Ronald M. Green and daughter-in-law Donna E. Green of Fairfax, Virginia, daughter Lori K. Tittle and son-in-law Langley D. Tittle of Coppell, TX, son-in-law James N. Hector of Alpine, TX, and granddaughters Jenni and Meredith Green, Logan Tittle, Katie and Rachel Hector, and grandsons Matthew Green and Lane Tittle. She is preceded in death by her sister Nancy M. Kopp and her beloved daughter Lisa A. Hector.

Services will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, CA at 1:30pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made "in memory of Emilie M. Seebach" to the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore, CA, 94550.

Emilie was not just a spectator of life — she was an active participant. She impacted the lives of her family, her friends, and her community, and she will be missed greatly.





AMERICAN

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

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Author Visits

READ IT AND EAT WITH TIFFANY BAKER Baker's previous book was "Little Giant of Aberdeen County," which many have read. At the lunch she will be discussing her newest book "The Gilly Salt Sisters." The event is at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 25, at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost \$30 for lunch and the book or \$15 for lunch only. Reservations are required. Call 846-8826.

Clubs

GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club's annual Plant Sale is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at the Amador Valley High School parking lot, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. All plants are from LAVGC members' gardens and sell at low prices. Garden Club members will assist you in choosing perennials, annuals, succulents, herbs and vegetables. Call Bev at 485-7812.

Events

'THE NEUROTIC PARENT'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE ADMISSION' Admission rates of 6%? Kids applying to 32 colleges? The college admissions process now sucks approximately 1250% more time, money and psychic energy than it did when today's parents applied. Author J.D. Rothman will shine a light on the insanity with wit and incisive anthropological observations as she reads excerpts from her book, "The Neurotic Parent's Guide to College Admissions." The event is at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

72ND ANNUAL ROSE SHOW Come celebrate the "Days of Wine and Roses" from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, May 12, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. This show is dubbed "the people's show" because anyone can enter their homegrown roses. Exhibitors registration is from 7:30-10 a.m.; judging from 10a.m.-12:30 p.m.; awards ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Call Leslie, Joyce or Marti at 251-1111 or visit www.thepleasantonrose-show.com.

ED KINNEY AWARDS The eighth annual Ed Kinney Community Patriot Awards will be presented at a reception from 5:30-7 p.m., Monday, April 23, at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Friends and family members of the 2012 award recipients, Jan Batcheller and Tony Macchiano, are invited to attend.

GOURMET FOOD TRUCKS Gourmet Food Trucks will be at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton on Saturday, April 28. Enjoy all your favorite food trucks, along with music, wine, beer, bar and indoor/outdoor seating. Visit www.facebook.com/TheMobileGourmet. 4-8:30 p.m. Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. 640-3691. www@the-mobile-gourmet.com

ROTARY COMMUNITY MIXER Join Pleasanton North Rotary for an evening of fun and camaraderie. Learn about Rotary, their Club, the

good things they do for their local community and the world, the fun they have, and the life-long friendships they make. Appetizers provided. Contact them for more information. Friday, April 27 at 5 p.m. Pleasanton Hilton (Restaurant), 7050 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton. 730-3862. www.pnr-rotary.org

VALLEY CHRISTIAN ARTS NIGHT Join Valley Christian School for a night of fine art, dance, and musical performances. Displaying art from the elementary through high school, this is a night in celebration of the arts. Tickets can be bought at the door. Thursday, April 26 \$10 for students, \$15 for adults Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville.

YMCA'S WOMEN'S BEAUTY EVENT Support the community while having fun at this event, which includes makeup artists, free gifts, wine tasting, mini massages, prize drawings, dinner and auction, beginning at 3:30 p.m., Friday, April 27, at Callippe Preserve Golf Course, 8500 Clubhouse Dr., Pleasanton. Space is limited. Cost, \$50. Call 263-4444 or visit www.trivalleyymca.org.

Fundraisers

4TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING SILENT AUCTION Join the tasting and auction to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Bent Creek, Big White House, Auburn James, Bodegas Aguirre, Cuda Ridge, Les Chenes and White Crane wineries will showcase their wines at the

Purple Orchid. Live music, appetizers, drawings. Tickets are limited. Sunday, April 22, noon-4 p.m. \$25 Purple Orchid Inn & Spa, 4549 Cross Road, Livermore. 413-7788. www.WineHike.org

Kids & Teens

EARTH DAY Come lend a hand at the Alviso Adobe Park garden! Soil will be amended, non-native plants will be removed, and we will be giving the gardens a new spring boost. Preregistration is required. Sunday, April 22 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road, Pleasanton. 931-3479. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/current-activities-guide.html

Lectures/ Workshops

INSIDE OUT COACHING WITH JOE EHRMANN: HOW SPORTS CAN TRANSFORM LIVES A powerful evening with ex-NFL great Joe Ehrmann as he challenges coaches, parents and athletes to rethink and redefine the purpose of sports in America. Based on NY Times bestseller "Season of Life" and his recent book "InsideOut Coaching." Monday, April 30 from 7-8:30 p.m. Event is funded and co-sponsored by Season of Life Foundation, Pleasanton Rage Soccer, Amador Valley Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. 683-1899. www.coachforamerica.com

Miscellaneous

COMMUNITY RECYCLING AND E-WASTE COLLECTION As one of its signature Earth Week events, the city of Pleasanton will host a Free Community Recycling and E-waste from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at the city's Operation Service Center, 3333 Busch Rd., Pleasanton. The event is free to Pleasanton residents who should be prepared to show identification to confirm residency. For more information visit www.noewaste.com/calendar.php.

Seniors

SUPERVISOR MEETING Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley will be at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., at 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, to speak with people who are involved with senior issues. The meeting is open to the public.

Support Groups

CLUTTERLESS GUEST SPEAKER Lori Brandes will speak on how to "Calm the Clutter and Take Control, It's Time 4 Order" at the meeting of the Self Help Group for Clutterers at 7 p.m., Monday, April 23, at the St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador, Pleasanton. They welcome prospective members. Meetings are free, an optional donation of \$2-\$5 is appreciated. New guests are required to make a reservation. Call 200-1943 or email clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com.

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