

Dilbert creator moving in

Scott Adams to build a home in town > **page 5**

Manager assaulted

Skateboarding teens cause trouble in Safeway

> **page 9**

Vol. VIII, Number 46 • December 14, 2007

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Skating star

Local athlete heating up the ice rink

> **section 2**



*Woman
of the Year*
Jill Buck—a
purpose-driven life
page 16

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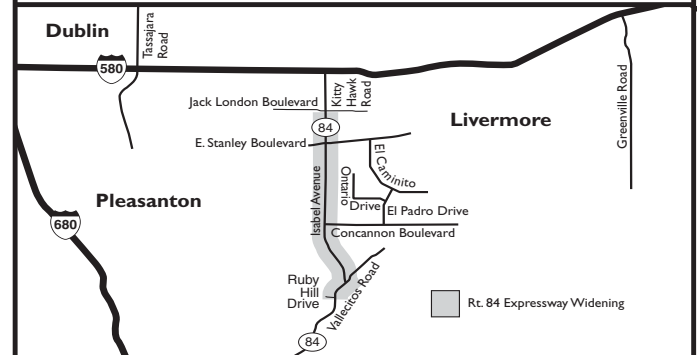


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Public Comment Period Extended to December 28, 2007

Notice of Availability of Environmental Document for the Route 84 Expressway Widening Project



GENERAL PROJECT AREA

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED: The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) and the City of Livermore, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), propose to widen and upgrade State Route 84/Isabel Avenue between Ruby Hill Drive and Jack London Blvd., a distance of approximately 4.8 miles, in the City of Livermore, Alameda County, California.

WHY THIS NOTICE: ACTIA, the City of Livermore, and Caltrans have decided to extend the public comment period for the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) 45 days to December 28, 2007.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW: Caltrans and ACTIA are seeking public comment on the IS/EA for the Route 84 Expressway Widening Project. You can view or obtain a copy of the IS/EA at the following locations:

- Caltrans District 4 Office, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA
 - ACTIA Office, 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA
 - Livermore Main Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA
 - Online at www.actia2022.com or www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm
- Should you wish to comment on the IS/EA, please do so no later than 5:00 pm, December 28, 2007. Written comments should be submitted to: Caltrans District 4, Office of Environmental Analysis, Attn: Ed Pang, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.

For more information about this study or any transportation matter, call Brigetta Smith, Caltrans at (510) 286-5820 or Arthur L. Dao, ACTIA at (510) 893-3347 or visit www.actia2022.com.



Public Comment Period Extended to December 28, 2007

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Bids start at \$299K tomorrow for Jensen tract home

I haven't been to a property auction since I was a kid and used to watch the fast-talking auctioneers selling off farms from the Wayne County Courthouse steps in rural Fairfield, Ill. So it's with some apprehension that I plan to listen in again tomorrow as Stacey Kennedy of Pacific Auction Exchange holds a live auction of a three-bedroom, one-bath home at 4040 Jensen St., across from Amador Valley High School. I'm not the only one apprehensive. Dora Mae Nairn, who has lived in the home since she moved there with her late husband Donald when it was newly built in 1954, is hoping to get a lot more for the house than the minimum bid Kennedy has set of \$299,000. That's a lot less than the \$15,000 the Nairns paid, but a lot less than the \$500,000-\$600,000 some of the Jensen tract homes have been selling for recently. That's why Nairn's neighbors are also concerned; an exceptional low bid that wins could affect property values up and down the street.

Kennedy is confident that the bidding will accelerate quickly once it starts promptly at 12:07 p.m. tomorrow. With luck, Nairn will get an acceptable price, possibly even more than the current market rate if buyers who have previewed the house over a three-day period really want it. Our city is known for multiple bids on appealing houses, especially during the sellers' market of 2004-2006. But then the seller had complete control, fielding the various offers and deciding if one should be accepted or all of them turned down. Today, with market prices down from a year ago, there are concerns that prospective buyers might hold back and let Nairn's house go for less.

The house comes with some history. Both Dora Mae and Donald Nairn graduated from Amador a few years before they married and bought the Jensen Street house.

In fact, Donald was a star athlete, setting quite a few records on the football field for the Dons that stood for years. Employed in the gravel quarries, he and his wife raised four children in the one-bathroom house which must have been quite a feat, although son Randy, who will be at tomorrow's auction, said everyone managed quite well. But then Randy and his older sister Cindy shared the place only with their parents. Randy was 18 when on his graduation day from Amador in 1972, a third sibling was born—Caine, who also went to local schools and graduated from Amador. A fourth soon followed, the youngest in the family, Warren, who, like Cindy, lives in Tracy. Caine is in Sacramento and Randy and his wife Nancy, a nurse, recently sold their house in Copperopolis, Calif. and now travel the country, living in their large motor home.

So no one in the family wants the house. Donald Nairn died 15 years ago and Dora Mae suffered a stroke two years ago. She moved in with her children for care. Realizing she could not live independently again, she recently moved to The Parkview, a new assisted living facility on Valley Avenue, and the family decided to put the house up for sale.

Kennedy said that by auctioning the house off, the Nairns avoid the longer process of listing the house for sale with a Realtor, getting it ready for showing and then waiting until a buyer makes an offer and the deal is closed. Even in the best of times, that can take a month or more. Today, homes in Pleasanton are on the market for months before they sell. The auction process, on the other hand, could be over in an hour or two. Pacific Auction handles all the paperwork. Now 79 years old, Dora Mae's hoping to hear the familiar words of the auctioneer tomorrow: "Going, going, gone!" And for a price everyone will think is fair. ■

About the Cover

With a 40-hour work week for the successful Go Green Initiative, it's impressive that Jill Buck also manages to find time with involvement in veteran's affairs and empowering women to seek local offices. That's why the Pleasanton Weekly has chosen her as our 2007 Woman of the Year. Photo by Shannon Corey. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. VIII, Number 46

The Pleasanton Weekly is published weekly by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2007 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Streetwise

Q: Should businesses be allowed to run out of a home?

Asked Downtown



Laurie Nepil

Marketing Manager

I think it isn't a problem as long as it doesn't impact parking in neighborhoods. Before the city approves these businesses, neighbors should be informed and in agreement.

Chris Doyle

Former Business Owner

I am against it because I live in a "residential neighborhood," not a business neighborhood. When I bought my home, I specifically made that decision.



Dave Arterburn

CPA

I would imagine the foot traffic or vehicle traffic would be minimal for a home-based business. I am not against the idea at all.

Janet Smith

Resource Aid

I think that if there is a lot of traffic, it would be disruptive to the neighbors. A home-based Internet business or a business with minimal foot traffic would be fine.



Corinne Flores

Consultant

I think it depends on what type of business it is. There are quite a few home-based business that can run with minimal disruption to the neighborhood. Others would attract too many cars and people, affecting neighborhoods' ambiance.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Wheels changes fixed-route schedule

Starting Jan. 1, the Wheels fixed-route bus schedule will be adjusted five minutes earlier system wide. These routes are often used by Pleasanton students. The changes are to improve bus connections at the Dublin/Pleasanton Bart station while the West Dublin BART station is under construction.

Police to hold checkpoint tonight

The Pleasanton Police Department will conduct a sobriety and driver's license checkpoint between 8 p.m. tonight and 1 a.m. tomorrow. It will be held on a roadway with "established DUI problems," according to police. Motorists will see informational signs advising that a checkpoint is ahead and will be delayed for a short time while an officer explains the purpose of the checkpoint and examines the driver for DUI and/or license violations.

Water professionals needed

The Dublin San Ramon Services District projects that 50 percent of all water and wastewater treatment plant operators are expected to retire in the next seven to 10 years. This leaves several openings for these positions, which are said to pay well and offer good benefits. Solano Community College now offers a second semester of courses in water/wastewater operation at the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District in Martinez and the West County Wastewater District Pollution Control Plan in Richmond. Classes begin Jan. 8. Apply at www.Solano.edu and then to www.solano.edu/webcms and select water from drop down list.

Corrections

The correct time and date for the Express to Success meeting (Calendar Spotlight, Dec. 7, page 23) is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18 at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Road. Visit www.expresstosuccess.org for details.

In last week's story, "Home Depot loses bid for 2nd store in town," it was reported that Councilwoman Cindy McGovern cast the only negative vote against the Home Depot project when it was first considered by the council. The lone vote was actually cast by Councilman Matt Sullivan.

'Dilbert' cartoonist planning custom home here

Despite large size, Scott Adams says home will be one of the 'greenest' in the city

by Janet Pelletier

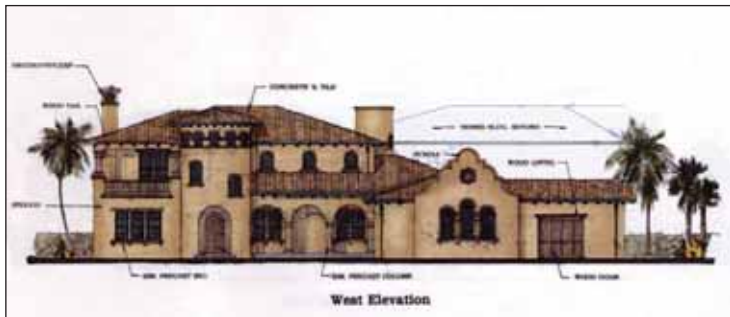
In addition to crafting cartoons for his nationally-syndicated "Dilbert" comic strip or managing two local eateries, Scott Adams is working on plans for a home in eastern Pleasanton.

Included in the plans for the home, at the end of Crellin Road, are an 8,476-square-foot attached indoor tennis court and 8,325 square feet of living space, including five bedrooms, a home office and game rooms. It will be a large-scale addition to the existing one-story farmhouse on the property.

Adams, who currently lives in Dublin, said he wants to move within city limits because his wife Shelly and her two children are from here, and he will be more centrally located to the two restaurants he owns, Stacey's Cafe in downtown Pleasanton and Stacey's at Waterford in Dublin.

"I bought the property about two and a half years ago," he said. "A little less than a year and a half ago, I got married and it's a blended family—my wife has kids—and their roots as well as my

(continued on page 11)



An artist's sketch shows the west side of Adams' Mediterranean-style home he's planning.



Back in business

One of the oldest gasoline stations operated by the Shell Corporation in the area was slated to reopen yesterday after being closed for six months. The station, located at the corner of First Street and Vineyard Avenue, is a popular stop for people traveling through town and gets a lot of business due to its prime location near the downtown. Pleasanton resident Douglas Safreno has owned the property for over 40 years and leases it to Shell.

Ott, Grant remain in posts

District awarded first Juanita Haugen award for civic education

by Emily Atwood

Jim Ott was again voted to be president of the Pleasanton Unified School District's school board. Clerk Chris Grant was also reinstated as clerk at the regular meeting Tuesday night.

At the meeting, Trustee Pat Kernan said that both Ott and Grant should stay.

"I think you guys did a good job," he said.

Trustee Kris Weaver agreed, saying that the well-functioning board doesn't need to change. She served as clerk in 2002 and president in 2003.

"I've already served as board president and although I enjoyed it,

(continued on page 8)

Oak Grove backers charge opponents with deception

Senator Dianne Feinstein says quote used was not about Pleasanton issue

by Jeb Bing

Supporters of the Oak Grove plan say they'll fight to give Pleasanton an open, honest debate on the issue over building 51 homes in the southeast hills above Kottinger Ranch, a project that would also give 496 acres of open space to the city free of charge.

A citizens' coalition called Keep Our Park charged that opponents misled local voters by using incorrect and inaccurate information in their bid to qualify a ballot measure

against the Oak Grove project.

Last week, another citizens' group—Save Pleasanton's Hills—submitted 5,225 signatures from voters registered in Pleasanton on a petition calling for a referendum to overturn the City Council's approval of the Oak Grove project last month. If 3,672 of those signatures are certified by the Alameda County Registrar, the council will have to decide within 30 days whether to rescind its vote allowing the Oak Grove project or let the issue be decided at the ballot box,

probably at the time of the June 3 California primary.

"Using false and misleading information to hastily gather signatures from citizens who are rushing to do their holiday shopping shouldn't override the four years of open and honest public debate that led to the City Council's approval of this project," said Jerry Pentin, chairman of the Keep Our Park committee.

"Pleasanton residents deserve a fair examination of the issue. We'll wait to see if the signatures that

opponents gathered are valid and we'll fight to ensure they don't employ the same deceptive tactics during a campaign," Pentin emphasized.

Pentin said that among the most serious distortions and incorrect information that opponents of the Oak Grove project used during their signature-gathering campaign was to "falsely imply the endorsement of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein in a newspaper ad in the Pleasanton Weekly."

(continued on page 7)

Save Pleasanton's Hills

Thank You!

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Thank you to the 5,225 residents who signed the petitions so we can vote next year to save Pleasanton's hills and ridgelines for future generations.

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A partial list from the thousands of supporters:

Cindy McGovern	Bonnie Krichbaum	Allen Roberts	Anne Childs	Karen Ellgas
Kris Weaver	Anne Fox	Carolyn Newton	Bob Grove	Leslie Coonan
Steve Brozosky	Kelly Cousins	Brian Bourg	Julie Rasnick	Fred Krichbaum
Philip Blank	Mike Brown	Michelle Grupe	Frank Belecky	Julie Testa
Kay Ayala	Jeanine Rivera	Mike Dawson	Nancy Metz	Gordan Lund
Chris Bourg	Jim Amos	Janeen Morse	Chris Arkin	Mary Roberts
Mike LaMarche	Judy Dollard	Kate Selway	Lisa Olson	Judy Merrigan
Betsy Everett	Richard Pugh	Richard Danielson	Jeff Newton	Doug McEtchin
Bill Rasnick	Susan Lund	Janet Brown	Teresa Oliver-Merrill	AnneMarie Gallagher
Donna Taylor Webber	Rick Bentley	Michelle LaMarche	Jim Benterou	Jackie Murphy
Lee Fulton	Carolyn Lincoln	Doug Jennings	Karen Steele	Madelyn Ellis
Margo Tarver	Phil Bowman	Jaylene Groeniger	Lois Mendes	Bob Klotz
John Butera	Valerie Arkin	Jeff Nibert	Karen Daskurdas	Patti Norcross
Laura Danielson	Kayla Mueller	Alicia Sheehan	Julie Jennings	Todd Brebner
Matt Morrison	Lou Astbury	Don Norcross	Bruce Lesser	Pauline Schroeder
Pam Grove	Marti Evans	Kathleen Lesser	Judy Mazza	Warren Straight
Greg O'Connor	Richard Morse	Jay Galvin	Bill Lincoln	Penny Nordin
June Thompson	Megan Williams	Nancy Wilson	Joan Gissendaner	Rosalie Kowatch
Brian Arkin	Madhu Dhillon	Ed Janas	Ed McGovern	Russ Schmidt
Karla Brown	Rob Couches	Katrina Edwards	Lisanne Kheirrolomoom	Rose Moen
Phil Palin	Terri Maxoutopoulos	James Dillon	Bruce Crain	Sandee Mcneil
Phyllis Ho	Tim Belcher	Gail Olney	Janet O'Connor	Bob Fusco
Sharon Pilarski	Sue Benterou	Sue Janas	Emily Carson	Meribeth Detweiler
Robert Sheehan	Janis O'Rourke	Michael Garner	Mike O'Rourke	Nancy Duty

This ad paid for by concerned residents of Pleasanton

Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

Senator Feinstein sent a letter to Mayor Jennifer Hosterman denouncing the ad, which she said falsely attributed a quote to her.

"The advertisement states that I said: 'Local officials should start using zoning laws to keep residents from living in fire-prone areas,'" Feinstein wrote. "In fact, this was not a direct quote from me but was paraphrased from an Oct. 24 Associated Press report on remarks I made in the U.S. Senate on the Southern California wildfires."

"Let me be clear," Feinstein added. "I am not familiar with the Oak Grove development, and I have taken no position on this issue."

Pentin said Save Pleasanton's Hills, headed by former councilwoman Kay Ayala group, also stated that the East Bay Regional Parks District criticized the project.

"The East Bay Regional Parks District has never commented on the approved 496-acre Oak Grove park plan," Pentin said. "In addition, a majority of members of the Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission and most local environmentalists strongly support the new park."

Other claims by the Save Pleasanton's Hills group that Pentin said were false are:

* Its claim that the plan calls for eliminating 1,000 trees. In fact, he countered, the plan calls for removing only 58 of 12,000 trees on the entire property and replacing them with 400 new trees, a net gain of 340 trees.

* Its statement that the Oak Grove plan automatically allows construction of new homes on the property, even referring to specific sizes. Not a single home has been approved and no homes can be built without review and approval by the city, Pentin said.

The Oak Grove project was approved by the council early last month in a 4-1 vote that followed four years of public meetings and hearings. In addition to the almost 500 acres of open space and parkland the city received as part of the plan, the number of homes allowed in the project was reduced from 98 to 51.

"It's easy to get someone to agree to sign a petition, if not all of the facts are in front of the voters before they sign it," Pentin said. "People like to vote on things. We look forward to being able to continue to conduct an open and honest informational campaign. We challenge the opponents to do the same." ■

Pitbull unleashed

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BEST OF
PLEASANTON
2007

School

(continued from page 5)

I wouldn't call it one of my gifts," she said. "Jim, I believe, is a gifted leader and is doing a great job."

Ott looks forward to the opportunity to again act as president of the school board.

"I'm honored to be appointed again by the board to serve as president, and I'm pleased that Chris Grant has been re-appointed as clerk," he said. "Along with conducting board meetings and working closely with our superintendent, serving as president has

allowed me to represent the school district and our board at a variety of events."

Officially, the president must maintain and enforce the rules at all meetings, sign legal instruments, appoint temporary committees, establish the agenda and work to maintain a calendar of annual updates on the district goals and reports.

Responsibilities of the clerk include keeping records and making reports as required by the Education Code, perform duties prescribed by the trustees and perform presidential duties if the president were unable.

Weaver also points out that timing is important when voting for a board president.

"I think it is much cleaner when the board president is not involved in an election," she said. "Knowing that there will be three school board seats open during this next term, I think it is best to have someone in that chair who will not be up for re-election."

With the election next November, board members Grant, Weaver and Steve Brozosky will come to the end of their terms. Brozosky told the board he would not seek re-election when he was appointed in April to fill the term after the death of longtime board member Juanita Haugen. Grant and Weaver weren't available to discuss their plans.

Those seeking a school board post will officially file next summer. The Pleasanton PTA Council



The Juanita Haugen Memorial Golden Bell Award for Civic Education sits next to a picture of the late board member who served the district for 28 years.

is planning a workshop after the new year for those interested in

learning more about running for school board.

Juanita Haugen remembered with award

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) recently awarded the Pleasanton Unified School District with the inaugural Juanita Haugen Memorial Golden Bell for Civic Education. The

award honors the longtime board member who was also a member of the CSBA from 1981 to 2005, serving as president in 1997.

Superintendent John Casey, Trustee Pat Kernan and district spokeswoman Myla Grasso were on hand at the CSBA's annual conference to accept the award and hear remarks made about Haugen's legacy. CSBA also held the inaugural memorial lecture that will discuss civic education each year at the conference.

Haugen died in March as a current serving school board member. She spent 28 years on the board, many of those years spent as president. Through her involvement and efforts, she encouraged others to be involved in improving the community, region and the world by civic involvement and service.

"[The award is] a perfect recognition of her," Casey said. "This is an area that Juanita had great knowledge and great passion for—the area of civic education and service learning. She always promoted those two elements of our school system and kept it on the forefront."

The award honored the following people participating in civic education: Foothill High School leadership teachers Adam Jennings and Scott Sears; Foothill's Cindy Juarez and Amador Valley High School's Brian Ladd "We the People" coaches; Amador teacher and Mock Trial coach Heidi Stepp; Village High School leadership teacher Lee Zachariades; Harvest Park Middle School teacher and service learning coordinator Laura Heston; and retired Senior Director of Pupil Services Rich Puppione. ■

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
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Skateboarders reportedly assault Safeway manager

Police said the boys, ages 16 to 20, are not local residents

by Emily Atwood

A group of young men rode through a local Safeway on their skateboards and one struck the store manager on the way out last Friday night, according to police.

Sgt. Jim Knox of the Pleasanton Police Department said the group appeared to have ridden skateboards down the aisles to the back of the store at Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road at around 9 p.m. He added that they were attempting to videotape the incident. When a manager told them to leave, one young man allegedly swung a skateboard at him.

The manager tried to block the blow with his hands and suffered bruises on his wrists and cuts to the hands and face, Knox said.

He said the investigation is ongoing and they have leads to the suspects although the motives of assault were unclear as of press time. The youth who hit the manager could face charges of assault with a deadly weapon. ■

Pitbull unleashed

I just want to bring to your attention and the Pleasanton community.

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Newsfront

Zone 7 declares victory on recent ruling

*Water agency filed lawsuit with other
agencies to protect water quality*

by Janet Pelletier

Zone 7 Water Agency officials
are celebrating after a Sacramento
judge delivered a favorable ruling
regarding water quality.

Along with five urban water agen-
cies, Zone 7 sued the Sacramento
County Regional Sanitation District
(SCRSD), saying the district's
expansion plans were environmen-
tally unsound. They said an envi-
ronmental impact report regarding
the expansion, part of a 2020 master
plan, "was inadequate and failed to
consider the impacts of increasing
their discharge of wastewater into
the Delta and adversely impacting
the drinking water source for 25
million Californians."

The agencies contended that
the sanitation district was ignor-
ing impacts to the drinking water
when it planned to increase its
discharge, but did not take into con-
sideration the treatment of waste-
water—treatment that is required
of other wastewater treatment
facilities discharging to the Delta
and its tributaries. According to
Zone 7 and the Contra Costa Water
District, the expansion would raise
its pollution to the Delta by more
than 40 percent. The filing agen-

cies include: Zone 7, Contra Costa
Water District, Metropolitan Water
District of Southern California,
Santa Clara Valley Water District,
Alameda County Water District and
Alameda County Flood Control &
Water Conservation District.

Zone 7 believes if the ruling
went in favor of the sanitation dis-
trict, that it would have increased
treatment costs for Zone 7.

"They discharge into a tribu-
tary to the Delta and as we move
our water through the Delta, we
can pick up whatever contaminants
they're discharging," Duerig said.

"To double the capacity of their
plant would impact what we're see-
ing in our water quality and in our
pumps. It also impacts the ecosys-
tem as a whole."

The judge in the case, Sacramento
Superior Court Judge Raymond
Cadei, required additional envi-
ronmental review to address the
inadequacies, including concern of
salinity. As part of his ruling, he
declined to certify the environmen-
tal report.

Zone 7 purchases 80 percent of
its water supply from the Delta. It
supplies 80 percent of Pleasanton
with drinking water. ■



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The 1.35-acre property is at the end of Crellin Drive, between Foxborough Estates and Grey Eagle Estates.

Adams

(continued from page 5)

wife's roots are in Pleasanton. This property is coincidentally almost exactly in the middle of the two (restaurants)."

The 1.35-acre property is situated between million-dollar homes in Foxborough Estates and Grey Eagle Estates in the eastern hills of Pleasanton. It is not a part of either estate communities, rather, it's an old homestead formerly owned and habited by the Martin family that's been there prior to both developments.

Adams, 50, said he wants an indoor tennis court due to health reasons.

While the size projections would likely make Adams' home one

of the largest, if not the largest home in Pleasanton, the cartoonist emphasized it will be environmentally-friendly.

"You have to put it into context," he said. "It would probably be the greenest house in all of Pleasanton, so we're going to shoot for as close to no energy use or neutral energy use—solar panels—and we'll be using a lot of advanced, green technology in the construction."

"In terms of the footprint on the earth, it will be less than the homes in the area," he added. "The size of the lot is 1.35 acres, so if you look at it from a satellite picture, the density of the property is the least dense in the neighborhood."

Included in the living space will be an office where Adams plans to

work on the "Dilbert" comic strip from home.

"A large portion of it is for my work and for storage of items for my work," he said. "I've got a million 'Dilbert' things."

Another energy-saving benefit, he said, is the tennis court, which will have solar panels, and the garage won't need any heating or cooling.

Adams introduced preliminary plans to neighbors at a neighborhood block party a little over a year ago.

Plans have been submitted to the city's planning department, but more paperwork will need to be filed before the project is considered. Adams said he expects the plans will go before the Planning Commission for design review approval at the first meeting of the New Year, Jan. 9. ■

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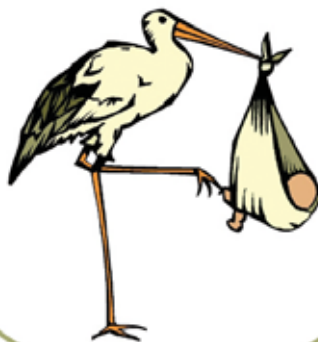
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Sue David

Dancing around the clock

Beginning last Saturday, 46 girls from the J&T dance team from the Jazz n Taps Dance Studio in Pleasanton danced their hearts out around the clock (for 24 hours) to raise \$11,398 for Project Roadrunner, which supports Marilyn Avenue School in Livermore.

Project Roadrunner is a combined effort of the Alameda County United Way, the staff of Marilyn Avenue School, and other agencies interested in the health, education and welfare of students and parents of the Livermore elementary school, which has a large percentage of students from families living below the poverty line. Funds raised will be used to buy holiday gifts for students. All of the dancers, ages 8-18, were at the studio for the entire event, dancing in shifts with each student dancing a minimum of 12 hours.

"Although we had our moments of wondering whether we were crazy to attempt this feat, the Dance Marathon was one of the most amazing experiences I have had with my dancers since I opened my studio 17 years ago," said Jazz n Taps owner Sherri Sweetnam.

For more information about Project Roadrunner, call 371-5613.

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Classifieds Sales e-mail:
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Circulation e-mail:
circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100 Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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Opinion

Editorial

Have citizens' groups become driving force for decisions?

Three recent decisions have many scratching their heads over how one hotly debated development plan can suddenly win applause from all sides while two others may go down in flames. We are talking about Staples Ranch, a 124-acre undeveloped parcel at I-580 and El Charro that is on its way to being approved by city and county officials as a major auto mall and retail and senior citizen housing development at the city's far northeast corner. Yet almost simultaneously—within the past two months—two other multi-million-dollar projects that have been under consideration for several years—Home Depot and Oak Grove—are in danger of collapsing altogether, along with tax revenue and nearly 500 acres of open space they would provide.

An analysis of what went right for Staples shows that two citizens groups that had duked it out over their opposite views for developing Staples started talking. Credit Becky Dennis, Dan Faustina and their coalition of pro-Staples development advocates and Richard Pugh, his wife Anne Fox and Matt Morrison, who opposed the project, for putting their spears aside and working out their differences. In the end, both sides recognized that they want what's best for all of Pleasanton and wrote an agreement to move forward together which Pugh and Faustina read at a crowded planning meeting on Staples. That very same night, members of the Planning Commission and City Council listened carefully as developers of a new Pleasanton auto mall, a 400-600 unit assisted and independent living center for seniors and a retail center with shops, offices and restaurants described their projects. With some tweaking in the next few months, Staples will likely start taking shape next year as a new, prosperous gateway to Pleasanton from the east and a key tax revenue generator for a city that will need these funds for future public growth.

Home Depot, the proposed anchor store for Regency Development Company's proposed Pleasanton Gateway Center at Bernal and Stanley, sought to build a second store in Pleasanton. Homeowners in neighborhoods along Santa Rita and Valley found that trucks—hundreds of them—would barrel down those streets each week along with customers to Home Depot and Regency's other traffic-generating stores adding to roadways that are already clogged during peak travel hours. Led by Nancy Allen, a well-organized citizens group (Stop Pleasanton Gridlock) took to the warpath and eventually brought down the home improvement giant. Unlike with Staples, there was no sit-down discussion by the two sides, although Pleasanton's City Manager Nelson Fialho and Planning Director Jerry Iserson held several workshop meetings to hear public grievances. Except for fairly structured presentations, Regency and Home Depot made no effort to meet with their opponents.

Oak Grove was just the opposite. Attorney Marty Inderbitzen, representing the Lin family that owns about 600 acres of wooded land in the southeast hills, held numerous meetings with Kottinger Ranch residents and eventually won the support of that neighborhood's homeowners association for a housing project he whittled down from 98 homes to just 51—albeit much larger—houses on 77 acres. He also worked with the Lins to win their commitment to turn 496 acres of their property over to the city of Pleasanton for perpetual use as public open space, but his efforts weren't enough. Some Kottinger Ranch homeowners want nothing built above their neighborhood and gained the support of former councilwoman Kay Ayala, a feisty two-term member of the council who lost her bid to become mayor in 2004 to Jennifer Hosterman. Hosterman is close to local investor James Tong, a friend of the Lins, and a supporter of Oak Grove because of her passion for acquiring more open space around the borders of Pleasanton. Ayala's group obtained 5,225 signatures from registered voters that will likely force a referendum in June seeking to overturn the council's Oak Grove decision. That's unless, of course, Hosterman and Ayala and their two sides can come together as we saw happen with the Staples controversy to bring some balance and good will to the table for the benefit of all of Pleasanton. We urge them to try.

Letters

Protecting kids surpasses priest's promise

Dear Editor,

I forgive Father Greene. His work is truly miraculous. I have sins and demons that I have suffered with and worked through. We all sin.

I handed Pastor Dan's messages (why Fr. Greene should be our new pastor) to a pediatrician, psychologist and a psychiatrist. They also received Fr. Greene's police report describing him masturbating in a public bathroom. I repeated Pastor Dan's statement, no youths were involved. I asked if leaving the church would harm my kids more than help me as the parent. Each professional confirmed. Leaving a group that continues to put priests with lewd acts in power was a decision of logic, not of pure emotion.

Fr. Greene sought treatment. Doctor's final reports stated, "We believe there is a significant decrease of risk of any reoccurrence of this kind of conduct." It's not enough for parents. An authority figure? Will the Dioceses ever allow us to regain their trust?

Jesus died on the cross, we became followers. His message was to follow his word, not stay at a church no matter what.

God blessed me as parent. I will protect my kids from harm to the best of my ability. I will never say, "Sorry I failed you, I forgave but protecting to the best of my ability wasn't truly the priority in our church."

I painfully leave my Catholics. I stand for: Protecting kids from "potential" harm surpasses a priest's "potential" broken promise. I've had enough.

I sincerely pray for all. We are one family under God.

*Theresa Aimar
Pleasanton*

Blankets For Kids thank you

Dear Editor,

As director and head of Blankets For Kids, I want to thank all those who have contributed both time and money to our organization. There have been many groups and individuals (especially Ridgeview Commons) who have been involved and have made blankets. Our organization has distributed over 11,000 blankets to many local charities and organizations. The extras are shipped to "My Stuff Bags" in Westlake Village. (They distribute to groups all over the United States.)

These groups and individuals know that these blankets go to children who have been abused, neglected or are in stress.

I especially would like to thank this newspaper for their support.

R. Jo Molz

Executive Director

Blankets For Kids

It's still 'Merry Christmas'

Dear Editor,

Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated your column last week ("Whatever happened to Christmas?" Dec. 7, Around Pleasanton, page 3). It's still "Merry Christmas" far as I'm concerned, and not "happy holidays." I find it interesting that those who don't believe still want to celebrate Christmas, but just the secular, commercial side of it, all the while trying to remove all words from sight and sound that reflect the true meaning of Christmas.

Also, that was a really good article and interviews on the survivors of Pearl Harbor ("Remembering Pearl Harbor," Cover Story, Dec. 7, page 16). It's a subject very near to my heart because I was also at

(continued on page 14)

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Opinion

Letters

(continued from page 13)

Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7. My dad was Navy and we lived in military housing just two blocks from the base. I was 7 years old at the time but remember a lot of it very clearly. Excellent article.

Genene Hill

Pleasanton

Christmas political correctness bewildering

Dear Editor,

Just finished reading your article in the Dec. 7 edition of Pleasanton Weekly regarding our dissolution of the word "Christmas" from our vocabulary.

How, when and why have we let this happen?

Everyone I know, including family, friends or professionally is bewildered by the politically correct obliteration of Christmas in our lives. Who is driving? I don't have to tell you how hard our grandparents worked to build this great country only to see it wrapped up in tissue and discarded like it never existed.

All of that growth, and all of that sacrifice only to be told now the things we believe in have no value. It's up to each one of us to keep Christmas in our hearts. If we lose it, it will never be recaptured.

Louis Diodoro

Pleasanton

(continued on page 15)



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Letters

(continued from page 14)

In agreement with Christmas philosophy

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your article, "Whatever happened to Christmas?"

I appreciated it, and agree completely with your philosophy. Thank you again for expressing it.

Howard Seebach

Pleasanton

Don't bow to political correctness

Dear Editor,

I salute you sir. Your editorial, regarding the replacing of "Christmas" with "holiday" speaks for all of us who are either too lazy, bored, indifferent or stupid to speak up against yet another example of bowing to the wishes of a bunch of politically correct nutcases.

Back in the good old days, the phrase "holiday season" was a generic reference to that period beginning with Thanksgiving and ending with New Year's Day. When I was growing up in the late '40s to early '50s, the Christmas decorations did not appear in the stores until the day after Thanksgiving—not after Labor Day. My family bought our live Christmas tree a few days prior to setting it up on Christmas Eve.

And, we celebrated Christmas

day for the presence of all our relatives gathered around the table rather than the presents under the tree.

When paying for a purchase, I wish the cashier a "Merry Christmas" before he/she has a chance to wish me anything. It's fun to watch their confusion—kind of like a deer caught in the headlights. At this point, I don't get any response.

I could go on forever, but will sign off instead.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family to yours.

Joseph A. Leporati

Pleasanton

Wishing 'Merry Christmas' not offensive

Dear Editor,

I'm doing my weekly Friday morning review of the Pleasanton Weekly on line. I started doing that about a year ago, from Connecticut, when we found out we were moving to California and were researching towns to live in. We got a really good feel for Pleasanton by reading your paper, and even now, a year later, I look forward to Friday mornings and the half hour or so that I set aside to read the paper online in order to keep abreast of what's going on in the town that I have grown to love so much in so short a time.

I really enjoyed your piece about "Whatever happened to Christmas?" I too, cannot under-

stand the need to mince words and be so politically correct when it comes to Christmas. I'm Jewish (can I say that without offending someone out there?) and go out of my way to wish my Christian friends a "Merry Christmas" and to share the joy of their holiday with them. I encourage my children to do the same, and I think any woman who is offended by a department store Santa saying "ho, ho, ho" should not be out shopping for gifts—she should be committed to an asylum. So please accept my most sincere and heartfelt wishes for a very Merry Christmas, and a New Year filled with health, happiness, peace, joy, love and light.

Nancy Lyness

Pleasanton

Without Christ, we wouldn't enjoy lives here

Dear Editor,

Jeb Bing, you are my hero. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your column in your Dec. 7 issue. Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Please enjoy your Christmas tree, your Christmas gifts, your Christmas dinner, your Christmas decorations and most of all, the birth of Christ, without him, we would not have the privilege of enjoying our great lives here in Pleasanton, in the great United States of America. Merry Christmas to all; pray for peace in the New Year.

Kay Ivins

Pleasanton

REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

Diana Korpi



Energy Efficiency

Homebuyers are increasingly concerned about the rising cost of energy. It is common for buyers to ask about utility costs and the energy efficiency of a home when they are considering buying it. One way to reduce energy cost is as simple as changing your light bulbs—from standard ones to compact fluorescent bulbs that are designed to fit most standard light fixtures and lamps.

The initial purchase price of compact fluorescent bulbs may seem a little steep—they average between \$13 and \$20 per bulb—but they last at least 10 times longer than a standard light bulb and will reduce your energy bills significantly. Manufacturers estimate that during the life of a single fluorescent bulb you will reduce your electric bill by over \$40. As an added bonus, the

electric company will be able to reduce carbon dioxide emission by approximately half a ton per replacement bulb. Compact fluorescents don't work with dimmer switches, and if used outdoors, you should make sure that the fixture is well ventilated and protected from rain.

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Marques Buck
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600-2035



Rick Goss
600-2005



Yvonne Herbeck
600-2015



Sandy Hermann
600-2028



Elaine McConnell
600-2014



Diane Koizumi
600-2010



Brad Loudon
600-2021



Margie Lupo
600-2017



Mari Mahoney
600-2032



Dana Mesarchik
600-2004



David Mladinich
600-2008



Julie Thall
600-2033



Tom Vinson
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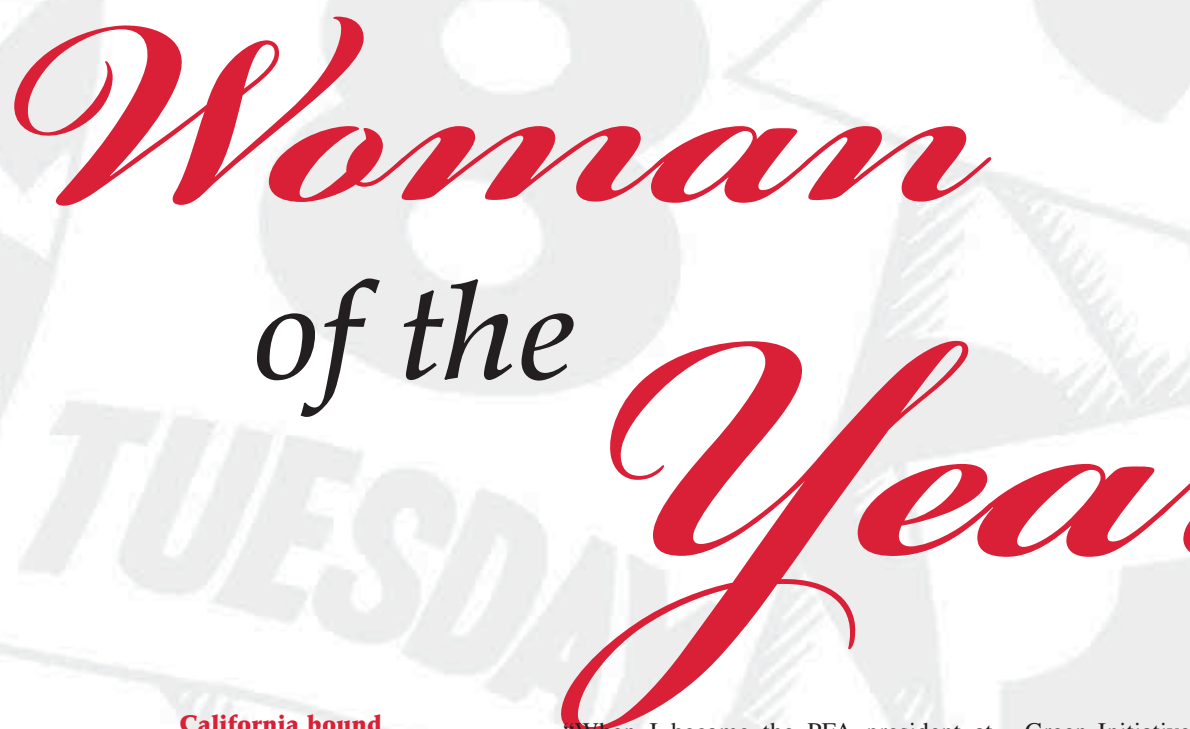


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Jill Buck—a purpose-driven life

The myriad of projects Jill Buck is involved with speaks volumes about her—literally. She has a laundry list of accomplishments that would make anyone's jaw drop.



Woman
of the
Year

California bound

When I became the PEA president at Green Initiative

A native of Mt. Vernon, Ill., Jill Buck, 38, met her husband Mark when she was 19 years old and he was 20. The pair attended the University of Illinois together where she was enrolled in the ROTC program. After college, they moved out west to California. Jill Buck became a naval officer, working at the Fleet Training Center in San Diego, while her husband became an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. In San Diego, she worked in military justice, gathering information for ship captains regarding sailors' bad conduct.

"I always felt it was good training for motherhood," she said jokingly.

After getting out of the military in 1997, she remained a reservist until two years ago when the Navy sent her papers declaring that she was discharged because her position wasn't needed anymore.

"We started our family very young," she said. "I really loved being on active duty. I probably would still be in today but I wanted to be a really good mom, so that was just not an option."

Mark Buck is now an inactive reservist in the infantry division with the Marine Corps. They have three children: Katie, 16, a sophomore at Amador Valley High School; Andy, 11, a fifth-grader at Walnut Grove Elementary School and Mandy, 9, a third-grader at Walnut Grove.

The pair left San Diego when Mark Buck was offered a civilian job in South Carolina. But it wasn't long before Jill Buck found herself missing the California sunshine. After nearly two years on the East Coast, they moved to the Bay Area when her husband was offered a position within the same company in the Silicon Valley. The Bucks have lived in Pleasanton since 1999.

"I can't explain it, but it felt like my hometown," she said. "Even though I had never been there before I went house hunting, it just felt like where I belonged."

Buck also enjoys her involvement as a catechist at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton for the past seven years.

From PFA to PTA

Buck's early beginnings in education involved bringing the previous Pleasanton Parent Faculty Association (PFA) to become a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). And she was practically born to do it.

“My mom had been a PTA president and my grandmother had been a PTA president, so I knew the organization well,” she said.

As a PFA, the organization stood alone—it wasn't part of a bigger organization.

“When I became the PFA president at Walnut Grove (Elementary School), I started talking to folks about considering being a PTA,” Buck said. “We had some folks from California PTA come in and talk to us about the difference in being a PTA. Halfway through that school year, we voted to be a PTA. I served one more year as president and that second year is where I started the Go Green Initiative.”

Buck said the benefit of a PTA is that a number of interested participants are brought together by a common bond and for the common good.

“When parents and administrators and students and teachers all came together united, not just in one school or in the state, but the nation as what happens with PTA, then we can really accomplish more on behalf of children than just acting alone with one school,” she said.

That inspiration led her further, and as Walnut Grove's PTA president, she joined up with other area PTA presidents to form a PTA council, where she became its first president.

“The PTA Council continues to have a wonderful working relationship with the school district and they’ve been responsible for health issues for children, getting shade structures to protect children from overexposure to the sun, food allergies—the list goes on,” she said.

Through all of Buck's work in education, her largest contribution has been the development of the Go Green Initiative (GGI) in 2002.

The program is celebrating over five years of success and with each passing day, is entering new schools and more importantly, new countries.

"What started on my kitchen table in Pleasanton in 2002 is now in 46 states, 10 countries and on four continents," Buck said. "We are almost in 1,000 schools now. At the beginning of the school year, we were in just about 500 schools, so we've doubled in just a few months. We're going very, very fast. We've also expanded our board of directors. I'm really proud to work with them."

This year has been productive for GGI to say the least. In November, the third annual Earth Summit was held in San Jose, featuring a number of Pleasanton teachers, principals as well as other education leaders.

“The Pleasanton schools have been doing it the longest and some of our newer Go Green schools are interested in finding out what’s happening at the vortex of the Go

Green Initiative had a man from [the U.K.] joining the Go Green [initiative] and we had somebody from the U.K. I [was] at the summit.”

Buck said no or continent you wants are always have good health and have clean w

In Uganda, working with w
lings to be plan
Students from
will help plant t

"Because of the Go Green Initiative, we bring people together who otherwise met to love that," she says.

Word is spread by the program. The Word is Free website, www.wordisfree.org, gets 2 million hits per month and 100,000 unique visits per month. The data translated into five languages: French and two others. The program will be translating the word into all based on request.

While the cor
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"What has made us stand out among the rest of things: our products, which is pretty unique, rely on taxpayers' money for materials while others matter where the graphics may be. It's all our materials."

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“People can go
if we can recycle

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ody from Australia; people
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water to drink.

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a total of nearly 200,000
. The initiative is now trans-
anguages: English, Spanish,
o dialects of Mandarin and
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uests.

ncern about global warming
media coverage has raised
f programs like GGI, Buck
ays been an interest.

ade the Go Green Initiative
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unique,” she said. “We don’t
dollars or charging schools
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e, have equitable access to
s and all our training.

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e. One of the main things
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o do because it will get them
ey put a solar panel on their

measure our schools’ suc-
able to quantify what they
terms, such as how many
gas emissions have been
any gallons of oil and water
d. No other program does

et their arms around it—say
ele this much paper or this



The Buck family, shown here at the 2006 Pleasanton North Rotary Spirit Run, include (from L-R) Mandy, 9, Jill, Andy, 11, Mark, and Katie, 16.



Buck poses with Steven K. Ssenyonjo, founder of the Child2Youth Foundation in Uganda, Africa, at the third annual Earth Summit, held in San Jose.

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many cans, what's the result of that? And we can measure that, and we do."

In her downtime

As if a 40-hour-a-week commitment to the Go Green Initiative weren't enough, Buck has her hands in a number of local organizations, from veteran's affairs to empowering women to seek local offices. At this rate, it's impossible to believe she has any time to herself.

Buck serves as the vice president for the Bay Area chapter of CEWAER, which stands for the California Elected Women's Association ER. The organization

empowers women to seek public service.

"Whether you're a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Green Party, nobody cares," she said. "We see each other as women who care about our communities. I learned that from my mom and my grandmother. They were always very, very active in my community and I never questioned that I would be involved in the community. That was an unspoken family value. You give back to your community and hopefully, my kids are learning the same thing from me."

Buck has also entered the political scene, running last year as a

Republican for the State Assembly, but ultimately losing to Democratic candidate Mary Hayashi for the 18th District seat. But her political aspirations are on hold right now as she continues her involvement with GGI. She also ran unsuccessfully for an open school board seat in January after school board President Steve Pulido left the post for an Alameda County judgeship.

In addition, Buck is involved with helping homeless military veterans—an effort especially significant to her being a former naval officer. Serving on the Veteran's Affairs Commission for San Francisco, she



The Go Green Initiative, penned by Buck, began in Pleasanton schools. Walnut Grove Elementary was the first.

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has worked clothing drives to provide such basic necessities as underwear and socks for homeless vets.

"That's something that's always been near and dear to my heart," she said. "To see folks who have voluntarily served our country to be out on the street, homeless and in need (is heartbreaking)."

Acclaim and fame

It won't be long before Buck is back on the road again, speaking at engagements about the Go Green Initiative. She just returned from China on a Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce-sponsored trip where she met with delegates about the environmental initiative and will

return to Shanghai to give a speech for thousands of young Chinese business leaders. Next year's Earth Summit will be held in Syracuse, N.Y. to pay tribute to the many East Coast schools that participate in the initiative.

She'll also likely be involved in high-level appearances, as she has already been this year with a stint on the Martha Stewart radio program. She said she's also gotten calls from "The Ellen Degeneres Show" and GGI regularly partners with The Discovery Channel to feature a Go Green school of the week on www.treehugger.com.

It won't be long before Oprah comes calling. ■



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Transitions

Obituaries

Joseph John Ales

Joseph John Ales, a highly regarded local science teacher, died Dec. 3 at the age of 80.

Mr. Ales (pronounced "Alice") was surrounded by family members as he passed away, following a five-month battle with cancer.

He had celebrated his 80th birthday with 62 friends and relatives just six months earlier.

Born June 19, 1927 to parents Frank and Carmela Ales of San Jose, Mr. Ales attended Sacred Heart Catholic School, Woodrow Wilson Junior High School and San Jose High School, from which he graduated in 1944. He was a chemistry major at San Jose State University, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in 1949 and a Master of Arts in science education in 1964.

Serving in the United States Army from 1951-1953, he was stationed with the veterinary corps in Sandusky, Ohio. That's where he



met a redhead, Beverly Schell, and they became engaged in December 1954 and married June 5, 1955 in Pacific Grove.

Mr. Ales has devoted his entire 31-year career to teaching in local public schools. He was hired by Tom Hart in 1955 to teach the fifth grade, which he did for two years. Hart then assigned him eighth grade science, which he taught for 13 years, moving to the new Dublin High School in 1970 and to Amador Valley High School in 1975.

Friend and colleague Don Rathjen, who was working at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, would show Mr. Ales a sketch of a demonstration model and Mr. Ales would create a working model of it. One of these models, a "floating puck," was featured on "Late Night with David Letterman."

For five years in the 1970s, he attended the National Science Foundation Summer Institute at UC Berkeley. He was a teaching representative for the Industrial Initiative for Science and Mathematics Education. An active member of the local teachers' association, Mr. Ales was the recipient of a WHO award ("We Honor Ours") in 1987. He was a lifetime member of both the National Educators Association

and the California Teachers Association. One of the honors he most cherished was being given a diploma as an adopted member of the Amador Valley High School Class of 1987 during their commencement ceremony.

Mr. Ales is survived by his wife of 52 years, Beverly; daughter, Nancy (who is also a teacher) and her husband Tom Dwyer of San Luis Obispo, Calif.; son, Peter and his wife Rowena of Livermore; daughter, Ann and her husband Brad Lee of Paso Robles, Calif.; 19-year-old granddaughter Sarah Dwyer, a student at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo; brother, John and sister-in-law Bernice Ales of San Martin, Calif.; niece, Rosemary Eilers of Bend, Ore.; and nephew, Philip Ales of El Dorado Hills, Calif.

Services will be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow in St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., with a reception to follow. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to the Thomas S. Hart Memorial Scholarship Fund, sent to Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc.: AVSI/Tom Hart Scholarship Fund, 4665 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

(continued on page 20)

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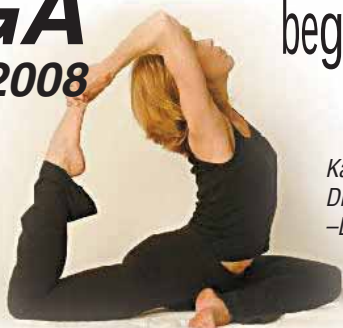
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Obituaries

(continued from page 19)

Louis Mederios

Louis Mederios died Dec. 4 at the age of 86.

Mr. Mederios was born in Pleasanton in 1921 and was a 40-year resident of Livermore.

He was a 45-year employee of Kaiser Sand & Gravel in Pleasanton and worked as a Readymix Concrete Batch Plant operator. In his youth, he worked on local ranches including the gold mines in Nevada.

He is survived by his sister, Rose and brother-in-law Louis Pastino; two sons, James and Ronald; six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary and John Mederios, four brothers and one sister.

Family and friends will celebrate his life at 1 p.m. today at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore.

Donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association or a charity of choice.

Emily DeLopes Lopez

Emily DeLopes Lopez died Nov. 30 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Lopez was born in Lemoore, Calif. and attended Lemoore High School. During World War II, she worked as a laboratory technician in the processing of dairy products for shipment overseas.

She moved to Pleasanton in 1946 and was a businesswoman until her retirement in 1992. She owned A&D Laundromat at 722 Main St. and in 1965, opened Payless Cleaners at Amador

Center. In the mid-1970s, she moved her businesses, Purity Cleaners and Sounds of Sherry, to Pleasanton Plaza.

Active in the Chamber of Commerce, she was also a member of the Druids and supported annually all of the activities at Amador Valley High School, including the renovation of the high school auditorium and the purchasing of seats.

She was a longtime member of St. Augustine Catholic Church, which she attended when it was located downtown on Rose Avenue. She supported the building campaign of the new church on Angela Street.

She was very active in Portuguese Prateral organizations. She founded the Livermore Council, Star of the Valley. She was elected to statewide office and served as grand president of the Brotherhood of St. Anthony, 1966-1967.

She is survived by her children, Delores Oxsen and son-in-law George Oxsen of Pleasanton; her son, George Michael Lopez of Pleasanton; daughter, Sherry Ann Lopez of Hayward; sisters, Mary Lang of San Jose, Olivia Lage of Sacramento and Cecilia Hughes of Pleasanton; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband George Lopez and her brother Joe Andrada of Fresno.

Births

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

Nov. 2

Amber Henley and Michael Waring, a girl

Kristine Futa and Matthew Armstrong, a girl

Nov. 3

Akhila Yanan and Chidambara Rajan, a girl

Nov. 4

Sunghee Park and Hayoung Lee, a girl

Nov. 8

Emily Santos-Gomez and Mario Gomez, a boy

Nov. 13

Ashley Klein and Jose Martinez, a girl

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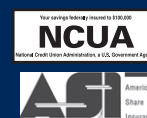
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APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The rate of 6.99% APR is available on loans up to \$100,000 with a term up to 180 months. LTV up to 100%. Other rates, loan amounts and terms are available. Your APR may be higher based on your credit profile. All loans are subject to property valuation / appraisal and are limited to owner occupied, 1-4 family units located in the State of California. Hazard insurance is required. Flood insurance may be required. For example, the monthly payment on a \$20,000 home equity loan at the rate of 6.99% APR for a term of 180 months would be \$179.69. APR is effective as of 10/1/07. APR, conditions and terms are subject to change without notice. Home equity loans have a two year early termination fee of \$599.00. Visit www.sterlencu.org for current rates. Free membership valid until 12/30/07.



Calendar

Book Clubs

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

Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clubs

Express to Success Women's Network Holiday Party At 6 p.m. Dec. 18, come to the December meeting and year-end get together at Four Points Sheraton, 5115

Hopyard Road. There will be holiday cheer, music and a White Elephant gift exchange. We continue to raise money for Wardrobe for Opportunity. Non-members pay \$5 per meeting. Visit www.expressstosuccess.org.

Juggling Writing and Real Life From 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 15, Susan Taylor Brown will present "Writing at Red Lights: How to Keep Going When the World Tells You to Stop," at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St. Brown, a speaker known for her ability to weave humor into her presentations, will discuss how writers can motivate themselves as they balance their time during the holidays. The meeting cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

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

MOPS—Mothers Of Pre Schoolers If you have children from birth to 6 years old, come join us and be refreshed, equipped and encouraged. MOPS meets from 9-11 a.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month through May 2008 at 7106 Johnson Drive. Enjoy breakfast, crafts and speakers. The cost is \$60 per semester. Call Silvia, 560-1411.

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m. every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Calendar's 1101 S. California Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Strizzi's 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network The group meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the third Monday of the month at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin. Dads and children are welcome. See www.holisticmoms.org.

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

Concerts

Bay Bells in Concert The city of Dublin's Winter Concert Series presents Bay Bells "Snow Angels" at 7 p.m. Dec. 15 at Old St. Raymond's Church, 6600 Donlon Way. The group performs with over 100 bells and chimes representing over 200 years of musical experience. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 12 and under. Admission at the door only.

Contra Costa Wind Symphony Duane Carroll leads the wind symphony in a free family holiday season concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. The event includes an audience sing-along of familiar carols, and harpist Shannon Polley and actor Ken Baggot narrating "The Night Before Christmas." Visit www.ccwindssymphony.org.

Sing-It-Yourself Messiah A Sing-It-Yourself Messiah will be held at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Professional soloists, piano accompaniment. Tickets are \$10 at the door, or call 866-4003 or email info@valleyconcertchorale.org.

Events

Vella's Locker Room Raider Legends Signings Raider players will be holding signings from 1 to 3 p.m. on the following dates at Vella's Locker Room, 3052 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley: Dec. 15 Phil Villapiano, Dec. 22 Jeff Barnes, Dec. 29 Hall Of Fame Raider Legend. A free raffle held each session. Call 510-727-0750. 1-3 p.m.

Youth Chorus & Bell Choir Youth from the Pleasanton Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will present a free Christmas concert featuring a bell choir as well as vocal numbers at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 at Valley Ave. and Paseo Santa Cruz.

Exhibits

Colors! Judy Seidel and Tivol Studios Art Show Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., will have an art show featuring artists Judy Seidel and Jane Tivol. The exhibit runs from Nov. 17 to Dec. 29. Call 485-1183.

Fundraisers

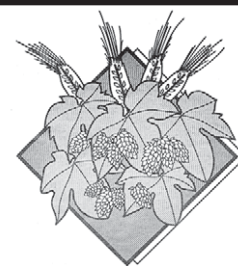
GourMade Cook for a Cause In December, GourMade Cookery will be donating proceeds of its sales to support Open Heart Kitchen. Five percent of sales of every December menu item sold will be donated. To register for a session or place an order visit www.gourmade-cookery.com or call 846-4774.

Holiday

Dueling Bands The Livermore and Granada high school bands are each decorating model home for Christmas at The Grove, 4188 Sonia St., Livermore. Northbrook Homes has given each band money to decorate a model home for the holidays to win money. Come see and vote for your favorite from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 3-23. Call 245-1782.

Holiday Food Drive Pleasanton CPA firm J.L. Consulting is coordinating a holiday food drive benefiting people in need served by the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Donations of nutritious and non-perishable foods can be dropped off at 1021 Serpentine Lane, Ste. 105 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until Dec. 17. Call 846-1859.

Holidaze Craft Craze From noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 15 and 16, dozens of local artists and craftsters will gather at 1152



Neighborhood Brewpub

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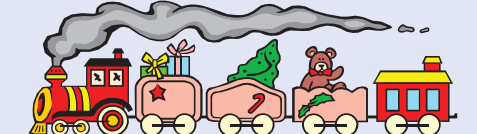
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Crellin Road for the Holidaze Craft Craze. Extraordinary products will be featured, including art, jewelry, fashion, toys, and paperie. Admission is free and there will be goody bags, door prizes and refreshments. Visit www.pcmwebsite.com or call 249-0979.

Toys For Tots The 2007 Toys-for-Tots Campaign runs through Dec. 24. Delivery of new, unwrapped toys can be made to Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Stations and the Livermore and Pleasanton Police Departments. Firefighters have pledged to collect 15,000 toys to benefit the Tri-Valley. Call 454-2302 or visit www.lpfire.org.

Kids & Teens

Abbie 4-H Meeting 4-H is a nationwide youth organization for ages 5 to 19 that helps young people gain

citizenship, leadership and life skills, and participate in community service. The Abbie 4-H club has numerous animal, non-animal and leadership projects. It meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Drive. Visit www.abbie4h.org.

Hero Sled Dogs at the Library! The Mountain Mushers come to the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 2 p.m. Dec. 15. Meet patrol sled dogs from Denali National Park, Alaska; view a film of the dogs in action; see a fully-equipped dog sled; and learn about their life in the rugged wilderness. Free tickets given out at 1:30 p.m. Best for ages 3 and older.

Live Music

Pride of the Pacific Chorus -

Come Sing! Drop by the chorus rehearsal Dec. 5 and make a joyful noise. We are a new women's a cappella chorus and we would love to have you join us. We rehearse at 7:30 p.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. Call 209-830-7444 or visit prideofthepacific.org.

Miscellaneous

Free The Cat Campaign For a limited time, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will offer no-fee adoptions of all adult cats. Strict adoption criteria will still apply. Adoptions are held at Pleasanton Farmers Market (9:30 to 1 p.m. Saturdays), Dublin Pet Food Express (2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays) and Dublin PetSmart (weekdays during regular business hours and noon

to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays). Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvr.org.

On Stage

The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XV Stand up comedy headliners and improv wizards Johnny Steele, Jim Short, Steven Kravitz, Debi Durst, Mike Bossier and Arthur Gaus join Will Durst at 8 p.m. Dec. 28 for the Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XV at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$15-25. Call 415-820-9628.

Twins The Night Before Christmas A realistic dramatic and musical story based upon the inspiration for Clement Moore's famous poem, "Twins The Night Before Christmas," will be held at Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San

Ramon. It runs Dec. 14-23; Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$10-15. Call 973-3372 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

Seniors

Computer Tutoring One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The tutor works with you on topics where you need help. No formal program to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appointment. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents.

Dublin Senior Center Extends Hours Do you yoga? Have a question about computers? Enjoy playing



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Thanks to everyone who attended our event on 12/8! We really appreciate that you choose "A Touch of Elegance!"

10% off gift certificates (with participating stylists)
10% off any one professional hair care product, **15% off** any two!
20% off any three!

*offer extended 12/8-12/22. Must bring a canned food for donation to Alameda County Food Bank.

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Worship with us

this holiday season

Pleasanton Presbyterian Church



Come worship with us during Advent. All are welcome!

Sundays:

- 9:00AM Blended Service With Choir
- 10:30AM Contemporary Service (Sunday School)

Monday, Dec 24:

- 6:00PM, Christmas Eve Service



Carr America Conference Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton (across from Wal-Mart®)

For more details, visit www.pleasantonpres.org
or call the Church Office at 846.4436.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Pleasanton

At our Christmas Eve Services, Everyone is Welcome!

4:30pm Family Worship

A special service that celebrates our Savior's birth through the eyes of a child.

8:00pm & 10:00pm Festival Candle Light Worship

The service of Candlelighting will highlight these Communion Services.



1225 Hopyard Road (Del Valle & Golden)
925.846.6363 • www.trinitypleasanton.org



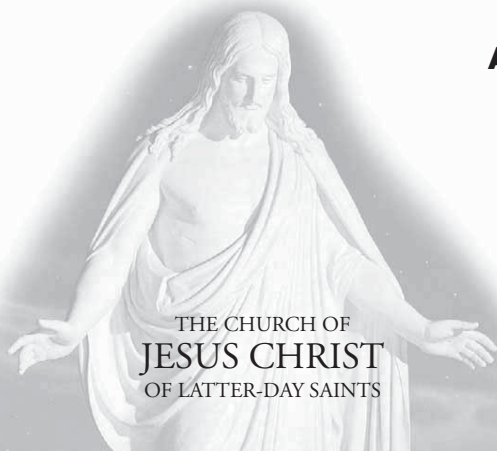
Join Us In Celebration

December 23rd
9:00 & 10:30 Festival of Lessons & Carols
Celebration of Christmas in Word & Song

December 24th
5:30 Family Service
8:00 Candle Light Service
11:00 Communion Service



Lynnwood United Methodist Church
4444 Black Ave, Pleasanton
www.lynnwood.org
846-0221



Sunday, December 16, 7:00 pm
ANNUAL YOUTH CHORUS and BELL CHOIR

"Joy to the World"

Friday, December 21, 7:30 pm sharp!
LIVE NATIVITY PRODUCTION
Dress Warmly!

6100 Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton
Sunday Services 9:30am and 1pm



Worship with us this Christmas Eve

Monday December 24

5pm - Family Candlelight Service
10pm - Candlelight & Carols Service
(9:30pm - Music Prelude)

Resurrection Lutheran Church

7557 Amador Valley Blvd.
(at 680 Overpass) Dublin 925-828-1580

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton



Invites you...

To join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and to find the true joy of the season!

Christmas Eve Masses

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

St. Augustine Church

6:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight

(11:30 p.m. - Musical Prelude by Adult Choir)

St. Elizabeth Seton Church

6:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight

(11:30 p.m. - Musical Prelude by Teen Choir)

Christmas Day Masses

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

St. Augustine Church

8:00 a.m. (no incense), 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 PM

St. Elizabeth Seton

9:00 a.m. (no incense) & 11:00 AM

St. Augustine
3999 Bernal Avenue
846-4489

St. Elizabeth Seton Church
4001 Stoneridge Drive
484-5020

<http://www.CatholicofPleasanton.org>



Shouldn't the first gift you open this Christmas be from God?



You are invited to our celebration and the miracle of God's gift - the birth of Jesus Christ.

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Christmas at St. Clare's

Christmas Eve - December 24

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Children's Christmas Pageant

8:00 p.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with chamber music

Christmas Day - December 25

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Clare's Episcopal Church

3350 Hopyard Road • Pleasanton • 925.462.4802
www.stclarespleasanton.org

Christmas Season at Valley Community Church

Saturday & Sunday December 15th & 16th

Christmas Program

Saturday 6:00 pm • Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am

"On This Very Night"

Featuring Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra, Children's Choir

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Celebration

3:00, 4:30 & 6:00 pm

featuring Christmas Carols, Nativity Play & Candle Lighting

Sunday Worship Services, 9:00 & 10:45 am

Valley Community Church • 4455 Del Valle Pkwy (between Hopyard & Main) Pleasanton
925-846-6622 • www.valleycommunitychurch.org



games? Sign the interest list and we will try to organize new activities on Wednesday nights at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. The senior center extended its Wednesday hours to 8 p.m. Call 556-4511.

Gujarati Dinner Tri Valley Gujarati Seniors holds monthly meetings with varied themes. Interested Gujarati Seniors are welcome to attend as guests. For additional information, call 846-3521. 6:30-9:30 p.m. None

PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. The usual Senior Center charges apply. The cost is \$1.50 or \$2.00.

Spiritual

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5 p.m. Regular worship is at 10:30 a.m. Sundays and Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Children's church (ages 3-12) begins at 11:15 a.m. and Women's Bible study is at 10 a.m. Call 846-8650.

Peace Meditation A one-hour silent meditation on peace will takes place on the second Saturday of the month at Downtown Yoga, 220B Division St. No talking--just sitting. No political affiliation or religious denomination. Free to all. Call 819-9983.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin.

Sunday service and children's school at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and groups. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Worship Service The Fountain Community Church, 4455 Stoneridge Drive, holds a worship service at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. It's a place to connect with God and people. Upbeat contemporary worship and challenging messages. Call 600-8182 or visit www.fountaincc.org.

Sports

Holiday Tennis Camps Lifetime Tennis and the City of Pleasanton are offering youth tennis camps during the winter break. Camps are available for all levels ages 4 through 18. Sign up at the Tennis Park, 5801 Valley Ave. Call 931-3449.

Pleasanton Rage Winter Academy Come have fun and continue to work on your soccer skills through the winter months from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Mondays at Val Vista Soccer Complex. Pleasanton Girls Soccer will be hosting an academy for U8-U10 girls soccer players. Details can be found at http://www.pleasantonrage.org/docs/Youth_Academy07.pdf. The cost is \$100.

Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game The fifth annual Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game will be held Dec. 29 at Foothill High School. Men and women who graduated from the '70s to 2000s are invited to play. The public is invited to watch the women's match at 4 p.m. and the men's match at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for students. Contact Curt at 426-1540 or curtgordon@comcast.net for details.

Saturday Morning Beginner Road Ride This weekly no-drop ride at 8 a.m. every Saturday is for those new to cycling, who haven't been on their bike for a while or just want to ride at a slower pace. Rides depart from Cyclepath Pleasanton, 337-B Main St., and will generally be 10-12 mph, 20 miles and no more than 2 hours. E-mail rides@cyclepath.com if you plan to attend.

Sunday Morning Group Ride Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop ride. Routes vary weekly (25-55 miles) and last approximately two hours. We meet at 8:30 a.m. at Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., to determine our route and fill tires for a 9:00 a.m. departure. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level. Call 485-3218.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones. Facilitated by The Wellness Community. The group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org.

ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? We are a self help support group for those with difficulty disposing of stuff. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. If you are ready to change your life, just come to the meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Monday at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church Rm. 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246 or 846-5060 Box 2. Visit www.clutterless.org or email clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com. The group is free, however \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group This support groups meets the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest. No meeting in December. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

East Bay Cancer Support Group The East Bay Cancer Support group is an independent, non-profit, non-sectarian organization serving cancer patients, caregivers and the bereaved at Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Road, Castro Valley. All services are provided free of charge. For scheduled meeting times, please call (510) 889-8766 or visit www.ebcancersupport.org.

Grief Share Are you looking for community, understanding and support? If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. The grief support group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. It is \$35.00, with scholarships available. Call 560-6202 or register at www.dublinvcc.org.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesdays of the month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Call 443-4098 or 447-6158 or email ralaye@comcast.net.

Manspeak This weekly men's group meets 8 to 9:30 p.m. Monday nights at Kiva Counseling Group, 11740 Dublin Blvd., Suite 202 in Dublin, and is designed to create a community between men to resolve problems, form friendships, and understand and improve relationships. It provides a source of support for personal growth and change in a safe environment so we can become aware of our own emotional habits and attitudes. The cost is \$30 per session or \$100 per month. Call 485-9370 or visit www.kivaspirit.org for details.

Pleasanton Military Families Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. The group includes families who have loved ones serving



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by Brian Atwood
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www.jlcpa.net

Dear Mrs. Claus,

It must be great fun to live at the North Pole! What is it like there? Are there stores where you can go shopping, or do the elves make everything you need? What do you do while Santa delivers presents on Christmas Eve? Do you ever get to ride in his sleigh? It would be fun to fly through the sky in a sleigh pulled by reindeer, with Rudolph in the front. Does his nose really glow? Here in California where it is very foggy this time of the year, Rudolph's nose would come in handy.

Neal wants to know "Why is Santa so fat?" Blake is curious about how all those toys fit in that bag? Ashley wants to know "Why doesn't Santa come during the day so we can see him?"

How long have you been married to Santa? How old is Santa? What do you and Santa do in the summer? Is Santa always a good boy? Do the elves make Nintendo?

If we wanted to leave a reindeer snack with Santa's cookies what would they like? Do you like cookies too? Santa should bring you back a goody bag.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas. Many thanks to you and Santa for bringing joy to boys and girls like us all over the world. Please give Santa our best, and say hello to the reindeer and the elves for us. How many elves are there anyway?"

P.S. Has Santa ever worn mismatched socks?

(From Elementary School Students)



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PET OF THE WEEK

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Catherine Hansen Rush

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Calendar

in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Global War on Terrorism. Meetings are held at a different group member's home each month. Call Chris Miller for information on the placement of a yellow streamer for the military person on Main Street and for information on the group, 730-1604.

Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking (cognitive restructuring) to help reduce stress levels and down-regulate pain. Share experiences and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. †Free classes are held from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 831-9940 or email jackie-bard@pacbell.net.

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

Volunteering

Blankets for Kids Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident Jo Molz, makes and distributes soft fleece blankets to at-risk, abused and neglect-

ed children in the Tri-Valley, Alameda County and even Los Angeles. The easy-to-make blankets are constructed of a soft fleece material with pleasant designs. Volunteers have made more than 10,000 blankets for distribution since the organization began. Those interested in volunteering, or donating money or fleece to the nonprofit organization call Jo, 846-6155.

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

TV30

Ask the Doctor Depression and Mood Disorders are the topics for Ask the Doctor TV30's LIVE call-in show at 7 p.m. Dec. 5. Episode will rerun Wednesdays in December at 7 p.m. on Channel 30. Guests Michael Levin, M.D. & Michael Schierman, M.D. Host, Bela Kenessey, M.D. Also view on www.TV30.org.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich LPGA Golf Special with the LPGA's best including Park, Creamer, and more. On Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m.

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Take Us Along



A cascading Weekly

It's no small feat that the Weekly managed to stay dry on a trip with the Brumm family (Robbie, Janeen, Dan and Andrew) to Yosemite.



Sailing through the Weekly

Lynn and Malia Ryan sail through the pages of the Weekly, and as a crew on a family friend's maiden cruise of their new 46-foot Catamaran through the British, U.S. and Spanish Virgin Islands.



Weekly invades the Pentagon

Marilyn and Bob Weiss of Pleasanton read the Pleasanton Weekly at the Pentagon while attending the retirement of Col. Doriot Mascarich, the 1991 Grand Marshal of the Christmas Parade. Looking in are George and Arline (a.k.a. Mrs. Claus) Mascarich, former Pleasanton residents.



Passport to Pleasanton

Colleen McCullough needed her Pleasanton Weekly and Dunkin' Donuts coffee to make it through another long day of travel. She, along with her traveling crew, spent the night sleeping on JFK airport's international terminal after missing a flight back to SFO.



Seafood, see the Weekly

Howard Merrill keeps up with Pleasanton news while waiting for a table at Howard's Pub on Ocracoke Island in North Carolina. The island was recently named Best Beach in the U.S. by the Travel Channel, but Howard says he thinks the seafood at Howard's Pub is the real attraction.

Hometown Holiday Celebration

Thank You All!

Volunteer Committee

Brian Dutchover, *Chair*
Becky Hopkins, *Administrative Chair*

Bernie Billen, *Valley Community Bank*
Chuck Deckert, *Corporate Express*
Linda Klinger, *Community Volunteer*

Courtney Coats, *Community Volunteer*
Tom Gannon, *Interior Door & Closet Company*
Janet Vader, *Community Volunteer*

Event Volunteers

Thank you to the scores of community members who unselfishly donated time and resources to produce a memorable parade and tree lighting ceremony this year. The committee salutes you as do the hundreds of spectators who enjoyed our special brand of Hometown Holiday celebration.

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Take Us Along



Saying 'cheese!' in Yosemite

Dominic Cardella, Rachel Mattison, Emily Hayes, Eric Olsen, Noelle Mattison, Sydney Head, Sander Head, Adam Schwartz, Samuel Wurzel, Benjamin Schwartz and Alex Hayes show that catching up with local headlines is a great way to pass the time while camping in Yosemite.



A 'Weekly camping trip

Moms Susane Head with daughter Sydney Head, Audrey Hayes, Kirsten Schwartz, Jeanne Wurzel, Janine Mattison, Deb Cardella and Andrea Olsen keep a close eye on the kids during the annual mother's day camping trip in Yosemite.

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Dining Out

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

Bridges

44 Church St., Danville, 820-7200. Executive Chef Kevin Gin interprets California-American cuisine with European and Asian influences with expansive lunch and dinner menus.

Add dessert, wine and cocktails and you have Bridges' casual fine dining experience. Visit www.bridgesdanville.com for event and private party details.

Zorn's Restaurant

3015 Hopyard Road, 462-0994. Located in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center, Zorn's serves breakfast all day. Open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with breakfast and lunch specials. Dine in or take out. Catering also available.

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille

425 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-2800. Treat yourself to a taste sensation at

Mahalo Grille featuring a variety of Pacific seafood, Hawaiian fresh fish and shell fish, and "Mahalo" signature selections. Also try our various vegetarian-friendly offerings, California wines and island cocktails. Visit www.mahalogrille.com.

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was voted best take out food by Pleasanton Weekly readers in 2006. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

Brewpub/Alehouse

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales

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The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

California Cuisine

Stacey's Cafe

310 Main St., Pleasanton, 461-3113. Located on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Stacey's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serving fresh California cuisine. Come as you are and enjoy our dining room, banquet room, outdoor patios and full bar. Visit www.staceyscafe.com.

Catering

Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, 462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert or 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

831-4888. Offering affordable and elegant catering, Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate provides quality food and generous portions at a fair price. Services include: decorated buffets with hors d'oeuvres and carving stations; sit down meal service; †strictly hors d'oeuvres, both buffet and server passed; and a variety of beverage packages with no corkage fees. Visit www.ppceastbay.com.

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

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

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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Fusion

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

Greek

Simply Greek
4220-C Rosewood Drive, 463-8801. From the neighborhoods of Greece to you. Menu features gyros, souvlaki and more. Located in the Rose Pavilion Shopping Center, they're open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Catering services available. Visit www.simply-greek.com

Italian

Fontina Ristorante
349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials--including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal--served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

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

Girasole Grill
3180 Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. It was voted Best Italian Restaurant by Pleasanton Weekly readers for 2007. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! prawns, chicken gorgi, spinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

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Japanese

Sato Japanese Cuisine
3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner. Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

Mexican

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625 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-1224.

Come downtown for fine dining and casual lunches in our outdoor patio. Our menu includes a variety of selections from classic tortilla soup and mole poblano to grilled salmon (a house specialty) and filet mignon with a spicy Chipotle Chile sauce. We also specialize in premium "sipping" tequilas and carry over 200 different varieties. Visit www.blueagaveclub.com.

Pizza

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

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This testimonial reflects results achieved by this patient. As each case is different and must be independently evaluated and managed, actual results will vary.