

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 44 • November 24, 2006

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## *Holiday Fund*

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to help others  
in our community

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this week

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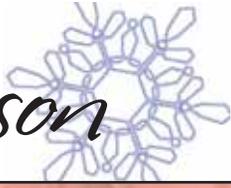
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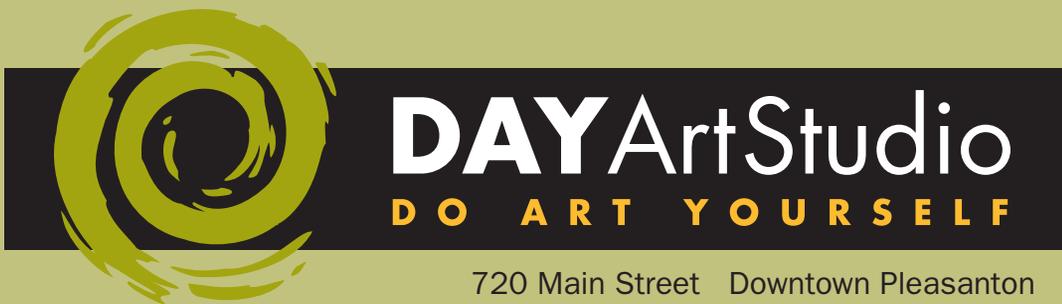
# HOLIDAY SPARKLE 'tis the season



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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## 189 votes short, Brozosky steps down

**C**ouncilman Steve Brozosky raised more money and spent more on his campaign to be elected mayor of Pleasanton than any local candidate in history, outspending his opponent and current Mayor Jennifer Hosterman by more than 2 to 1. He also had the largest, most aggressive campaign staff, including several politically savvy strategists. More than 1,000 of his distinctive yellow signs were posted on front yards across town, the most ever, and more than 100 volunteers walked the neighborhoods with door-hangers and leaflets in support of their candidate, going back on the eve of the election to tie yellow balloons on each yard sign. His endorsements came from Tri-Valley mayors, County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and all but one member of the Pleasanton school board. At his post-election "victory" party at Main Street Brewery, hundreds of business and civic leaders stopped by to congratulate Brozosky at a time when early returns showed him winning.

But it was not to last, and last Wednesday Brozosky all but conceded, saying he was looking forward to returning to private life and spending more time building his Government Outreach software business he co-founded. Trailing Hosterman by just 189 votes on Wednesday, with only a few votes left to count out of 23,000 cast, Brozosky's name will go down in the record book as losing by the slimmest margin ever in Pleasanton. The race also will be remembered as the most expensive to date and one of the most contentious.

So how did he lose? Popular since being elected to the City Council in 2002 as the leading advocate of Measure V, which voters endorsed by a large margin to keep housing—including senior and affordable housing—off the city's 318 acres of public land in the Bernal tract, Brozosky billed himself as a "people person" who would work to solve traffic problems and address neighbor-

hood concerns. His views were in marked contrast to Hosterman, who considers broader issues such as global warming and energy independence as much a part of her concern as mayor as "fixing potholes." Although Brozosky opposed her in every move to bring those global discussions into the council chambers, many in Pleasanton told us in letters, e-mails and phone calls that they're just as concerned as Hosterman over the country's direction on national and international issues and think Hosterman is right to address them on behalf of Pleasanton.

Brozosky's early popularity waned when he became the leading supporter of a Knott's Soak City-type project planned to replace the small waterslide park in Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. Hundreds protested the plan, jamming Planning Commission and City Council meetings and even more signed petitions against the development, to be called California Splash, which its owners said would attract up to 200,000 waterpark patrons each summer. Brozosky led the three-vote majority on the City Council to give final approval to the project, a vote many remembered Nov. 7 when they went to the polls.

It's unclear, too, just how effective Brozosky's campaign treasurer Dan Carl was in producing and then publicly condemning e-mails Hosterman sent from her city-owned computers, both at City Hall and at her home, seeking solicitations, advice and support in her election bid. Although the District Attorney is reviewing the e-mails, voters we talked to said they send personal e-mails from work and even government offices where they work.

Brozosky will step down Dec. 5 when a new council is sworn in, leaving City Hall after four years of service and a legacy of competing in a mayoral race that proved to be closest ever, the most expensive and the most spirited. ■



from  
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to  
**SIGN DOWN**

## Sonali Means \$old

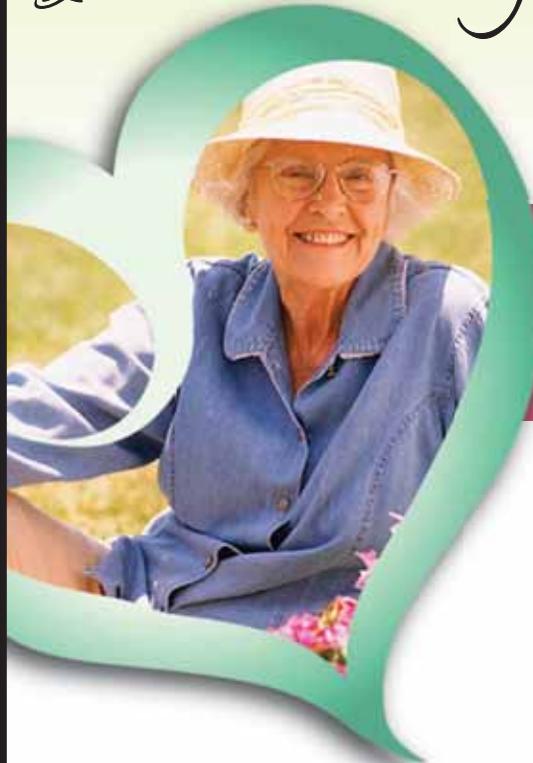
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### About the Cover

Today we launch our annual holiday fund that benefits six local nonprofits. Last year we exceeded the \$75,000 goal and this year's goal is an ambitious \$100,000. Cover by Shannon Corey.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Will you be out Christmas shopping today, traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year?

Asked Downtown



**Jenna Acosta**

Job Seeker

Yes definitely, if the sales are good. I like to get my last-minute shopping done and sometimes I'll pick up some gifts for next year.

**Tara Krekorian**

Finance/Stay-at-Home Mom

No, I am not going shopping. We have family from out of town coming for the holiday. I try to steer clear of all the crowds and shop weekdays when the stores are quiet.



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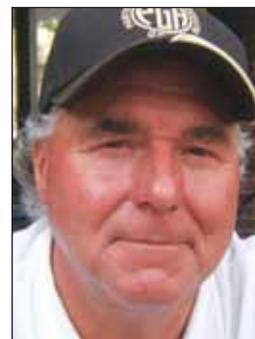
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**Pete Walling**

Retired

No, I am not. We used to when my daughters were home, we made a tradition of it. We all went to San Francisco, but now I have no interest in all the crowds. We shop in downtown Pleasanton.

**Kathy Brady**

Stay at-Home-Mom

Absolutely, it's a tradition. I go with my sister-in-law and mother. The day before, we get the ads to see who is having the best sales and make our list. We get up early, have our coffee and then we set out. We really look forward to it.



**Mel Melara**

Sales Director

No, I prefer to stay home. My wife loves to go out shopping on that day. I like to relax and watch football. It's a good day to check out the college teams.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Hometown Holiday Celebration

Santa is back in town for the Pleasanton Downtown Association's (PDA) annual Hometown Holiday Celebration from 4 to 8 p.m. Dec. 2. Main Street will be filled with a parade of festive floats and holiday sounds played by marching bands from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Santa Claus will be joined by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who will light the tree. The event starts the season with face painting, shopping and a carol sing-along with friends and neighbors.

### Winter break

For students in the Pleasanton Unified School District, winter break is from Dec. 25 to Jan. 5. Grades 1 through 8 also have a half day on Dec. 22.

### Community of Hope

Pleasanton's three middle schools have partnered with the PUSD, PDA, Pleasanton Police Department, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department local 1974, Foster a Dream, Glide Memorial, Pacific Coast Farmer Market Association, to give donations from the following events to local families in need. Money will be raised from pasta dinners at each school (6 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6, \$5 suggested donation). Students will be in the school parking lots after school and at the Pleasanton Farmer's Market (9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at West Angela and Main streets) collecting money, toys, blankets and clothing. For more information call Pleasanton Middle School, 426-4390, ext. 3890 or 3844; Hart Middle School, 426-3102, ext. 3225; or Harvest Park Middle School, 426-4465.

### Teddy bear tea

Parents and children are invited to a holiday tea experience at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Tea, tea sandwiches and assorted desserts will be served in the Victorian dining rooms from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays and Saturdays in December. Each child will receive a teddy bear to take home. The cost is \$18.95 for adults and \$15.95 for children. Reservations are required, call 846-8106.

### Corrections

The True Value flyer delivered with The Pleasanton Weekly on Nov. 17 was inserted on the incorrect date. Some advertised items and prices will not be available until after Dec. 1. We apologize for the inconvenience.

## Hosterman declared winner in mayor's race

*Envisions better council dynamics; vows to step up pace on General Plan update*

by Jeb Bing

Newly-re-elected Mayor Jennifer Hosterman plans to move quickly to complete the long-languishing update of the city's 1996 General Plan. once the new City Council is sworn in Dec. 5

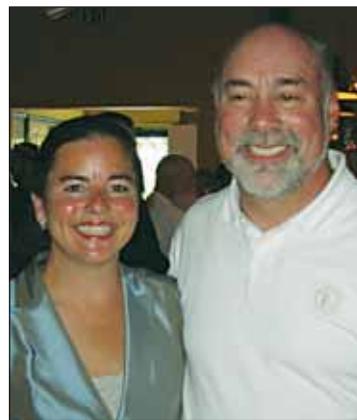
Hosterman won re-election over challenger and Councilman Steve Brozosky, garnering 11,667 votes, or 50.15 percent of the votes cast for mayor, against 11,478 votes, or 49.34 percent. As of Wednesday afternoon, with fewer than 100 votes to be counted, she led Brozosky by 189 votes, the narrowest margin ever in a Pleasanton mayoral contest.

Hosterman said that all cities and counties in California require a General Plan. Pleasanton's is out of date and state housing authorities recently decertified it because the city has not fulfilled its obligation under the plan's Housing Element to provide more affordable and other housing that the state wants here.

In a far-ranging interview following her re-election, Hosterman said that while she wants to complete the General Plan Update by late spring, she will ask the council to move forward on other priorities and work plans at a faster pace than before.

These include:

- New appointments to city com-



Newly re-elected Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and husband Michael.

missions and committees, including the Planning Commission.

- An analysis of previous priorities set by the council, including completion of the Alviso Adobe Community Park and other capital

(continued on page 7)



Sergio Espinoza of Regan Bros. Christmas Trees drills a stand into a Christmas tree at the northeast lot at the Alameda County Fairgrounds Monday.

## Christmas trees sprouting up around town

*Douglas, noble and grand firs among those for sale*

by Janet Pelletier

Workers at the various tree lots being assembled around town spent the early part of the week drilling holes in tree trunks, unwrapping the bundled foliage and hanging up lights and other Christmas displays in preparation for today, when they go on sale.

Over at Pete's Trees, located at Harvest Valley Christian Church, 3200 Hopyard Road, tree lot manager John Robnick and assistants Larry Deeley and Brent Vangene spent Monday readying bundled trees by drilling holes in each trunk

to fit in a stand. The lot, which is just across the street from the Pleasanton Sports Park, plans to sell three types of trees: Douglas, noble and grand firs. The trees will range in price from \$23 for the tabletop variety up to about \$200 for 10 to 12-footers.

The freshly scented trees are grown in Oregon, according to Robnick.

"The noble firs are the most popular because the needles stick up—they've got that Charlie Brown Christmas look to them," he said.

Pete's also has another location on Stanley Boulevard at Bernal Avenue next to the McDonald's shopping center. Both locations also deliver for an extra charge.

"One of the unique things our lots offer is the trees will be placed in bowls of water, which I don't

think they do anywhere else," said John Crawford, manager of the Stanley lot.

It was the same story, just a different location for the Regan Bros. at the Fairgrounds. A crew of people spent Monday setting up Christmas displays, tents and lights and unloaded trees from large trucks at the Christmas tree lot at the northeast corner of Bernal and Valley avenues. Regan Bros. has been in the Christmas tree business since 1946.

The late John Regan sold 36 trees his first year and now the company sells nearly 2,000. Son Joe Regan, 78, could be found Monday overseeing the lot's setup. They will sell noble, Douglas and grand firs from

(continued on page 10)

## Bicycle stunt leads to serious injuries

*Clerk found dead at Shell gasoline station*

by Emily Atwood

Police were particularly busy early this week as a string of unusual events occurred: a bicyclist rode off a school roof, a gas station clerk was found dead and a local bank was robbed.

Eighteen-year-old Christopher White was seriously hurt after attempting to perform a bicycle stunt off a 25-foot-tall building at Foothill High School last Sunday, according to the Pleasanton Police Department. The incident occurred during a football game and brought a lot of attention with the presence of a helicopter and police and fire departments.

White, a 2005 Amador Valley High School graduate, landed on his back and head, sustaining head trauma, two broken wrists and fractured hip/pelvis. Livermore Pleasanton Fire Battalion Chief Glenn Haendel said White narrowly escaped being paralyzed from the neck down. He was airlifted by helicopter to San Jose Regional Medical Center.

White had set up a tripod and camera to film his stunt. Two students who were filming for a separate project saw White and didn't discourage him from attempting the feat and also filmed the accident, according to a police spokeswoman. The footage, which showed White talking about riding off the building, was confiscated.

It is unknown whether the Pleasanton Unified School District will prosecute White for trespassing, and the police department will assist the district if faced with liability issues.

On Monday morning, police were called to the Shell gasoline station at Hopyard Road and West Las Positas Boulevard. A customer called around 2 a.m. saying she could not find the clerk, police said. Officers found the clerk, 62-year-old Donna Louise Kenney of Pleasanton, dead in the back room of the food mart.

Police said there was no sign of foul play, as the cash register, safe and her purse had not been touched. Upon reviewing the surveillance footage, police and the owner observed Kenney collapse just after midnight. An autopsy is pending.

Also on Monday morning, the Westamerica Bank near Stoneridge Mall was robbed at gunpoint. More information about this incident can be found in the Police Bulletin on page 14.■

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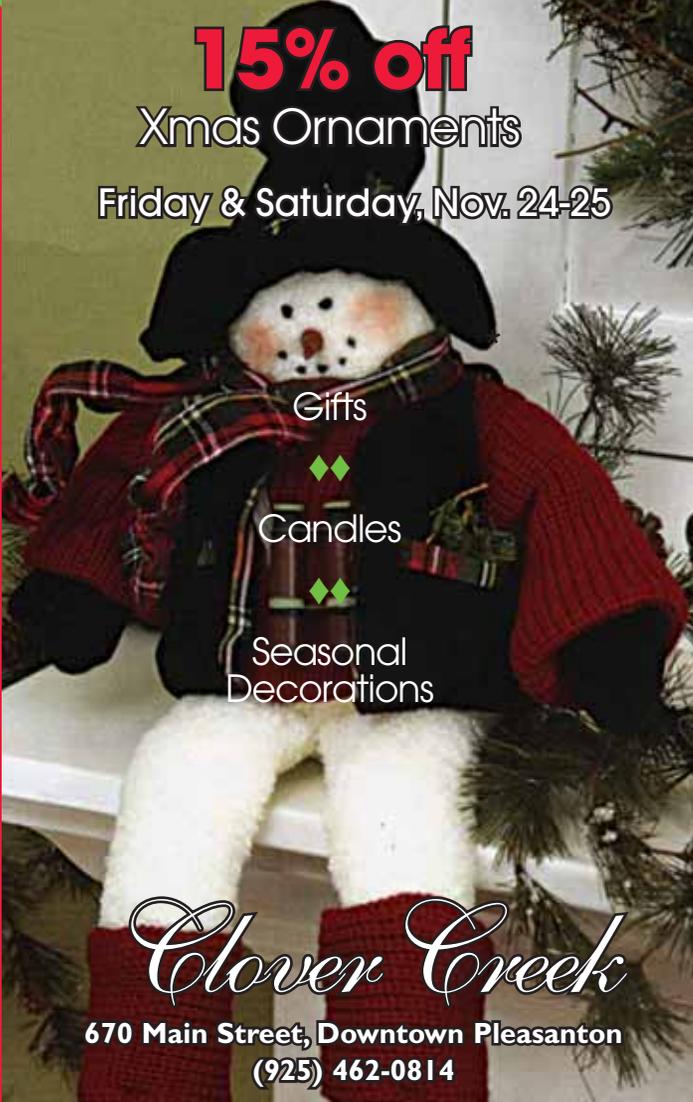
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Cornea and Refractive Specialist



Dr. Gagnon did his undergraduate studies at St. Mary's College in Moraga and his Doctorate of Medicine degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Wake Forest University, and then spent an additional year of subspecialty training in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the University of Utah, Moran Eye Center.

In addition to his private practice at Valley EyeCare Center, Dr. Gagnon is on the Clinical Faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

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## Final Election Tallies

### PLEASANTON

#### Measure P: visionary plan for Bernal Property

Yes 17,381 82.08%  
No 3,795 17.92%

### STATE

#### Proposition 1A: Transportation funding protection

Yes 5,846,486 75%  
No 1,755,324 23%

#### Proposition 1B: \$19.9 billion transportation congestion bond

Yes 4,672,617 61.4%  
No 2,946,236 38.6%

#### Proposition 1C: \$2.85 billion housing bond

Yes 4,387,445 57.6%  
No 3,233,535 42.4%

#### Proposition 1D: \$10.4 billion school bond

Yes 4,333,966 56.8%  
No 3,305,777 43.2%

#### Proposition 1E: \$4.1 billion for flood prevention

Yes 4,849,537 64.2%  
No 2,708,540 35.8%

#### Proposition 83: Jessica's Law legislation regarding sex offenders

Yes 5,415,617 70.5%  
No 2,272,028 29.5%

#### Proposition 84: \$5.4 billion in parks and water bonds

Yes 4,051,231 53.8%  
No 3,482,753 46.2%

#### Proposition 85: 48-hour abortion waiting period

Yes 3,542,292 45.8%  
No 4,176,376 54.2%

#### Proposition 86: \$2.60 per pack cigarette tax

Yes 3,772,572 48.1%  
No 4,054,551 51.9%

#### Proposition 87: Alternative energy tax of 1.5 to 6 percent on oil prices

Yes 3,552,844 45.3%  
No 4,242,722 54.7%

#### Proposition 88: Education funding tax of \$50 per property parcel

Yes 1,767,509 23.1%  
No 5,859,875 76.9%

#### Proposition 89: Campaign finance limitations and requirements

Yes 1,934,507 25.6%  
No 5,614,368 74.4%

#### Proposition 90: Property rights

3,596,797 47.6%  
No 3,953,294 52.4%

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## Hosterman

(continued from page 5)

improvement projects.

- Completion of traffic and land use elements of the General Plan.
- Review of the Bernal parkland, following voter approval of an illustrative plan for building out the 318-acre public site.

"Voters told us by an 82 to 17 percent margin that they like our beginning plans for Bernal," Hosterman said. "So now we need to determine how to move forward. Do we move rather slowly and methodically given the revenue stream that we will have in the coming years, or ask voters if they want some other form of funding that would ensure funding for faster development of the park?"

As for the commissions, Hosterman said she will focus first on making sure the Planning Commission has enough members by conducting interviews.

"As we know, the Planning Commission has had problems with meeting with a quorum, so that's an issue I want to address immediately."

Hosterman said she expects to work in greater harmony with the other four members of the new council, who include Jerry Thorne, Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern.

Although she didn't mention Steve Brozosky by name, he was clearly being referenced as she talked about the better interpersonal relationships she hopes to foster

on the new council. Brozosky and Hosterman frequently sparred on key issues.

"The dynamics are going to be a little different on this new council and I think it will be a positive one and very good for the community and very good for the council," she said.

"I think that we'll be able to have meaty discussions and take a great deal of public input as we always have," she added. "But I also see an opportunity to move the agenda along at a little bit of a faster clip. We've had meetings in the past that go late into the evening. It's difficult sometimes to keep people focused and moving forward."

With regard to the General Plan update, Hosterman said work began on the project in 2003, but has moved more slowly than hoped. Many delays were caused by change in both the council and Planning Commission, with new members having to see presentations that others had earlier approved.

"We've hashed out a number of these issues for months, even over the last few years," she said. "It's time to make some decisions and get that General Plan behind us so we can move on." ■



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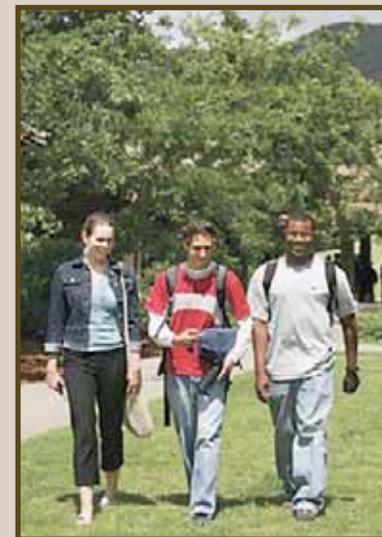
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# Stores gear up for holiday masses

Shoppers expected to spend an average of \$800 this holiday season

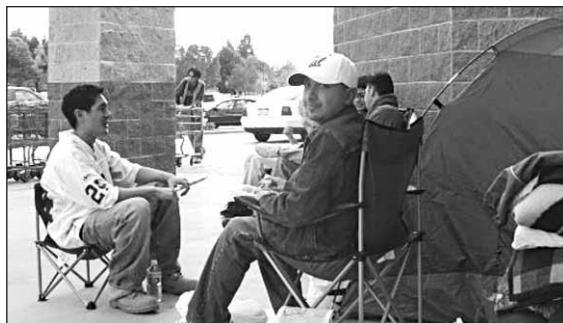
by Janet Pelletier

It's known in the retail world as Black Friday. Its symptoms include ringing cash registers, stressed out cashiers, messy aisle ways, stampedes of adults with children in tow and shopping bags galore.

Today is officially the biggest shopping day of the year and local stores are doing their best to both encourage spending and keep the peace throughout the day and ensuing weekend.

Black Friday is almost an unsanctioned entrance to the holiday season—the day after Thanksgiving when stores offer astronomical discounts and early bird doorbuster sales to draw large crowds. It's also the perfect time for many who have family in town for Thanksgiving to get a head start on their gift shopping for Christmas and Hanukkah.

This year, the average shopper is expected to spend nearly \$800 on holiday merchandise, according to the National Retail Federation. That's up from \$738 last year.



Janet Pelletier

Antioch resident Javier de los Santos and friends brought a tent and blankets as they camped out awaiting the release of the new PlayStation 3 unit at the Pleasanton Wal-Mart last week.

stake positions near the entrances anticipating the stores' openings. The Wal-Mart on Rosewood Drive in Pleasanton will open at 5 a.m. and will offer doorbuster sales from 5 to 11 a.m. The doors at the Target store in Dublin will open at 6 a.m. The Best Buy store in Dublin will open at 5 a.m. and will offer doorbuster sales on various electronic goods from 5 a.m. to noon. The Kohl's store on Rosewood Drive will also offer early bird sales from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Other stores such as those along Main Street in downtown Pleasanton have been stocking shelves with holiday decorations and gifts. A store clerk at Domus, which sells housewares, described this weekend as "mayhem" traditionally.

The downtown shops officiated the holiday season last weekend with the Magical Holiday Evening event, which drew about 2,000 people, according to Christine Salidivar, executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, which hosts the event.

Salidivar said for those looking for a different shopping experience today and this weekend, downtown is the place to go.

"It's a special place for those shoppers who are looking for unique items you won't find at just any store," she said. "You get away from the crowds and the rush. It's more of an experience here where you go get something to eat, have some fresh pastries and still you finish up with your holiday Christmas shopping, only it's more fun when you do it downtown." ■

### Why is it called Black Friday?

One theory is that retailers traditionally operated at a financial loss for most of the year (January through November) and made their profit during the holiday season. When this would be recorded in the financial records, common accounting practices use red ink to show negative amounts and black ink would show positive amounts. Black Friday is the beginning of the period where they would no longer have losses. *Source: Wikipedia*

In a breakdown of spending, most people will spend about \$450 on their family, \$85 on friends, \$22 on co-workers and \$44 on others such as clergy, teachers and babysitters.

The rise in spending is due to lower gas prices and higher consumer sentiment, the NRF said. People will be shopping increasingly more this year in department stores—61.6 percent compared with 53.1 percent in 2003.

Stoneridge Shopping Center is expected to draw large crowds from all over the Tri-Valley area with anchor stores opening earlier than the rest of the mall stores.

Macy's, which has a men's, children and home store and a women's store at the mall, will open its doors at 6 a.m. and is expected to offer doorbuster sales on its merchandise. Nordstrom will open at 7 a.m. and will be offering special sales on select items throughout the day. Both JC Penney and Sears plan to open at 5 a.m. and offer early bird specials.

The mall shops will also open earlier than usual. Today, the shops will open at 8 a.m.; Saturday, they will open at 9 a.m. and Sunday, they will open at 10 a.m.

Big box stores such as Wal-Mart and Target also plan to open extra early today and expect large crowds

### Top Toys this year

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Boys</b>               | <b>Girls</b>           |
| 1. TMX Elmo               | 1. Barbie dolls        |
| 2. cars (generic)         | 2. dolls (generic)     |
| 3. PlayStation 3          | 3. Bratz dolls         |
| 4. video games            | 4. TMX Elmo            |
| 5. Legos                  | 5. Dora the Explorer   |
| 6. Nintendo DS            | 6. Disney Princess     |
| 7. Hot Wheels             | 7. iPod/MP3 players    |
| 8. XBOX 360               | 8. Nintendo DS         |
| 9. remote controlled cars | 9. PlayStation 3       |
| 10. trucks                | 10. The Little Mermaid |

*Source: National Retail Federation*

## Alexandria's Flowers

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Present this offer and receive \$25  
off any repair or maintenance  
service over \$100

Expires 12/31/06. Not valid with any other offer.  
One special off per person, per visit.

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Present this offer and receive a standard oil change and  
complimentary tire rotation for **\$24.95 including:**

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**\$24.95\***  
plus tax & hazardous  
waste fee

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NOT included. Not valid with any other offer.  
One offer per person, per visit



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LCF06601075



Pete's Trees on Hopyard Road got under way earlier this week as lot manager John Robnik (right) and his assistant Larry Deeley used a machine to drill holes in the trunks of trees.

**Trees**

(continued from page 5)

Oregon that will range in height from 4 feet tall to 16 feet tall. The tallest varieties are for the most part already spoken for by places like the Ruby Hill Country Club. The trees will range in price from \$15 to nearly \$300.

Home Depot will also be selling real Christmas trees beginning today. The store on Johnson Drive will be selling Douglas and noble firs ranging from 4 to 9 feet tall.

And for those who live on the northwest side of Interstate 680, Moore's Bay Area Christmas Trees will be selling Douglas, noble, silver tip, white and Frazier firs ranging from 2 feet tall to 14 feet tall. They are located at the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Park in Castro Valley.

While fake Christmas tree sales have put a dent in the sale of real trees, the industry is still going strong.

More than 100,000 people are employed in the Christmas tree industry nationwide, according to the National Christmas Tree Association. A total of \$1.4 billion worth of trees was sold last holiday season. ■

**Where to get  
your tree**

*All trees go on sale today  
through Christmas Eve*

**Pete's Trees  
(2 locations)**

- Located next to Harvest Valley Christian Church, 3200 Hopyard Road, across the street from the Pleasanton Sports Park. Call 600-7841.
- Located next to the McDonald's shopping center at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Bernal Avenue. Call 249-0155.
- Both locations will be selling Douglas, noble and grand firs ranging from tabletop sizes to 10 to 12-foot-tall trees. Prices range from \$23-200. Trees come from Oregon.

**Regan Bros.**

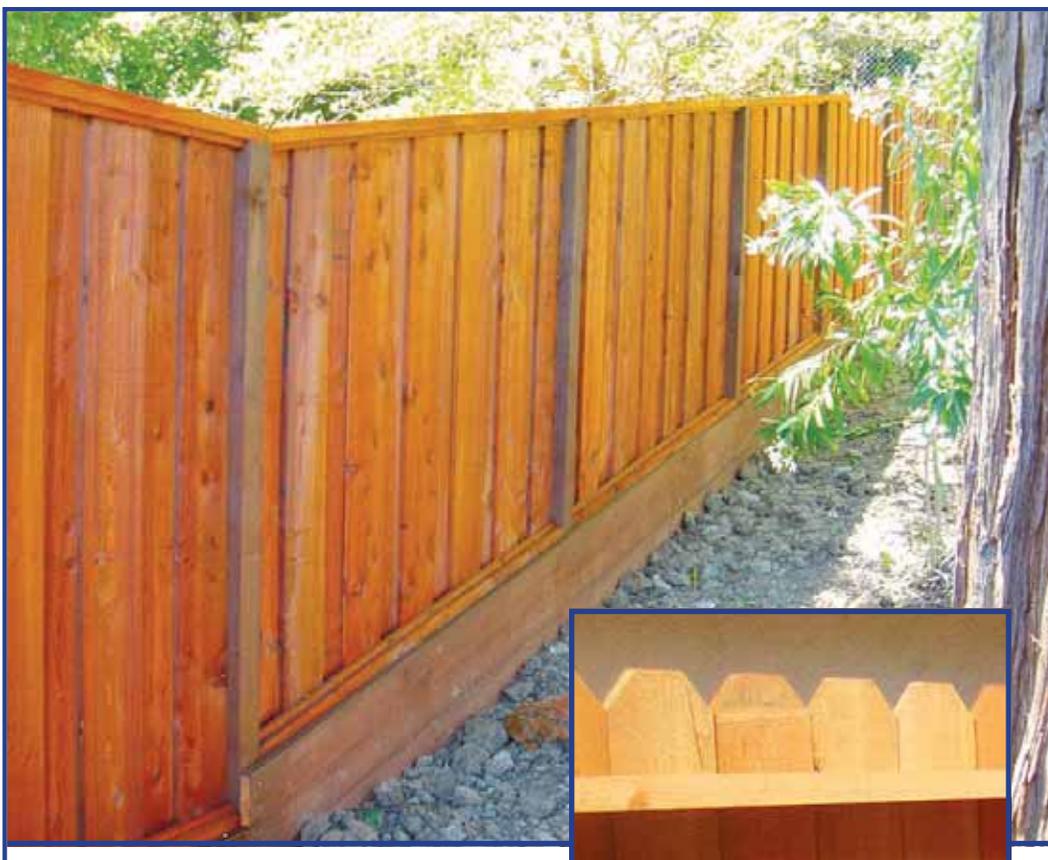
- Located at the northeast corner of the Alameda County Fairgrounds near intersection of Valley and Bernal avenues. Call 447-5965.
- The lot will be selling Douglas, noble and grand firs ranging from 4 feet tall to a very limited supply of 16-foot-tall trees. Prices range from \$15-300. Trees come from Oregon.

**Home Depot**

- 6000 Johnson Drive. Trees ranging from 4 feet tall to 9 feet tall. Prices vary.

**Moore's Bay Area  
Christmas Trees**

- Rowell Ranch Rodeo Park, 9711 Dublin Canyon Road, Castro Valley. Call 510-886-6015.
- Lot will be selling Douglas, noble, silver tip, white and Frazier firs ranging from 2 feet tall to 14 feet tall



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## Assisted living group gets mayor's award



Jeab Bing

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman (right) presented the prestigious Mayor's Award for 2006 to these members of the city's Assisted Living Facilities Subcommittee. They are (l-r) Christine Steiner, Harvey and Marty Kameny, and Barbara Hempill. Not at the Mayor's Award dinner at the Senior Center, where the plaques were presented, were two other subcommittee members, Pat Lane and Joanne Olsen.

The subcommittee spent 11 years working with planners and developers to seek financing and regulatory approvals for the Parkview Assisted Living facility, now under construction at Valley Avenue (formerly Junipero Street) and Sunol Boulevard. The 105-bed facility, which includes subsidized units for those with low-incomes and special units for Alzheimer's patients, is scheduled to open in late January.

## Take Us Along



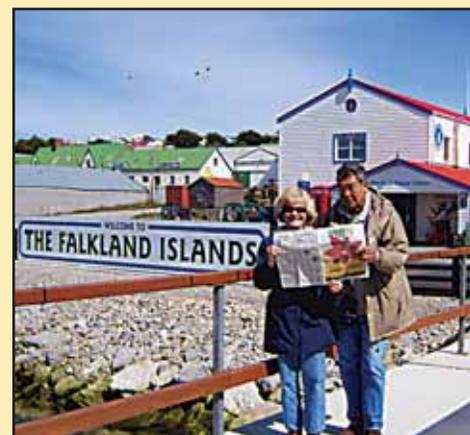
### Sneaky snow attack

The Schroeder and Smith families enjoy relaxing, reading the Weekly and, apparently, staging snowball ambushes during their trip to Lake Tahoe.



### Lake memories

Tim and Chris Petro-Brown read the Weekly during a trip to Lake Michigan. The couple was in town for Tim's high school reunion.



### South American adventure

Joyce and Ernie Freeman read the Weekly on the Falkland Islands. The couple stopped there during a cruise of South America.

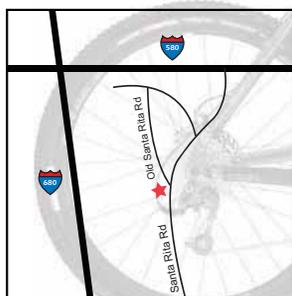
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The Holiday Fund helps people in our community

# It's time to give

by Jeb Bing

Six nonprofits have been selected as this year's recipients of the fourth annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, the community-wide campaign that starts today to provide needed funding for vital local nonprofits.

Last year, the Holiday Fund exceeded its \$75,000 goal, raising \$76,575 in direct contributions and matching funds. Each of the targeted six nonprofit organizations serving the needs of the community received \$12,762 to help them continue their work.

"The economy is improving and yet needs by the charitable organizations are greater than ever, so we've raised our sights with a goal for this year's Holiday Fund set at \$100,000," said Gina Channell-Allen, president of the Pleasanton Weekly. "Already some of last year's donors have given again, wanting to double their giving through the Holiday Fund."

The organizations that will benefit from the 2006-07 campaign are Axis Community Health, the downtown Pleasanton Firehouse Arts Center project, Open Heart Kitchen, Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center of ValleyCare, Tri-Valley Haven and the Valley Humane Society.

"This year, the Pleasanton Weekly will be able to increase the contribution our readers, advertisers and others make by 100 percent because of the partnership we have established with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation," Channell-Allen said. "The foundation has agreed to provide matching funds to our campaign drive so for every \$1 contributed, another \$1 will be given to these local organizations."

Unlike most other fundraising drives by individual organizations, the Holiday Fund has no administrative expenses or other overhead. The Pleasanton Weekly donates all the support services so all money raised can support local nonprofit groups.



The Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center offers personalized reference assistance and access to medical databases.



The future Firehouse Arts Center will bring arts to downtown with a 240-seat theater and art classrooms.

All funds are held in trust by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

David Rice, president of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, said giving to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund this year is more important than ever.

"Although Pleasanton is ranked as one of the wealthiest cities its size in the nation, there are thousands who rely on these six organizations for individual and family assistance, emergency aid when they're suddenly without jobs and health care," Rice said.

"Not everyone is wealthy here, not everyone has a job, not everyone has health insurance," he added. "These are the people who need our help."

He pointed to increased requirements by the nonprofits to meet the needs of an increased number of those in low-level-paying jobs, many without adequate or any health insurance. Some have lost their jobs or their benefits, or both, because of corporate downsizing, layoffs and benefit reductions.

"Open Heart Kitchen, for example, already has served more than 130,000 meals to the hungry and those in need, up from 27,000 meals just two years ago, and we still have another month left in the year," Rice said.

Added Carol Beddome, the Executive Director of Open Heart Kitchen:

"We serve nutritious lunches and dinners to anyone who is hungry, without charge or qualification. Unlike typical urban soup kitchens that cater to the homeless, most of our guests are low-income people who have jobs and a place to live. They come from all walks of life, including single parent families, seniors on a fixed income, men and women working two jobs, people who are unemployed or deeply in debt. They all find that a free hot meal can help make ends meet."

"Last year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund's contributions to Open Heart Kitchen fed more than 8,000 in the locations where we provide meals, including Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton. This year, a generous donation of \$100 will feed over 65 guests."

Axis Community Health, another recipi-

ent of this year's campaign, is Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical care for the area's working families who do not have health insurance.

"We are seeing an ever-growing number of families in need," said Sue Compton, Assistant Director at Axis. "More than 25 percent of our patients are children under the age of 12. In the past year alone, the number of children we care for has increased by 20 percent. We are putting every resource we have into meeting this growing need, but the support we receive from state and local funding is not keeping pace with the demand for services."

"We have a constant waiting list for well baby and well child examinations at Axis, and support from the Holiday Fund will be used to provide additional hours of direct care for children," she added. "For every \$500 we receive, we will be able to provide another four hours of pediatric services, during which time 15 babies and children will receive comprehensive check-ups and immunizations."

"Support from the Holiday Fund last year allowed us to provide an additional 180 health care visits for local children, and we would be thrilled to be able to provide these extra services again this year. The Holiday Fund is truly making a difference for the families in our community."

Tri-Valley Haven, a shelter, rape, crisis and counseling center, reported that money from last year's Holiday Fund went to operating costs. The organization said it is especially appreciative of gifts like these because it finds it increasingly difficult to obtain grant funding to meet expenses such as utilities and telephone costs. One of its major expenses is to support its 24-hour crisis line, with call forwarding that allows it to divert the line to volunteers' homes overnight.

Contributions from the Holiday Fund will also support two shelters, a community building and a satellite counseling office, all with telephones and computers.

Another recipient of this year's Holiday

Fund will be the Firehouse Arts Center, whose foundation is seeking \$4 million to add to the \$10 million already raised for the downtown facility. It will bring arts to the downtown, as well as a 240-seat theater and art classrooms with emphasis on school-age students and younger children.

The Pleasanton City Council has already allocated \$8.8 million for the project, which will replace much of the old firehouse Station 4 and fire department headquarters on Railroad Avenue. Built in 1929, a large portion of the historic brickwork will be preserved as part of an innovative architectural design that will also incorporate a glass and steel lobby and high tech production equipment.

"So much has been done by so many to make Pleasanton such a special place to live," said Greg Reznick, president of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation whose nine-member board of directors recently contributed \$1 of their own money toward the project."

"With the help of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, we will be able to move even



Tri-Valley Haven often has difficulty finding the funds to operate the rape, crisis and counseling center.

## The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of local nonprofit organizations to help alleviate the needs that exist, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the fourth year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides an opportunity to aid local groups at a time when the numbers of those without jobs or with low-paying jobs and few if any health benefits have increased.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. This will enable us to double your donation and allow your gift of \$1 to total \$2 to the nonprofits. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund. One hundred percent of donations go to the intended grantees.

We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy nonprofits.



# Holiday Fund Donors

**At the launch of the 2006 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 37 donors have contributed \$7,005 to the fund. With the 100% match, a total of \$14,010 has been raised for the six 2006 beneficiaries.**

*Individuals*

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 6 Anonymous                 | .....\$370 |
| Lou & Margene Rivara        | .....500   |
| Jan & Jeb Bing              | .....200   |
| Steve & Kellie Pulido       | .....100   |
| Patrick Spangler            | .....100   |
| Herb & Cathy Ritter         | .....50    |
| Angela Aloise               | .....250   |
| Kay & Charles Huff          | .....***   |
| Jeff & Kathy Narum          | .....100   |
| Janet & Glenn Wenig         | .....100   |
| Bernice B. Hansen           | .....***   |
| Alice Desrosiers            | .....100   |
| Chris & Glenda Berattis     | .....500   |
| Daryn & Jennifer Oxe        | .....100   |
| Herbert & Stella Chang      | .....***   |
| Steve & Bonnie Shamblin     | .....50    |
| Alan & Jean Purves          | .....100   |
| Mr. & Mrs. Gregory O'Connor | .....***   |
| Frank Fuentes               | .....***   |
| Evan & Carolyn White        | .....***   |
| Sheldon & Vivian Thorson    | .....***   |

*A Gift For*

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| TYCO for Paul Ulatoski | .....200 |
|------------------------|----------|

*Business*

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| "Big "O" Tires of Pleasanton" | .....200 |
| Vic's All Star Kitchen        | .....250 |
| Foothill Optometric Group     | .....35  |

*In Memory Of*

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Ed Regalado & Rich Thole<br>from Brian Wright                                 | .....50  |
| Dick Waldron<br>from Virginia Waldron   | .....50  |
| Irene Baeta<br>from J.M. Teghtmeyer   | .....*** |
| John Mavridis from Ted Mavridis   | ..100    |
| Rick Fatland from Howard Merrill  | ..100    |
| Mary L. Erickson<br>from A.L. Copher  | .....*** |
| Ed Kinney, Walt Wood<br>and George Spiliotopoulos<br>from Sandra & Brad Hirst | ....300  |

*The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.*

faster toward meeting our goal of starting construction and opening the center in 2008," he added.

The Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, located inside the ValleyCare Health Library, offers personalized reference assistance and access to medical databases, some in other languages, including Web sites and articles, plus books, videos and models. The library has both a librarian and nurse on staff to help with research.

"On behalf of ValleyCare Health System, I would like to thank the Pleasanton Weekly for including the ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center



The Valley Humane Society is currently in the process of moving into a new facility and proceeds from the Holiday Fund will help with that.

as a recipient of this year's Holiday Fund drive," said ValleyCare Vice President Ken Mercer. "The Holiday Fund's contribution helps our library provide much needed health information and education to our community."

Last but not least is help for our furry friends who give so much to us in return. Once again, the Valley Humane Society is on the list of recipients for the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

This all-volunteer group, with its mission to educate others on responsible pet ownership, is building a new facility on Nevada Street and is in need of funding to complete the project and add to its services that include rescuing, treating and finding homes for abandoned or injured animals. It does not euthanize unless health problems dictate.

"What's important about giving to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is that, in partnership with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, we can identify these programs and activities that need our help and serve our entire community," said the foundation's David Rice.

"We know what the needs are locally because of our expertise in covering these nonprofits in the Weekly's news columns and through the foundation's programs to help serve their financial needs," he explained.

"We can put money to work very quickly where as it might take quite a long time for these organizations to partner up with donors themselves," he added. "So this is a much more effective and direct way to get money to work in the community by giving to the Holiday Fund." ■

# How to Give

**Your gift helps seniors, children and others in need**

Contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will be increased by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. For every \$1 contributed, \$2 will be donated to these local organizations. All contributions will go directly to programs that benefit Pleasanton and Tri-Valley residents. Contributions will be distributed by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation



to the six agencies listed below. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

This year, due to the tremendous need of all nonprofits, donations will be shared equally among the six recipient agencies.

For more information call us at 600-0840 or e-mail editor@pleasantonweekly.com.

## The following agencies will be supported by the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund:

• **Axis Community Health:** Provides medical, mental health, addiction counseling and health education services to more than 20,000 patients and clients each year, regardless of their ability to pay. An estimated 70 percent have no medical insurance or are underinsured, including some that have recently lost their jobs and health benefits. Call 201-6017 or visit [www.axishealth.org](http://www.axishealth.org).

• **Firehouse Arts Center:** The Cultural Arts Foundation is seeking public contributions of \$4 million to complete its funding effort for the downtown Firehouse Arts Center. The facility, which will renovate and expand the historic old firehouse on Railroad Avenue, will include a 240-seat theater and art classrooms with emphasis on school-age students and younger children. For more information on the center, call Greg Reznick at 417-2074 or Debbie Look at 846-1007.

• **Open Heart Kitchen:** As the only nonprofit free soup kitchen in the Tri-Valley area, this service provides nutritious meals for low-income people in the Pleasanton-Livermore area at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton and Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore. Visit [www.openheartkitchen.org](http://www.openheartkitchen.org) or call 580-1616.

• **Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center:** Located inside the ValleyCare Health Library, it offers personalized reference assistance and access to medical databases, some in other languages, including Web sites and articles, plus books, videos and models. The library has both a librarian and nurse on staff to help with research. Call 734-3315.

• **Tri-Valley Haven:** Runs a domestic violence shelter as well as a homeless shelter for families and a rape crisis center. Its mission is to aid those who have experienced abuse and offers counseling, a legal clinic and other practical advice. Call 449-5845; 24-hour hotline: (800) 884-8119 or visit [www.trivalleyhaven.org](http://www.trivalleyhaven.org).

• **Valley Humane Society:** This nonprofit group is all volunteers, with the mission to educate on responsible pet ownership. It assists in rescuing and placing abandoned or injured animals and operates an adoption center in downtown Pleasanton. It does not euthanize unless health problems dictate. Call 426-8656.

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

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I wish to designate my contribution as follows:

- In my name as shown above OR:
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(Name of person)
- Business or organization: \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to contribute anonymously.  Don't publish the amount of my contribution.

Please make checks payable to **The Holiday Fund**

Enclose this coupon and send to: **The Holiday Fund, Pleasanton Weekly  
5506 Sunol Blvd, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566**



The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 112, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its Web site: [www.tvcfund.org](http://www.tvcfund.org). The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2006, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

**NOTICE OF COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following commissions or committees for the terms indicated:

**City of Pleasanton Commissions/Committee (Four-Year Terms)**

- \* Housing Commission
- \* Civic Arts Commission
- \* Economic Vitality Committee
- (1) At-large Member;
- (1) Residential Builder Representative
- (1) Financial Institution Representative
- \* Library Commission
- \* Planning Commission

**Regional Commissions/Boards**

- \* Alameda County Housing Commission, Pleasanton Representative, Term: September 2006-December 2007
- \* Tri-Valley Conservancy, Pleasanton Representative, Four-year term

**Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee**

The purpose of the Committee is to implement the goals and objectives of the Youth Master Plan of Pleasanton such as: Ptown411 web page, Youth-related workshops, events and special projects. The Plan focuses on providing services to youth throughout the community. Specifically it addresses issues of programs and activities, health and wellness, childcare, jobs, leadership and communication amongst children, youth and families. The Committee is comprised of representatives from various community organizations, schools and businesses.

The YMPIC is comprised of 30 members. Applications are being accepted for the following representatives:

- 2 At-Large Parent Representatives - one representative from a pre-school, and one representative from an elementary school
- 1 Health and Crisis Representative
- 1 Non-Profit Agency Representative
- 1 Senior Citizen Representative
- 1 Alternate Representative from Amador High School
- 1 Youth Representative and 1 Alternate from Village High School
- 1 Youth Representative from Hart Middle School
- 1 Youth Representative from Pleasanton Middle School

It is anticipated that the YMPIC will meet at least monthly for the purpose of implementing these projects. Committee members will be appointed for a one-year term initially.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us). For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006**. Postmarks are not accepted.

**Interviews will be held the week of December 11. Applicants will be notified regarding interviews and the selection process once the filing period is closed.**

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

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, including any agenda amendments, please visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### Armed bank robbery

At 9:45 a.m. Nov. 20, the Westamerica Bank at 5700 Stoneridge Mall Road, Ste. 100, was robbed by a masked man carrying a handgun, according to Pleasanton police. The suspect entered the bank and ordered five employees to the vault. He demanded cash, which he received, and fled the bank. No customers were present during the robbery.

The suspect is described as a male in his 20s

with a thin build. He is between 5-feet 6-inches and 5-feet 9-inches tall. He was wearing a loose black sweatshirt with a hood over his head; his face was covered with a black ski mask. He was wearing dark blue jeans and was carrying a black and gray backpack. He fled the parking lot in a black or dark colored full-size van.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100, citing case #06-7108.

## Police Report

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

### November 12

- DUI: 2
- Threatening phone calls: 1
- Theft:
  - 4:36 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; from building, worth over \$400
- Possession of marijuana:
  - 1:00 a.m. at the intersection of Paseo Santa Cruz and Valley Avenue
- Domestic animal bites:
  - 3:48 p.m. in the 2900 block of Moreno Avenue
- Reckless driving:
  - 3:40 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- Assault:
  - 4:31 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

### November 13

- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
  - 12:00 p.m. in the 4300 block of Ruby Hill Drive; credit card fraud
  - 2:00 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; from vehicle, worth over \$400
  - 3:53 p.m. in the 5100 block of Case Avenue; from building
  - 5:00 p.m. in the 2100 block of Rheem Drive; identity theft
  - 6:15 p.m. in the 7200 block of Stonedale Drive; from building, worth less than \$50
  - 6:39 p.m. in the 2100 block of Foxwallow Road; credit card
  - 8:30 p.m. in the 4800 block of

- Bernal Avenue; bicycle
- 9:48 p.m. in the 7000 block of Via Quito
- 9:51 p.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road; forged checks

- Vandalism:
  - 10:15 a.m. at the intersection of Kolln Street and Valley Avenue; worth less than \$1,000
- Possession/sale of organic drugs:
  - 3:56 a.m. at the intersection of Valley and Bernal avenues
- Wild animal bite:
  - 5:04 p.m. in the 1900 block of Brooktree Way

### November 14

- Theft:
  - 8:24 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; stolen vehicle
  - 8:30 a.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue; from vehicle, worth over \$400
  - 8:57 a.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue; stolen vehicle
  - 6:53 p.m. in the 1200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from building, worth \$50-199
- Vandalism:
  - 8:21 a.m. in the 2900 block of Garden Creek Circle; worth less than \$1,000
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 7:02 a.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive; worth \$50-199
- Possession of marijuana:
  - 4:06 p.m. at the intersection of Olympic Court and Valley Trails Drive

### November 15

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 12:36 p.m. in the 6800 block of

- Koll Center Parkway; from building, worth over \$400
- 3:45 p.m. in the 5500 block of Las Positas Boulevard; from building, worth less than \$50
- 6:50 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from building
- 8:14 p.m. in the 3500 block of Whitehall Court; from building, worth \$50-199
- 8:16 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
- 9:20 p.m. in ght 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth less than \$50

- Burglary:
  - 12:52 p.m. in the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard
- Assault:
  - 12:50 p.m. in the 3100 block of Busch Road
- Dog bite:
  - 7:39 p.m. in the 6800 block of Corte Nuevo
- Possession of alcohol by minor:
  - 11:24 p.m. at the intersection of Busch Road and Ironwood Drive

### November 16

- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
  - 10:41 a.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; from building
  - 12:46 p.m. in the 3800 block of Keneland Way; identity theft
  - 2:15 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; identity theft
  - 2:24 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; from building, worth less than \$50
- Vandalism:
  - 9:28 a.m. in the 5000 block of Woodthrush Road; worth \$1,000 or less
- Assault:
  - 12:29 a.m. at the intersection of Hazelhurst Court and Kolln Street
  - 1:15 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

### November 17

- Theft:
  - 9:27 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; credit card fraud
- Residential vandalism:
  - 3:00 a.m. in the 100 block of Sylvia Circle; worth \$1,000 or less

## ACCIDENTS

### November 12

- 4:14 p.m. - Injury accident in the 4400 block of Muirwood Drive

### November 13

- 4:38 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Grapevine Drive and Vineyard Avenue



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# Transitions

## Obituaries

### Gladine Barnhill

Gladine Barnhill died Oct. 28 in Pleasanton at the age of 92.

Born on Nov. 13, 1913 in Chillcothe, Mo., she lived in Pleasanton for the past 14 years. Previously, she resided in Hayward for almost 50 years.

Gladine was employed by Penny's in Hayward for 20 years prior to her retirement. In retirement, she and her husband Howard enjoyed extensive travel throughout the U.S. and Europe, with many trips to Lincoln, Neb.—Mr. Barnhill's family home.

She is survived by her children Delores Berck of Pleasanton, Nancy Barnhill of Patterson; brother Stanley Roemich of Chico; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 75 years, Howard Barnhill.

Private family services were held with interment at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward.

### Hermalinda D. Calija

Hermalinda D. Calija died Nov. 2 in Pleasanton at the age of 88.

Mrs. Calija was born and raised in Arizona before moving to Pleasanton 60 years ago. She was a member of St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton.

She is survived by her husband, Ellis Calija of Pleasanton; daughters Rose Abbott of Monterey and Angie Calija of Pleasanton; sons Dick Teczon and Rueben Teczon of Monterey, Ben Teczon and Dan Teczon of Stockton, Tony Flores of Livermore, Ellis Calija, Jr. of

Manteca, Ray Calija of Castro Valley and Sid Calija of Stockton; and brother Robert Ruelas of Phoenix; and 60 great-grandchildren and grandchildren all together.

Visitation and vigil services were held Nov. 5 at Callaghan Mortuary of Livermore. A funeral service was held Nov. 6 at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton.

Donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 2065 W. El Camino Real, Ste. C, Mountain View, CA 94040.

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### City should resurrect a dying cemetery

For a city that has spent \$1.2 million to beautify and realign Kottinger Creek and nearly half-a-million dollars on public restrooms downtown, surely we can find the funds to restore and upgrade the city's newly-acquired Memorial Gardens municipal cemetery on Sunol Boulevard. This cemetery, which opened in the 1850s, has deteriorated over recent years under the ownership of the International Order of Odd Fellows, whose membership and finances have been dwindling. To escape bankruptcy and the problems that might cause for the 1,500 interred there and their families and descendants, the IOOF has sold the property to the city for \$1. Concerned that it might cost too much to maintain, the City Council decided to let the cemetery slip into what it calls a "Pioneer" status, which means no grass, no irrigation system and almost no upkeep. City crews would clear away fallen tree branches, plant growth and weeds blocking access to gravesites, but broken or leaning tombstones would be left to deteriorate.

Pleasanton prides itself on having some of the finest parks, sports fields and public spaces in the state. The cemetery should be no different. This is an historic gateway to Pleasanton that contains the graves of some of the founders and early settlers of our community, including Joshua Neal and John Kottinger. It's an important part of the city's past and hundreds have been buried there in recent years, including both military veterans and those killed in battle. In fact, the cemetery is the site of community-wide Memorial Day observances under the auspices of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. The families whose loved ones are buried there deserve better than what some in the city believe is just too costly a project to take on.

The Park and Recreation Commission is now studying plans for maintaining Memorial Gardens and lifting the current ban on new burials there. This 5-acre cemetery has about 1,200 spaces left for full casket burials, more for interment of cremated remains. It is contiguous to the St. Augustine Catholic Church cemetery, and there's a proposal to team up with a Catholic organization that handles burials on several sites to also manage ecumenical, nonsectarian burials at Memorial Gardens.

Officials estimate that it would cost an initial one-time capital investment of \$642,000 to clean up the city's newly-acquired cemetery and to design and install an irrigation system, repair broken and leaning grave markers for those whose families are gone and to prepare future sites for new burials. Up to now, because of the poor condition of Memorial Gardens, many Pleasanton families have buried their loved ones in cemeteries in Hayward and Lafayette. These high-cost cemeteries are too far for many survivors, often elderly, to travel to frequently, while Memorial Gardens could be priced lower and would be more convenient.

Some members of the council have expressed concern over liability costs and long-term environmental problems from ground pollution. Other cemeteries manage those problems while also serving the interests of the families who go there. Pleasanton can do the same.

### Weekly scores a near-perfect in endorsements

With Mayor Jennifer Hosterman re-elected to a second two-year term, the Pleasanton Weekly has seen all but one of the eight candidates it endorsed for election win seats to the federal, state and municipal offices they were seeking.

The Weekly endorsed Hosterman, as well as incumbent Jerry Thorne and high school teacher Cheryl Cook-Kallio for City Council, who also won.

Others the Weekly endorsed who won are:  
• Pleasanton businessman Jerry McNerney, who defeated seven-term incumbent Richard Pombo as the new Congressman to represent Pleasanton and the 11th

Congressional District;  
• Former 18th District Assemblywoman, San Leandro mayor and Democrat Ellen Corbett for the 10th State Senate District.  
• Incumbent State Assemblyman and Republican Guy Houston, who was re-elected to the 15th Assembly District; and,  
• Incumbent State Assemblyman and Democrat Alberto Torrico, who was re-elected to the 20th Assembly District.

The Weekly also endorsed Republican Jill Buck of Pleasanton for the open State Assembly District seat in the 18th District. She lost to Democrat Mary Hayashi of Castro Valley. ■

## Letters

### Planning commissioners not 'cavalier'

Dear Editor,  
To label members of the planning commission "cavalier" as you appear to have in the Nov. 17 editorial ("City Council needs to examine Planning Commission") is misinformed and disingenuous at best and has the appearance of being mean spirited at the very least.

Perhaps had the Weekly done better research, your editorial might have had a different tone. Perhaps if the Weekly representative stayed at the Planning Commission meetings to the end (instead of leaving halfway through), they would know that these meetings often go beyond 11 p.m. and not infrequently beyond midnight.

Perhaps if the Weekly had looked at the size of the packages that we review, you would better understand the many hours (and miles) a week which goes into this commitment.

Perhaps if the Weekly understood the number of suggestions that the commission itself has made to streamline process (these normally take place at the end of the meetings, by the way), you would better understand the constraints placed upon us.

Perhaps if you had done better research, you would know that at least one of us was informed by a member of the city staff that the commission meeting of Oct. 11 had been cancelled. That happened midday on Oct. 11; further research would have informed you that an attempt to convene the meeting had to take place.

The one area of your editorial where a positive and constructive comment appeared was in your suggestion that the city look at alternates differently. Perhaps a temporary alternate could be appointed pending the completion of the formal process; or perhaps two alternates should be designated.

While I am writing this as a private citizen, let me assure you that neither I nor my peers on the Planning Commission nor city staff are cavalier about either our responsibilities or our commitment. Your use of the fourth estate to launch such unfounded accusations is a sad commentary indeed.

*Philip J. Blank  
Planning Commissioner*



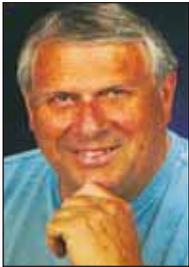
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# Guest Opinion

## Don't make the same mistake twice

by George Withers

When I moved to the Amador Valley in 1954 there were less than 5,000 people each in Livermore and Pleasanton. We had only one telephone prefix in each city (Hiltop-7 in Livermore and Victor-6 in Pleasanton), and no ZIP codes. Each city had one city fire station. We had a total of three east-west roadway options to drive between Livermore and Pleasanton, Highway 50, and Stanley Boulevard and Vineyard Avenue.



I joined the Pleasanton Fire Department in 1965 as a firefighter and I served this community for 32 years, the last eight years as your fire chief. Based on this, I would like to offer the following historical perspective of Pleasanton's development. It is not my intent to speak for the present fire department leadership.

Fire stations are strategically placed throughout a city, based on projected growth areas and planned or existing access roads. Because we were

told that West Las Positas Boulevard would be the next east-west valley crossing, in 1969, we located the "temporary" Fire Station #2 in the Highland Oaks tract, just two blocks off of West Las Positas Boulevard. In 1970, with West Las Positas still planned to be the next east-west valley crossing, Fire Station #3 was built on the corner of West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road.

At some point between 1970 and 1980, because of protests from the residents on West Las Positas Boulevard, a decision was made to realign Stoneridge Drive and make that the new east-west valley crossing. Stoneridge Drive property owners were notified of this intent, as part of the property purchase process.

Based on this decision, in 1984 when we built the new Fire Station #2 (to replace the "temporary" facility opened in 1969), we located this station near the intersection of Stoneridge Mall Road and Stoneridge Drive, to provide rapid access to Stoneridge Drive, the new planned east-west valley crossing.

Now, in 2006, we have another protest from property owners regarding the long planned Stoneridge Drive extension.

Since 1954, we have seen the populations of Livermore and

Pleasanton increase more than ten-fold; we still have the same three east-west roadway options.

We know not to use eastbound 580 on any afternoon. If we want to go to Livermore, we are forced to use Stanley Boulevard or Vineyard Avenue. Both options force the majority people to drive toward the center of town, creating far more traffic than the surface roads in this area are designed to handle.

We need another east-west valley crossing. We should continue the Stoneridge Drive extension, maybe even route it back into the existing Las Positas Boulevard roadway easement and continue east.

Traffic signal synchronization is not the answer!

It's time for the City Council to complete the plans developed by those brilliant council members who have preceded them. Let's try to restore compliance with our city's motto, "The city of planned progress."

Don't let history repeat itself, and don't make the same mistake twice.

*George Withers joined the Pleasanton Fire Department in 1965 and served as fire chief from 1989 to 1997. He has a master's degree in public administration from Cal State East Bay.*

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# Calendar

## Civic Meetings

### City Council

The council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Dec. 5.

### Housing Commission

The commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Dec. 21.

### Human Services Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Dec. 6.

### Library Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Dec. 14.

### Parks & Recreation Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The scheduled Dec. 14 meeting has been cancelled.

### Planning Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The commission is holding a special meeting Nov. 29.

### School Board

The board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room 4665 Bernal Ave. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting is Dec. 12.

### Youth Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The next meeting is Dec. 13.

## Clubs

### Amador Valley Quilters

The Quilt Guild Club meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Saturday monthly at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave.

### American Legion Post

#### 237

American Legion Post 237 meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday monthly at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia. Call Rene, 846-7532, or Dan, 846-7320.

### Boutique Textile Art

Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins. Call 935-8972.

## Concerts

### Classical Concert

The Del Valle Fine Arts concert series presents organist Paul Jacobs at 8 p.m. Nov. 25 at First Presbyterian Church, 2050 5th St. (at L St.) Livermore. For tickets call 447-2752 or visit [www.delvallefinearts.org](http://www.delvallefinearts.org).

### Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert

The first Livermore-Amador Symphony concert of the 2006-07 season is 8 p.m. Dec. 2 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. The concert will include pieces by Mozart, Bach, Sowerby and more. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors. Students high school age and younger are free. Call 373-6824 for tickets or visit [www.livamsymph.org](http://www.livamsymph.org) for more information.

## Events

### Chamber of Commerce Awards & Installation Dinner

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Community Service Awards and Installation of Officers and Directors Dinner Nov. 30 at Castlewood Country Club. The evening starts at 6 p.m. with no-host cocktails and continues at 7 p.m. with dinner and program. Cost is \$75 per person, \$600 for a table of eight.

Black tie optional. Call 846-5858 or visit [www.pleasanton.org](http://www.pleasanton.org) for more information.

## Exhibits

### African-American Sculptor

Sculptor Richard Hunt is exhibiting his works through Nov. 30 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 J Main St. Call 485-1183. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### Local Artist Barbara Spanskie

Barbara Spanskie's work, a variety of both original and giclees (reproductions) of landscape oil paintings, is currently on display at Washington Mutual Bank, 561 Main St., through the end of November. Contact Pleasanton Art League, [pal\\_press@yahoo.com](mailto:pal_press@yahoo.com)

## Fundraisers

### Chuckles for Charity

The Pleasanton Mother's Club presents Chuckles for Charity, a comedy show to benefit the Taylor Family Foundation, 8 p.m., Thu., Nov. 30 at Tommy T's Comedy Club, 5104 Hopyard Rd. Tickets are \$15. Call 484-2990 or visit [www.pleasanton-mothersclub.org](http://www.pleasanton-mothersclub.org).

## Health

### Autism Clinic

Dr. Lynne Mielke of Pleasanton's Developmental Spectrums' Autism Clinic will speak from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 1 on the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the treatment of autism and other disorders affecting the brain. The talk will be at The Fountain Church, 4439 Stoneridge Dr. Call 846-6300 or visit [www.spectrum-hyperbarics.com](http://www.spectrum-hyperbarics.com) for more information.

### Medicare Seminar

San Ramon Regional Medical Center and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) present "Medicare 2007: Get Ready for Major Changes and 55 Drug Plans" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 5 at the South Conference Room in San Ramon Regional's South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call (800) 284-2878 or visit [www.sanramonmedctr.com](http://www.sanramonmedctr.com) to make reservations.

## Holiday

### A Christmas Carol

Traveling Lantern Theatre Company will perform a child's version of the

## Weekend Preview



### Little Red Riding Hood

The Puppet Art Theater Company is coming back to the Pleasanton Public Library to perform "Little Red Riding Hood" 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2 in the library meeting room. Tickets to the show are free for children age five or older and will be distributed at the children's desk 30 minutes prior to the start of the program. Due to the popularity of the program, parents will not be able to attend. Call the library's children's desk at 931-3400, ext. 8 or visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library).

holiday classic, "A Christmas Carol" 2 p.m., Sat., Dec. 9 at the Pleasanton Library. Tickets are limited to children first grade and older and are available at the children's desk 30 minutes before the show. Call 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

### Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long

Tri-Valley Unity Church is hosting a Christmas carol sing-a-long 6 p.m., Sun., Dec. 3 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Suggested donation is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, or \$20 for a family of four or more. Donation includes souvenir song books, candy canes, apple cider, coffee and tea. Call 829-2733 or visit [www.trivalleyunity.com](http://www.trivalleyunity.com).

### Christmas Party

The Retired Public Employees' Association, Chapter 075, is holding a Christmas party in place of its regular business meeting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 7 at Emil Villa's Hickory Pit, 3054 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Bruch cost is \$5 per person. RSVP by calling Bob, 845-6563 or Jan, 447-9549.

### Christmas Tree Lane

The Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindberg Way in Livermore, will transform into ValleyCare's annual Christmas Tree Lane fundraiser. The

family stroll is from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 30, the tinsel tea is from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 1 and a gourmet luncheon is on Dec. 2. Raffle tickets for trees and Christmas china will be sold at all events. Go to [www.valleycare.com/ee\\_events.html](http://www.valleycare.com/ee_events.html).

### Christmas Tree Lane

ValleyCare Health System is holding its annual fundraiser "Christmas Tree Lane" Nov. 30 through Dec. 2. For a complete list of activities and events, visit [www.valleycare.com/ee\\_events.html](http://www.valleycare.com/ee_events.html).

### Fred McCarty Holiday Showcase

Composer Fred McCarty and his band will perform a Holiday Showcase as part of the Dublin Winter Concert Series 2 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Old St. Raymond's Church, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 or younger. Call 833-6645 for more information.

### Holiday Concerts

Experience the joyous sounds of voices, brass, percussion and organ as featured in "Gloria" and the new "Christmas Triptych." Audience can sing carols along with the Las Positas College Concert Choir. Concerts are 8 p.m., Dec. 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd.; and 3 p.m., Dec. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Advance tickets: \$17 adults, \$14 seniors 62 and older. At the door tickets: \$20 adults, \$17 seniors, Students 18 and under free with an adult. Call 866-4003 or mail P.O. Box 286, Livermore.

### Holiday Home Tour

The Valley Children's Museum will hold its third annual Holiday Home Tour from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 10. The tour features unique and decorated homes in and around Ruby Hill, holiday entertainment, treats and more. Tickets are a \$35 donation. Call 461-6574 or e-mail [info@valleychildrensmuseum.org](mailto:info@valleychildrensmuseum.org).

### Holiday HomeTour

The Valley Children's Museum is hosting its third annual Holiday Home Tour from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 10 in Ruby Hill. Tickets are a \$35 donation to the museum. Call 461-6574 or visit [www.valleychildrensmuseum.org](http://www.valleychildrensmuseum.org) to purchase tickets and find more information.

### Holiday Modeling Party

Pure Girls, 660 Main St., is hosting a

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**Holiday Window Modeling Party** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 2. The event starts with watching the Hometown Holiday Parade from box seats in front of the store with dinner and dessert. Girls can then model in the display window in any of the store's themed costumes. The event is for girls ages 6 or older. Admission is \$35 and \$5 for anyone who brings a friend. Call 485-4380 to make a reservation.

**Holiday Tea & Fashion Show**

The Museum On Main is hosting the second annual Holiday Tea & Fashion Show from noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 3 at the museum, 603 Main St. The event includes music by keyboardist Bonnie Green, a parade of fashions from downtown Pleasanton merchants and a formal high tea. Tickets are \$35 per person, \$30 for Museum On Main members and children 16 or younger. Purchase tickets at the museum. Proceeds benefit museum programs. Call 462-2766 or visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org) for more information.

**Holidays in the Vineyards**

Garre Winery will feature arts and crafts booths with wine- and holiday-themed gifts, noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 1-2 at 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Holiday carolers from Harmony Crossroads Chorus at 2 p.m. Sat. only. Toys for Tots Gift Drive, food and special wine tastings. For wine releases and information call 371-8200.

**Hometown Holiday Celebration**

The annual Hometown Holiday Celebration Parade and Tree Lighting will be from 4 to 9 p.m. Dec. 2. The parade begins at 5:30 p.m. down Main Street and includes floats, high school marching bands and a special appearance by Santa Claus. The tree lighting and carol sing-a-long will take place in front of the Museum on Main immediately following the parade. Visit [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com) or call 931-5352 for more information.

**Jim Gamble's 'The Nutcracker'**

Puppeteer Jim Gamble and his host of puppets will perform "The Nutcracker" 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18 for adults and \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children. Call 931-3444 or visit [www.civictickets.org](http://www.civictickets.org) to purchase tickets. Group discounts are available.

**Joy to the World**

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band and the 91st Division Army Band are holding its annual holiday concert, "Joy to the World," 2 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Admission is free. Call 846-5897 or visit [www.pleasanton-band.org](http://www.pleasanton-band.org) for more information.

**Lights of the Valley**

Hope Hospice invites you to light a bulb on a Tree of Life in memory or honor of a loved one at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 29 at Diablo Valley Bank, 300 Main St. A tax-deductible donation of \$20 lights a bulb on the tree to burn throughout the holiday season. Donate online at [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com). Call 829-8770.

(continued on page 20)

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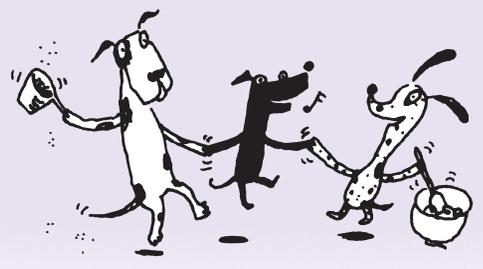
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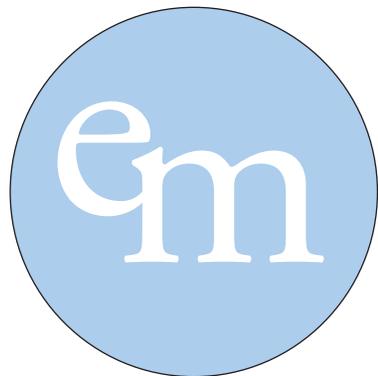
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**Lights Tour**

The Pleasanton Senior Center is hosting a Holiday Lights Tour of the festively decorated homes in Pleasanton from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Dec. 14. Sing-a-longs, cookies and hot cocoa will be provided. Cost is \$6 for Pleasanton residents, \$7 for non-residents. The bus leaves from the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Tickets are also available at that location. Call 931-5372 for more information.

**NY New Year's Eve Bash**

Pure Girls, 660 Main St., is hosting its second annual NY New Year's Eve Bash for girls ages 6 and older from 6 to 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve. This is a "parent-free" event and girls will get glammed-up, dance, win prizes, dine and drink as they count down to the ball drop in New

York City. Cost is \$35 and girls who bring a friend get \$5 off. Call 485-4380 to reserve a space.

**Santa and Pet Photos**

The Valley Humane Society's annual Santa and Pet Photos is for all pets, big and small. Photos will be taken with Santa from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 2-3 at Alden Lane Nursery & Garden Center, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. No appointment necessary, the fee for two 4x6 inch photos and two holiday-framed cards to hold them is \$20. All pets must be leashed or in carriers. Contact the Valley Humane Society, 426-8656

**Santa at Towne Center Books**

Have Breakfast with Santa at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., two different dates: 9 a.m., Thurs., Dec. 7 and Wed., Dec. 13. Breakfast, party favor, photo and time with

Santa are included in the \$5 per person admission. Event is for children ages 3 and older. Call 846-8826.

**Sing-It-Yourself Messiah**

The Valley Concert Chorale is hosting a Sing-It-Yourself Messiah 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Admission is \$10. Participants will sing Handel's popular "Messiah" and soloist will be highlighted. Participants should bring a score, if possible. Visit [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org) for more information.

**The Nutcracker**

The Diablo Ballet company is performing "The Nutcracker" 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec.

(continued on page 21)

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(continued from page 21)  
2; and 2 p.m. Dec. 3. Performances are at the Del Valle Theatre, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$26 for adults and seniors, and \$24 for children 12 or younger. Call 943-SHOW or visit the Dean Leshner Regional Center box office to purchase tickets.

**The Nutcracker**  
Valley Dance Theatre will perform "The Nutcracker" 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 16 and 17, and 7 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Livermore High School Theater, 600 Maple St., Livermore. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors for ground floor reserved seats; \$15 for adults and \$13 for students and seniors for open balcony seating. Call 243-0927 for information and tickets. Group rates available.

**Tree Lighting**  
A tree lighting ceremony will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at 611 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Call 543-0100.

**Valley Chorale Holiday Concert**  
The Valley Concert Chorale performs its annual Holiday Concert 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. and 2 p.m. Dec. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$14 for seniors 62 and older if purchased in advance; \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors at the door. Students 18 and younger are free when accompanied by an adult. Call 866-4003 or e-mail info@valleyconcertchorale.org. Visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org for more information.

**Variety Show and Silent Auction**  
A musical variety show and silent auction benefiting the Young Actors' Theatre Camp featuring Pleasanton native and TV's "America's Got Talent" semi-finalist, Shawn Ryan is 7 p.m., Sat., Dec. 2 at the Dean

Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. For tickets and information, call 943-7469.

**Winter Concerts**  
Amador Valley High School will present two winter concerts at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Director Mark Aubel will lead the AVHS orchestra, choir and jazz A ensemble with special guest, the Foothill High School Chamber Choir at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18. Director Jon Grantham leads the AVHS wind ensemble, wind symphony, symphonic band and jazz B ensemble at 7 p.m. Dec. 19. Both shows are general seating.

## Kids & Teens

**Kids Cookie Cooking Class**  
Join The Pleasanton Hotel's Executive Chef Neil Marquis and his mom, Pat Marquis, to make Christmas Cookies from 5 to 7 p.m., Mon., Nov. 27 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Call 846-8106.

**Mini Cheer Camp**  
The nationally ranked Foothill High School Competition Cher squads are hosting a one-day Mini Cheer Camp from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 2 at Foothill High School large gym. The event is open to students grades K-6. Registration is \$45 and includes lunch, a certificate and a T-shirt. Call Kim DeJoy, 426-2374 or e-mail kdejofhscheer@comcast.net for more information.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Christian/Jewish Workshop**  
A series of workshops sponsored by the Jewish and Catholic communities of Pleasanton will be held

from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 and 13 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct. To register, contact Mary Schneider at mary0531@comcast.net.

## Live Music

**Jazz at The Pleasanton Hotel**  
Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band is performing Nov. 28 at The Pleasanton Hotel. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.pleasantonhotel.com for more information.

## On Stage

**The Nutcracker**  
Del Valle Theater in Walnut Creek presents "The Nutcracker" Dec. 1, 2 and 3, directed by Rebecca Crowell with Diablo Ballet. Buy tickets at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts or by calling 943-SHOW.

## Support Groups

**Al-Anon and Al-a-teen**  
Al-Anon is a Tri-Valley support

group for family and friends of alcoholics that meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Sunday at San Ramon Presbyterian Church, 12943 Alcosta Blvd., upstairs in the Kindergarten room. Call 277-7661 or visit www.ncwsa.org.

### Auto Immune Support

The group meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Call 848-5020..

## TV30

**Let's Talk Sports**  
This week on "Let's Talk Sports," Dr. B boxes with Andre Ward, Olympic gold medalist and undefeated pro, at Kings Gym. Show airs on channel 30. Visit www.tv30.org for updated show times.

**Past Lives, Dreams, Soul Travel**  
Eckankar, a nonprofit organization and church based in Minnesota, is hosting a show on TV 26 every Friday at 4 p.m. titled, "Past Lives, Dreams, Soul Travel." Visit www.eckankar.org for more information.

## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

### LIKE KIND PROPERTY?

When you exchange your real estate investment property, you must take "like-kind properties" as a result of the exchange. So what's a like-kind property?

Common sense tells us that we should exchange a small apartment building for another apartment building. That's about as like-kind as you can get. But we don't have to take this term quite so literally.

"Like-kind" means, in essence, an asset held for investment or for use in a trade or business. Thus, it is perfectly within the boundaries of the tax code to trade that small apartment building for an office building or a small group of rental residences or even a convenience store.

The point is that you can't receive a personal residence in an exchange. Nor can you exchange a personal residence for something else. We are talking about investment properties here, not personal property.

But why not throw in another caveat and make this as complex as it really is? The fact is, we can convert a personal residence into a rental property over time, and we can also convert a rental property into a personal residence. Yet another reason or two to have the best real estate professional and tax advisor guiding you through your plans and transactions. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

*Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.*



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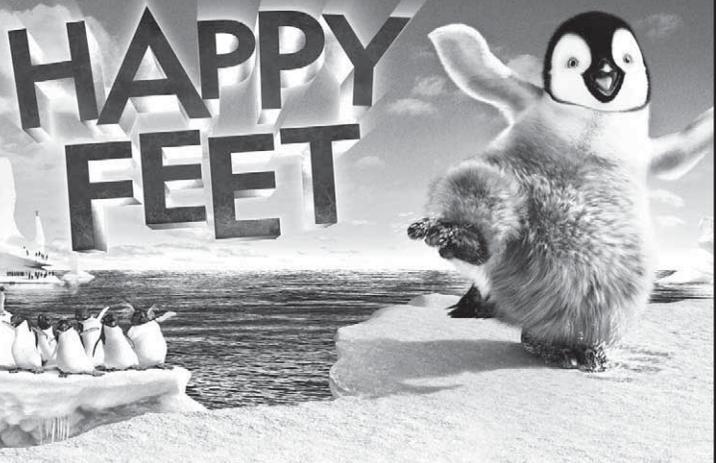
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# Sports

## Foothill football team survives 1st round

by Michael Miller

Coach Matt Sweeney and his Foothill football team sure hopes the Roman rhetorician Seneca the Elder was right when he said, "It is a rough road that leads to the heights of greatness." Last week, in a game that was not expected to be as close as it was, the Falcons escaped with a nail-biting 32-29 win over James Logan in the first round of the North Coast Section (NCS) 4A playoffs.

The game was decided in the final 2:10 of the fourth quarter. After the Falcon defense forced a James Logan punt, the Falcon offense took only four plays and 41 seconds to score the game-winning touchdown. The drive started with a 16-yard completion to Tony Barnett and ended on an 8-yard TD pass from quarterback Josh Mendonca to Ryan Theige. Sandwiched between was a 23-yard completion to Jordan Johnson, who finished the game with 11 receptions for 144 yards and a 4-yard run by running back Rob Andrews to move the ball to the Colts 8-yard line.

In a classic match-up of power versus speed, ultimately power won out. The Colts from James Logan used their speed to ring up 343 yards rushing on an astounding 54 carries. That one game total nearly matched the 377 yards rushing allowed by the Foothill defense in their six EBAL games this entire season.



Foothill girls volleyball wins NCS title

Last weekend the Foothill girl's varsity volleyball team completed their 35-0 undefeated season by capturing the North Coast Section Division I girl's volleyball championship. The Falcons defeated No. 3 seed Deer Valley 25-20, 25-23, 25-22 for the victory.

The championship did not come easy as Foothill had to battle back from behind in game two of the match and had to hold off a furious comeback attempt by the Wolverines in game three.

Led by Coach Dusty Collins, the Falcons used their well-coordinated passing attack throughout the match. The match came to an end when senior Christy Payne—who totaled 25 assists, 10 digs, and five kills—put away the final point. Outstanding defensive blocks led the Foothill girls from several players with perhaps the biggest coming from Alaynah Fielder and Felicia Willoughby at 20-17 in the final game.

The Falcons' next opponent will be Pittsburg High School (7-4) from the Bay Valley League. The Pirates, seeded sixth in the tournament, upset third seeded Deer Valley 26-23 in overtime. Pittsburg is an explosive offensive team as evidenced by their scoring 21 or more points in all but one of their divisional games this season, including 50 against Ygnacio Valley and 40 against Freedom High School from Oakley.

Fullback Monte Davis is their workhorse on offense. He rushed for 145 yards on 19 carries against Deer Valley. Quarterback Kraig Pifer threw for two touchdowns to

help Pittsburg avenge their earlier 35-14 defeat at the hands of Deer Valley.

Friedrich Nietzsche said, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." If Nietzsche was correct, then the Foothill Falcons football team will be a handful for the Pirates when the Falcons host the Pittsburg at 7 p.m. tomorrow night.

Tickets for the game against Pittsburg can be purchased prior by contacting Cynthia Lynn at lynnfamily5@comcast.net or in the senior parking lot at Foothill High School today from 9 to 11 a.m. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, FHS students, and senior citizens (60+ years).

### CCOP 7th graders defeat St. Raymond's

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) seventh grade girls, team 7005, defeated St. Raymond's, team 7008, 28-16 last weekend. It was a team effort for CCOP, who trailed by one point at the end of the first quarter. The offense exploded for 13 points in the second quarter to take a 17-9 halftime lead.

The teams played an even third quarter, but CCOP outscored St. Raymond's by four in the fourth period. The top scorer for CCOP was Michele Mann with 9 points (three rebounds, one steal). Contributing to the win were Nicole Ponzini (seven points, one steal), Emily Alberts (four points, two steals), Lauren MacDonnell (five points, five steals), Kelly Parson (two points, one steal), Jessica Morosoli (one point, two steals, one block) and Vivian Hare. The tough CCOP defense was powered by Sydney Okumura (six rebounds, two steal, two blocks) and Lyndsay Godwin (five rebounds, one steal, one block).



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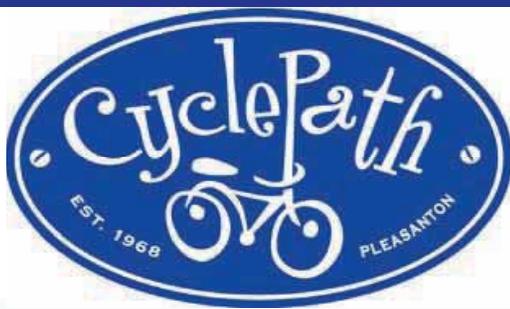
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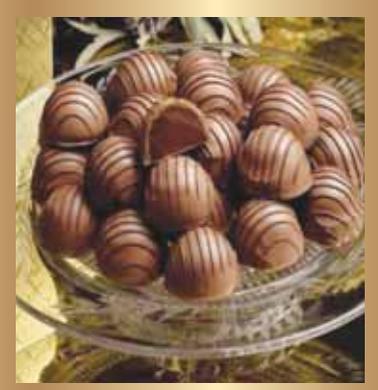
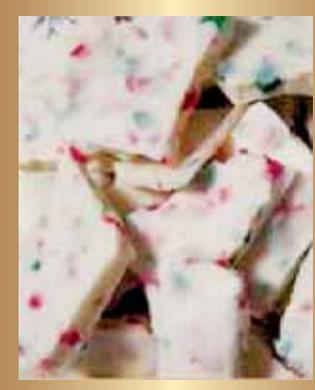


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