

## Sharks freeze plans

No ice skating downtown this winter > **page 5**

## School board endorsements

Weekly recommends candidates for 3 seats

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Vol. IX, Number 39 • October 24, 2008

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# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

## Buying & Selling

What you should know about the real estate market

> **Inside**



# History comes to life

Much anticipated Alviso Adobe park opens Saturday **PAGE 16**

## ***Pleasanton Firefighters, Pleasanton Weekly and Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce agree:***



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Pleasanton City Council**



**Vote Jennifer Hosterman,  
Mayor**

---

**“Environmentalists, business leaders,  
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**Vote QQ, A Better Way:** Jennifer Hosterman, Otis Nostrand, Ken Mercer, Jerry Thorne, Frank Capilla, Jocelyn Combs, Scott Raty, Dolores Bengtson, Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Bob Butler, Chris Miller, Chris Berattis, Bob Philcox, Tom Pico, John Sensiba, Matt Campbell, Becky Dennis, Sharrell Michelotti, Karin Mohr, Pat Kernan, Kurt Kummer, Gail Gilpin, Jack Dove, Rich Cimino, Jan Batcheller, Jim Fields, Chuck Deckert, Joanie Fields, (partial list)

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Paid for by Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce BACPAC FPPC#1270786, 777 Peters Ave. Pleasanton, CA



# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Sales are booming—for Halloween, that is

These may be among the worst of times for retailers, but for Kyle Beeby, the market couldn't be better. Beeby, a lifelong Pleasanton resident who graduated from Foothill High in 1989, is staking his financial future on Halloween, the country's second biggest and, for vendors like him, most profitable market after Christmas. Beeby opened his Halloween Express outlet in the old Levitz Furniture store in the Rose Pavilion Sept. 5 with thousands of costumes, masks and decorations extending wall-to-wall in the 15,000 square feet of floor space he's using this year. His merchandise ranges from atall, realistic, animated graveyard figure near the front of the store costing \$800 to hundreds of outfits for all ages starting at \$9.95. Most are in the \$30-\$50 range and include authentic-looking Raggedy Ann and Andy costumes—still among the most popular—to Obama and other political masks for three-to-four times as much. While the Obama look-alike mask is the most popular, Richard Nixon's distinctive image is not far behind. Sorry, folks, there's no Sarah Palin. Sen. McCain picked her as his running-mate too late for the Chinese designers and manufacturers to get her face on the assembly line.

Beeby's been in the Halloween marketing business for 10 years, first as a vendor supplying Halloween retail stores and then acquiring his own franchise last year with a store in Fremont. Needing more space, he signed a lease last May for the Rose Pavilion store when Levitz went out of business and has the space until Nov. 5, when what he doesn't sell will go into a storage container to be put on the shelves next year if it's still marketable. Halloween Express is a Midwest company with several hundred stores in the central and eastern states, but is a newcomer to California. Beeby has competition, particularly from corporate-owned stores like Spirit Halloween in Dublin, but as a franchise holder he owns his own business and the merchandise he sells.

With luck, which means a brisk business from now through next Friday, he'll earn enough income to last another 10 months, when his Halloween store will open again. He's already eyeing the Mervyn's store in Dublin, which will soon close its doors. Projections are for the best Halloween sales ever this season and even better in 2009 and 2010 when the holiday is on Saturday and then Sunday.

It helps, too, that Beeby's wife Nicole has a full-time job outside of the seasonal Halloween market. Still, she works with Kyle and is often at the store with their two children, Jake and Kylie. This week, starting last weekend and extending to next Friday, is when Kyle Beeby expects to do 70-80 percent of his business. Last Saturday, when I walked through the store, customers started streaming in at the 10 a.m. opening bell and the store was crowded by the time I left. Beeby says there could be 100 or more customers in line in the Halloween "crunch" that starts today, and his last restocking of new inventory came last Tuesday. Children's costumes are selling out quickly, with Barbie and Ken outfits popular along with Harry Potter, Indiana Jones and all of the super heroes: Superman, Batman, Spiderman and Joker. Video game figures, ghosts, pirates and Disney costumes and masks also attract the younger set, but Beeby also has a wide array of PG13 costumes for the older girls, including very short skirts in adult Raggedy Ann, nurses and go-go dancer outfits. Men are generally less risqué, choosing to go to their neighborhood parties in more conventional attire, such as vintage coats and tails or as sports figures. Carefully-tailored, handcrafted gowns for the women and evening wear for me cost from \$90-\$200, can be worn year-after-year (to different parties, I presume) and are also top sellers.

Of course, don't forget Fido. Costumes for pets are all the rage this year, Beeby says, just so the little dog is house trained before taking to the party. ■

### About the Cover

After more than a decade of planning, the long-awaited Alviso Adobe Community Park will open with a celebration on Saturday. Festivities will include historical elements that will be used at the interpretive park to represent the three groups who occupied the land: the Ohlone Indians, Californios and the Meadowlark Dairy. Photo by Emily West.

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—Trevor Knaggs, President, Association of Pleasanton Teachers



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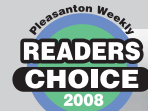
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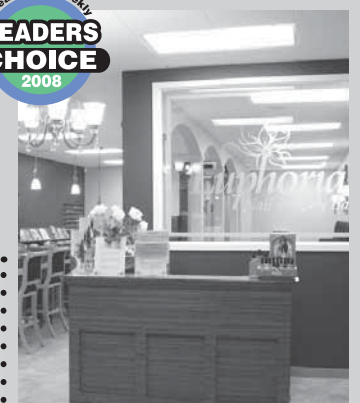


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# Streetwise

**Q:** What is the major issue facing our country as we go to the polls?

Asked Downtown



**Ben Tarver**  
Environmental Field Tech

I would say the economy and energy. I would like to see an emphasis on looking into renewable energy, different sources of oil and a way to turn around the economy.

**John McCullough**  
Air Traffic Controller

One of the major issues is living within our means not only as individuals but at a state, country and even as a world. There is so much leveraged buying and investing out there that even a little blip or downturn in the market kills us. Do we really want to not only mortgage our children's futures but our own as well? We need to become savers again.



**Cathy Jacob**  
Homemaker

Economics. Having a strong leader who understands the economy and has plans, that are understandable to me and middle America, to get us out of this economic slump. We need a leader who understands the economic situation of all Americans at every level.



**Brett Ortega**  
Network Engineer

The biggest issue facing the next president is the economy and the peoples' belief in it. The media has spun things and no one knows who to trust. Our citizens want to believe the government is helping them, but the banks are not helping the people on the street. We are thinking, "If the government has given them all this money, why can't I get a loan from the bank?"



**Evan Thompson**  
Engineer

A few months ago, I would have said the war definitely. Now it is the economy. We need a comprehensive plan to get this nation back on track and renew our position in the world as a leader.



Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

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# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Library hosts 'Speakeasy' party

As the last of the Big Read events, the Pleasanton Public Library invites the public to dance the night away at "A Jazzy Speakeasy Party" from 7 to 10 p.m. Sunday at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 301 Main St. With swinging sounds of Don Neely's Royal Society Jazz Sextet, the evening includes dance demos, wine and more. Gastby costumes are encouraged. Tickets are \$10 or \$5 for seniors 65 and older.

### Lerch Bates 'out for blood'

Blood Centers of the Pacific will be holding a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 27 in a "blood coach" located behind 4713 First St. in the old railroad right-of-way parking on Abbie Street. The blood drive is sponsored by Lerch Bates Inc., an elevator consulting firm. In addition to all the cookies and juice you can consume, donators will get a free syringe pen and a 15 percent discount on lunch at Gay Nineties Pizza the day of the blood drive. Register online at [www.bloodheroes.com](http://www.bloodheroes.com) (click on "Find a Location" and enter sponsor code: LerchBates). Walk-ins are welcome.

### Sign-ups open for Jewish history class

Registration is open for an eight-session course called "The Creation of Jewish Identity in Antiquity" taught by lecturer Ken Cohen at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct.. Classes are held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays starting Oct. 28. The course fee is \$180. To reserve a spot in the class, call 931-1055 ext. 11 or download a form at <http://bethemek.org/resourcefiles/kencohenreg.pdf>.

### Cats take over fairgrounds

The Fog City Cat Club is back with the annual cat show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds from 9 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the show, there will be daily raffles, cat and kitten adoption, and several vendors with cat supplies, toys and cat-themed gifts for sale. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for children. To learn more, visit [www.fogcity-catclub.com](http://www.fogcity-catclub.com).

## Sharks unit cancels downtown holiday ice skating plans

*Decision comes as city considers ice arena on Staples Ranch*

by **Jeb Bing**

A subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks that is seeking city approval to build a multi-million-dollar ice rink in Pleasanton's yet-to-be-annexed Staples Ranch has reneged on a promise to provide a downtown holiday ice rink during the coming holiday season.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, in an interview with the Weekly, said she was notified by representatives of San Jose Arena Management (SJAM) that it could not install and operate the downtown rink this year unless the city agreed to join the firm in covering all risks with staging the program, a financial obligation that

the city said could run from nothing to as much as \$200,000. That would be in addition to the underground electrical hookups, water and free space for the rink that the city already had agreed to donate.

"Obviously, we are disappointed," Hosterman said. "We had held off on considering an earlier offer to provide a 'Holiday on Ice' facility from another firm, similar to what Walnut Creek has, and now it's too late to grab that opportunity. We have no money set aside in our budget to finance their program."

City officials and downtown merchants had viewed the Sharks' subsidiaries' offer as a way to boost pedestrian traffic—and sales—in the holiday season where lackluster

sales and a weak economy are dampening hopes for a profitable shopping season. Initially, the rink was proposed to go on the parking lots next to the now-closed Domus retail store or Round Table Pizza on Main Street, but property owners refused the city's request, arguing that it would reduce off-street parking and possible holiday sales.

Instead, City Manager Nelson Fialho offered to make available half of the Pleasanton Library parking lot on Old Bernal Avenue for the two to three months that the rink would be operating. According to plans, the Sharks would open the rink during the Thanksgiving holiday week and operate it through early January.

Representatives of SJAM promised to install and operate the downtown rink at a City Council meeting in early September when the council gave tentative approval to a ground lease for a 7-acre site on a planned new community park on Staples Ranch. At the time, Don Gralnek, vice president and general counsel of Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment LLC, who represents San Jose Arena Management, accepted at the council's urging a plan to open the downtown holiday facility this year to demonstrate the organization's eagerness to provide a community facility.

Hosterman said that in her con-

(continued on page 9)



Smoke pours out of the kitchen area of a \$2-million home at 8044 Golden Eagle Way Saturday night in blaze that was quickly brought under control by the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

## Quick response saves \$2M Golden Eagle home

*Neighbor spotted blaze at empty next-door home, called police*

Fire caused significant damage to a \$2-million home at 8044 Golden Eagle Way Saturday night, gutting part of the attic and kitchen and a backyard deck.

Firefighters from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department rushed to the home in the gated Golden Eagle community shortly before 10 p.m. after a next door neighbor called Pleasanton police.

No one was at home when the fire started. Pleasanton Weekly photographer Jay Flachsbarth, who followed firefighters to the

blaze, said fire officials told him that the fire started outside on or below the deck, and spread to the eaves of the house where it migrated into the ceiling space above the kitchen.

Quick work by LPPFD kept the fire to a minimum inside of the house, although the deck was a total loss, Flachsbarth said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. As of presstime, there was no damage estimate available.

—Jeb Bing

## Thousands to gather for band review Saturday

*Event bittersweet with band director Bob Moorefield's retirement*

by **Janet Pelletier**

When a number of Northern California and Nevada high school bands converge in Pleasanton Saturday for the 35th annual Foothill Band Review, it will be bittersweet. This is the last year Foothill will host the popular review with Bob Moorefield as the high school's band director.

Moorefield has been director of the award-winning band for the past 36 years, one year more than the school has been hosting the band review. This year, 50 middle and high school bands will be participating in the parade downtown, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue through 1 p.m. The parade travels from Amador Valley High School on Santa Rita Road, south down Main Street and west on Angela Street. There will be also concert competitions during the morning.

In the afternoon, the parade awards will be presented at the football stadium at Foothill High School, starting around 2:20 p.m. The field show competition begins after the awards ceremony has concluded, around 4 p.m., and lasts until 10 p.m., followed by the presentation of field show competition and sweepstakes awards. Parade, concert and field show performances are judged by professional music educators from the Northern California Band Association.

A total of 40 concert bands will be playing, and about 35 field show bands will perform at Foothill High School in the evening. Every year since 1974, on the fourth Saturday in

(continued on page 6)

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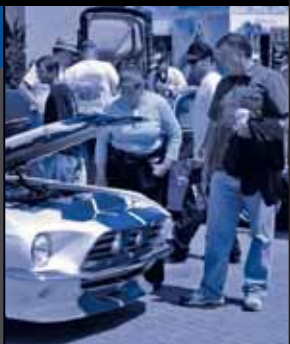
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## Judge agrees to visitation adjustment for Germain

Alleged child molestation case continued to Nov. 19

by Emily West

Henry Germain appeared before Judge Hugh Walker Wednesday, this time in plainclothes, not in a Santa Rita Jail-issued jumpsuit.

Germain is facing 16 charges of child molestation with six female victims and is currently out on bail. He was originally bailed out through a property bond Sept. 23, but soon after turned himself in upon learn-

ing of a new charge. Walker then increased his bail to \$1.14 million and it is believed he used the remaining equity on the home to bail out for the second time.

Attorney Elizabeth Grossman of Berkeley represented Germain as he asked for an adjustment on the conditions of his release. With the agreement of Deputy District Attorney Susan Torrence, the judge

granted him to spend time with his two sons without adult supervision, but not with his daughter. The other conditions that still stand are that he is not to leave the state or contact any minors or the alleged victims.

Grossman and Torrence asked that the case be continued, and Walker scheduled the next hearing for 9 a.m. Nov. 19 at the Pleasanton Courthouse on Stoneridge Drive. ■

## Are developers taking over Measure QQ campaign?

Measure PP backers cite contributions by home builders

by Jeb Bing

From a recitation of those killed on the war front to a charge that developer contributions are influencing the upcoming municipal elections, Tuesday's night's three-hour council meeting was a potpourri of issues, accusations and feel-good commendations. With a number of issues on the unusually light agenda postponed, it was a night for political chatter, and there was plenty.

Most troubling was a complaint by former Planning Commissioner Mary Roberts that a passerby threw a lighted firecracker at a man waving an Obama for President sign at Valley Avenue and Hopyard Road. Roberts, along with mayoral candidate Steve Brozosky and Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, who is seeking re-election, were waving their own signs across the intersection when they heard a loud explosion.

"There was a loud puff and my ears hurt," Roberts said. "Others felt the same thing. Someone in the military might have recognized the sound but I didn't. I've lived in Pleasanton for 37 years and was never in combat."

Police later found evidence of an explosive device at the scene, but have so far made no arrests.

"I'm concerned about political yard signs being taken and about vandalism," she told the council. "One home displaying a McCain-Palin sign was recently pelted with tomatoes. People ought to realize that if they take a sign, that's theft, and anyone who sees something like this going on, should call police right away."

Roberts followed a lively, hour-long discussion by others, including proponents of Measure PP, the citizens' initiative on the Nov. 4 ballot that would, if approved, immediately bar construction on hillsides with 25 percent slopes or greater, and strengthen the city's 29,000-unit housing cap law.

Paul Martens and his wife Karen were the most outspoken, criticizing campaign contributions by developers and others

to the Measure QQ campaign. Measure QQ, placed on the Nov. 4 ballot by a majority on the City Council, would also seek to restrict hillside development, but only after public hearings and environmental reviews.

"Presidential candidates are giving money to ACORN, which is under investigation for (improper) voter registrations," Paul Martens said. "It's despicable what these people are doing. Now I wonder if it's hitting little old sleepy Pleasanton where I find out that PG&E has given \$5,000 to the Chamber of Commerce, where Greenbriar Homes has paid \$10,000 to the Measure QQ campaign, and where the Homebuilders of Northern California have also given \$10,000 to the QQ campaign."

"This seems like an outrageous amount of money," he added. "I urge voters when they go to the polls on Nov. 4 to follow the money to see if these outsiders and insiders are buying influence."

Karen Martens said Hosterman and councilmembers Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who voted to put Measure QQ on the ballot, ignored the wishes of 5,000 registered voters who sponsored Measure QQ.

"So on a vote of 3-2, you said 'no' to 5,000 who wanted this initiative," Martens said. "The money coming in to support Measure QQ includes the \$10,000 from Greenbriar of Fremont and another \$10,000 from the Homebuilders of San Ramon. No one has given more than \$500 at a time to the Measure PP campaign."

Richard Pugh, also a supporter of the PP measure, seemed more conciliatory. He said the Measure QQ effort, put on the ballot with good intentions by the council majority, "has gotten hijacked by developers, which was probably not your intention."

"I thought the purpose of QQ was to seek citizen support for an alternative measure, but it seems to have gotten lost and taken over by developers," Pugh said. "So you who are sponsoring it should take a look at that."

Brozosky, speaking in favor of Measure PP, accused the proponents of QQ of making false statements in campaign materials with regard to PP and its impact on Pleasanton.

"It's not necessary to lie," he told the council. "That's not good for voters. The advertisements in support of QQ feature the same people who opposed the Bernal initiative (in 2002) and would have allowed homes to be built on Bernal."

In other action, the council:

- Commended the 12-year-old players of the Pleasanton American Little League All Stars and their coaches for carrying the Pleasanton banner to the league's western semifinals in August.
- Issued a proclamation to have the city observe Veterans Day on Nov. 11 and to join the VFW and American Legion in their Veterans Day parade, to be held on Nov. 2.

The council also heard from Fred Norman, who said that 400 American cities, counties and states have now adopted measures to officially oppose the war in Iraq, but not Pleasanton.

For campaign contribution information, go to [www.netfile.com/agency/cop/](http://www.netfile.com/agency/cop/). ■

## Band

(continued from page 5)

October, the top high school bands in Northern California and Nevada have gathered in Pleasanton for the Foothill Band Review. The review has the grand tradition of hosting the biggest, most competitive and best-run band review in the area.

The band review is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Band Boosters. Its success will help pay for new instruments to replace older and worn out ones. The fundraiser also pays for the instructional assistants that help make the Foothill Band as successful as it is.

For more information on the band review, visit [www.foothill-band.org](http://www.foothill-band.org). ■

# Confused about PP vs QQ?

- Measure PP (Protect Pleasanton) enacts ridgeline protections now; before more housing is approved on our ridges. Similar protections saved Pleasanton Ridge, let's save all the views of Pleasanton's hills.
- QQ does not actually create any ridgeline protections. It just lets the politicians decide what if **any** protections to implement. This is confirmed by the City Attorney's impartial analysis\*.
- The QQ campaign is being paid for by the developers; Greenbriar and California Home Builders Association have donated \$20,000. **Are they really trying to protect Pleasanton's hills?**

Vote **YES** on **PP**  
The Citizens' Initiative

Vote **NO** on **QQ**  
The Developers' Initiative

## 3 Local Papers Endorse PP

### The Valley Times:

"Voters should approve Measure PP, a citizens initiative to regulate hillside development, and reject Measure QQ, another stalling tactic by the City Council." (10/10/2008)

### The Independent:

"Measure PP represents the true feeling of the community toward the hills surrounding their city... We say to every Pleasanton voter who wants that mandate carried out: pass Measure PP; reject QQ." (10/9/2008)

### Tri-Valley Herald:

"If Measures QQ passes with more votes, it would block Measure PP from taking effect. Yet, Measure QQ is nothing more than an empty promise." (10/10/2008)

\* "The Measure [QQ] **does not** provide for voter adoption of this current program, but rather describes how such an ordinance and guidelines **might be** developed.. the development of such an ordinance and guidelines, while detailed, is not specific as to any required outcome. Therefore, there is no provision requiring the City to enact what **might be** developed." Michael Roush, City Attorney, City of Pleasanton - Impartial Analysis of Measure QQ

For more information, visit: [www.SavePleasantonHills.com](http://www.SavePleasantonHills.com)

This ad paid for by Save Pleasanton Hills Committee FPPC #1307557. If you would like to help or host a yard sign, call 925-462-5446

## Greetings, Sarah Palin

Pleasanton businesswoman Judy Lloyd, who is active in the Republican Party in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, recently met Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as she descended from an airplane at San Francisco Airport en route to a Burlingame fundraiser.

"She seemed happy to learn about us, thanked us for our support, and made sure we had a chance to meet the others—Meg Whitman of eBay (far left in picture) and Jon Huntsman, the governor of Utah," Lloyd, who runs software company Altamont Solutions, said of the Oct. 5 encounter.

Lloyd's son Michael, 11, (second from left) also attended. Both were chosen for the greeting committee because Altamont Solutions offered its facilities to house the Republican's Victory '08 operations. Lloyd (third from left) ran for the 15th Assembly seat in the Republican primary, and ran her campaign out of the office. Michael would help with simple tasks in the beginning but one day was put to work making phone calls on her behalf.

"He did about 80 calls and was very persuasive," Lloyd said.

Nathan Conrad, who runs the headquarters, said Michael was the first child to act as a greeter for a major candidate. Lloyd has been involved in past presidential campaigns, including as a convention delegate from California. She has met Sen. John McCain on several occasions, most recently when he was campaigning in 2000.



## Of Note

### Blankets help Buchenauer earn Eagle Scout honors

John Buchenauer of troop 911 worked with over 25 volunteers to complete his Eagle Project.

To complete his Eagle Scout Project, John Buchenauer had to help make blankets for the Blankets for Kids Organization. He raised money that allowed him to buy fleece for 130 blankets and coordinated with over 25 volunteers to see the project through.

The blankets are vibrant in color and come in infant and teen sizes. Through various organizations, they will be donated to abused, neglected and traumatized children and teens in California.

Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident Jo Molz, has made and distributed more than 14,000 of these blankets. To learn more about the organization, call 846-6155.

### Feder, Hildenbrand receive honors from YMCA

Amador Valley High School freshman Vanessa Feder was given the Youth of Character in her role as a Camper-in-Leadership Training. Organizers said Feder's "character shone to her peers and to all the children during the nine weeks of summer day camp." She will be honored at a volunteer recognition celebration at the Oakland Airport Hilton Oct. 15.

Also being recognized is Robert Hildenbrand, vice president of consulting at Oracle Corp. Named the Volunteer of the Year, he volunteered as Nation Chief of the Y-Princess Program, which enables fathers and daughters to bond through fun, educational and charitable activities.

### Fair announces 4-H, FFA winners

The Alameda County Fair recently celebrated the efforts of the 4-H and FFA livestock market animal exhibitors. Over \$6,585 in cash prizes was given during the Market Beef, Sheep and Swine award dinners and attended by over 500 exhibitors, parents, leaders and sponsors.

The exhibitors spend a minimum of three months to almost a year raising their animals. Exhibitors either purchase an animal or pick from their own herd. They learn responsibility and animal husbandry as they feed, exercise and care for their animals during the year. Exhibitors invest money into feed, supplies and invest hundreds of hours into care and training. The final goal is to exhibit and sell the animal at the fair's Junior Livestock Auction. The final objective of the Market Livestock program is to teach and encourage youth to profitably manage their enterprise and produce a high quality food product for consumers.

The top winners were the following: Beef Carcass contest winner—Breanne Maggy, Livermore; Allison Ricart, Pleasanton; Daniel Jess, Byron; 4-H Sheep Carcass contest winner: Ariel Grace, Livermore; FFA Sheep Carcass winner: Trisha Wigger, Livermore; 4-H Swine Carcass winner: Joey Bennett, Pleasanton; FFA Swine Carcass winner: Sean Gallagher, Livermore; Super Beef contest winner: Daniel Jess, Byron; 4-H Super Lamb contest winner: Ryan Stoneham, Livermore; 4-H Super Hog contest winner: Trent Griffith, Mountain House; FFA Super Hog contest winner: Sean Gallagher, Livermore FFA.

# DIABETES

## FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



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**Speaker:** Dr. Mark Christiansen, MD

**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2008

**Time:** 6:00–8:30pm

*Includes Diabetes Vendor/Products Fair starting at 6pm.*

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## A dance for the ages

Tonight will mark the end of a fun-filled two weeks of swing dancing at Hart Middle School. At right, Jana Johnson and her partner Cameron Clark jive to the beat last week before they were eliminated. Surely, the two seventh-graders were heartbroken, Jana's mom Lana Johnson said, but they enjoyed the ride.

Hart has held the Swing Dance Competition every year for the past eight years and it remains a hit with grandparents and parents alike. The competition is open to competing seventh and eighth-graders during lunchtime, with the finals held from 7 to 9 p.m. tonight in the school gym, 4433 Willow Road. Audience members will also enjoy students showing off their line and square dancing skills in between swing dance competition rounds. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door.

"It is great that Hart offers this option to the kids," Lana Johnson said. "It gives them a sense of accomplishment and confidence in themselves. It is a great way to learn to interact with others and learn to dance."



Lana Johnson



## Cheering for vets

Foothill High School's varsity competition cheer squad performed at the Veteran of Foreign Wars' Annual Crab Feed on Oct. 11. The national champion squad also helped sell raffle tickets at the fundraiser.

## Political Notes

### Chamber endorses school board candidates

For the first time, the Chamber of Commerce made endorsements in the race for three seats on the Pleasanton Unified School District board of trustees.

The chamber evaluated five of the six candidates and said they endorse Chris Grant, Jamie Yee Hintzke and Prasad Rallapalli.

In supporting Grant, they referred to the 15-point increase in Academic Performance Index (API) as well as his commitment to class size reduction and academic intervention programs.

As for Hintzke, the chamber endorsed her based on her school leadership experience in the PTA and PTA Council for many years as well as being on the California State PTA Board of Managers, and

being named Woman of the Year by California State Assemblymember Mary Hayashi.

The chamber chose Rallapalli for being a world-educated professional and teacher, having taught at Claremont and Golden Gate universities, as well as being the co-founder the Pleasanton Science League.

For information about the chamber, visit [www.pleasanton.org](http://www.pleasanton.org) or call 846-5858.

## Sharks

(continued from page 5)

versations with SJAM, the organization said it could not finance this year's holiday ice rink, but would agree to install and operate it in 2009 and beyond. By then, it is expected that the ground lease and actual construction plans for the four-rink ice facility will be approved. This includes a proposed 116,000-square-foot building on a 7-acre site (including parking) in the new community park, public land that the Sharks would lease for \$1 a year for 30 years. The organization operates all of the facilities associated with the Sharks, including the HP Pavilion where the hockey team plays, and Sharks Ice rinks in San Jose and Fremont, which are similar to what the group plans for Pleasanton.

Although the council at its Sept. 2 meeting agreed to let city staff negotiate the details of the ground lease, that contract has yet to be presented to the council for formal approval. The outdoor rink was one of the stipulations imposed by the council in its list of requirements in approving the ice rink ground lease. Other requirements include an agreement with the Pleasanton school district to provide ice time to physical education programs and school hockey teams and to offer discounts to Pleasanton residents when the new ice rink facility is opened.

Gralnek and SJAM's attorney Pat Kernan, a Pleasanton school

board member, indicated they would agree to the numerous stipulations imposed by the City Council, including providing the holiday ice program. Once written into the lease agreement, the contract would go back to the council within 90 days for final approval.

But Kernan said the agreement to provide downtown holiday ice skating this year was never finalized and that SJAM learned that the cost of building and operating an outdoor rink, plus buying liability insurance, would cost more than the firm had planned. He also said that uncertainty over where the outdoor rink might be located made the proposal unworkable in the time frame provided.

"We in no way are renegeing on anything," Kernan said. "We are simply moving the target date for starting this operation to the holiday season of 2009."

Meanwhile, the proposed ice rink on Staples Ranch will soon begin the routine process of being reviewed by the city Planning Commission and then again by the council before construction permits are issued.

The 7-acre site where the Sharks ice arena would be built lies east of where Stoneridge Drive currently terminates and west of El Charro Road, the eastern boundary of Staples Ranch. The facility would occupy a 17-acre community park, which the Sharks subsidiary also agreed to develop with sports fields and other amenities.

At the Sept. 2 meeting, the Sharks were also asked to make a substantial contribution toward more

sports fields on the Bernal property to compensate the city for athletic fields the rink would occupy, and also to contribute to the downtown Firehouse Arts Center Foundation fundraising drive.

Staples Ranch is a 124-acre site at the southwest corner of I-580 and El Charro Road that is unincorporated and owned by Alameda County. Other developments planned for Staples Ranch include an auto mall at the northeast corner of the site at the I-580-El Charro Road interchange planned by Hendricks Automotive; a 600-800 unit independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing care facility for seniors, planned by CLC Continuum, a Southern California-based senior care organization; and a retail store complex between the park and the auto mall, to be developed by Fremont Land developers. In addition, the developers of these three parcels and the Sharks also will pay for a 5-acre neighborhood park on the western side of Staples that would be developed by CLC but maintained as a public park by the city of Pleasanton. It would include a 3.5-acre water runoff detention system.

The decision to cancel the downtown holiday ice program comes during difficult economic times facing retailers on Main Street and adjoining side streets. A group of merchants met behind closed doors Monday to voice their concerns that their own Pleasanton Downtown Association and city economic leaders aren't doing enough to bolster downtown businesses. ■

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**Take Us Along**

**Weekly gone fishin'**

Dick Migliore and his two grandsons, Giovanni Leiva and Richie Miranda took time out from catching fish at Lake Almanor to "catch" up on the news in the Weekly. How clever.



**Weekly Birthday**

Mike Toovey, celebrating his 60th birthday, brought the Weekly on a chilly Alaskan cruise in Glacier Bay.



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Steve with his wife Annie and children Robin & Richelle

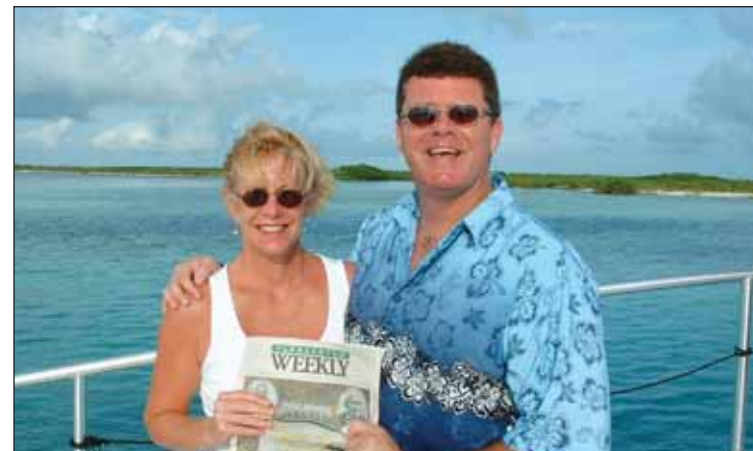
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**A couple's Weekly**

Maureen and Andrew Hunter packed the Weekly on their vacation to Turks and Caicos in the Carribean. Maureen reports that they left their four kids at home with grandma and Aunt Eileen, who they now owe big time!

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