

Final resting

Pioneer Cemetery burial plots available in March > **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 47 • December 19, 2008

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

Game on

Players needed
for alumni
scholarship
soccer match

> **page 28**

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Dust off your dreidel

Local Chanukah
celebrations
abound

> **section 2**



HOPE HOSPICE

Meeting the needs of those
facing the end of life **PAGE 10**

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing



Fund needs your help

These may be tough economic times, but the spirit of giving is alive and well. At the end of the day Wednesday, contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly 2008 Holiday Fund, with matching funds from the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, totaled \$90,744, far exceeding our expectations when we launched this year's Holiday Fund just four weeks ago. With another three weeks to go, we hope to announce record-high donations that we can pass on to this year's seven beneficiaries: Axis Community Health, Hope Hospice, the Emergency Room expansion program at ValleyCare Health System, Open Heart Kitchen, Senior Support Services of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven and the Valley Humane Society.

We're seeing a downturn in the economy this year and the needs of the charitable organizations are greater than ever. Even though Pleasanton, in terms of home valuations, job losses and city tax revenue, has so far escaped the worst of the recession, many of the nonprofits are in the thick of it. Pleasanton is ranked as one of the wealthiest cities of its size in the nation, yet in our city, too, there are hundreds who are turning to some of these organizations for individual and family assistance and emergency aid because they have found themselves suddenly without jobs and health care.

Two weeks ago, I stopped by the pediatrics ward at Axis, which offers pediatric care without appointments on Saturdays. The waiting room was packed with more standing outside holding

babies and the hands of toddlers. This year, Axis will provide more than 4,000 youngsters free check-ups, required booster shots and medication, with 200 new patients coming reach month.

Over at Trinity Lutheran Church last Friday, I talked to several financially hard-pressed families and a number of low-paid hourly workers from nearby hotels and fast food restaurants who go there every Friday night for a delicious hot dinner prepared and served by volunteers from Open Heart Kitchen.

Tri-Valley Haven offers a 30-bed shelter for victims of domestic violence, a 16-bed homeless family shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, rape crisis center, group and individual counseling, two weekly restraining order clinics, a food pantry and community education.

At the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, which is housed in the Pleasanton Senior Center, contributions to the Holiday Fund are used to pay for a variety of services at no cost to seniors or to their families throughout the Tri-Valley.

While reading the Hope Hospice cover story on page 10, take a look at the information sidebars that report on the Holiday Fund, this year's recipients and how you can contribute. Our list of donors is growing by the day. If your name's not yet on the list, I hope you'll send us a check. Every dollar you contribute will go directly to these seven nonprofits. Along with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, we're absorbing all administrative costs.

Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas. ■

About the Cover

With Medicare reimbursements decreasing and caregiving needs up by nearly 20 percent, Hope Hospice is one of this year's beneficiaries of the 2008 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. Cover illustration by Rick Nobles.

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Streetwise

Q: How will you be spending the holidays this year?

Asked around town



Mike Serrano

We are planning to take the whole family this year to see "The Nutcracker" in San Francisco. Last year it was just immediate family but this year we're continuing the tradition with the grandparents.

Gwendolyn Hardiman

My husband and I usually travel to Indianapolis to see family, but this year we are staying home since I just started a new job. I'm also planning to bring back a holiday tradition that my parents started when I was a child. Instead of gifts under the tree on Christmas morning, we will place baskets of various fruits and nuts around the tree which symbolize God's gift to the world.



Jamie Atkins

My family and I will be going down to Monterey to spend a few days of sightseeing. Also, my father and I have a holiday tradition where we always go down to Santa Cruz every year to cut down our Christmas tree.

Michael Osborn

I spend Christmas Eve every year at my grandmother's in Marin County and Christmas Day with my in-laws in San Ramon. One of the things I always look forward to is my grandmother's homemade apple pie. We are also exchanging gifts differently this year; instead of the traditional gift giving, we will have the option to donate to the charity of our choice.



Remy Rowan

I'll be working during the holidays and spending Christmas Day at my brother's house. For the past 21 years we have taken our family holiday picture in the same exact pose. We started with a family of 12 and now it's grown to 20 people. We also make sure that we decorate the tree every year on December 1 since we feel it brings us good luck.

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

Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

Newsfront

News Digest

DUI checkpoint tonight

Pleasanton police are conducting a sobriety checkpoint today between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. While not releasing the location, police said it will be on a roadway with established DUI problems. Police will be screening cars and MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) representatives will assist and hand out educational materials.

Blood bank needs donors

The American Red Cross has several mobile blood drives around the Bay Area and will make a stop at Simpson Strong Tie, located at 5956 West Las Positas Boulevard, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 14. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) or visit www.beadonor.com (code STRONGTIE) to schedule an appointment.

Calling all collectors

Do you collect trains, cars, boats, planes or another form of transportation? If so, the Museum On Main wants to know. They are looking for collectors to lend items for an upcoming exhibit called "Treasures of the Tri-Valley: Tri-Valley on the Move," which is scheduled to run from late January through February. To be considered for the exhibit, contact assistant curator Ken MacLennan at 462-2766 or curator@museumonmain.org by Jan. 7.

Lend a hand, a ride

The Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, a beneficiary of the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund, is looking for volunteer drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid drivers license, a registered vehicle and carry personal automobile liability insurance. Contact Jennifer Cullen for at 931-5387 or ja.cullen@yahoo.com.

Corrections

The number listed for Axis Community Health Center ("Aid for Axis," Holiday Fund Cover Story, page 10) should have been 201-6017.

Molestation suspect's court hearing pushed to January

Investigation continues to search the past of former Castlewood tennis pro Henry Germain

by Emily West

A plea hearing for Henry Germain, the former Castlewood Country Club tennis director charged with several counts of child molestation, was continued again this past Tuesday to Jan. 9.

The 62-year-old Dublin resident is currently out on \$1.14 million bail for the 16 charges of alleged child molestation against six female victims since he was first arrested

Sept. 2.

Berkeley attorney Elizabeth Grossman, representing Germain, and Deputy District Attorney Susan Torrence agreed to the continuance. Judge Hugh Walker asked what was taking so long, to which Torrence replied that there was no trouble gathering the information, but an ongoing investigation against the defendant was the reason for the delay.

Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department said

the case is open and is encouraging any other victims to come forward by calling the anonymous tip line at 510-667-3622 or him directly at 510-667-3657.

There are about a half dozen other alleged victims who have come forward, according to Kelly, saying they were abused by Germain back to the early '80s when he worked as a tennis pro at the now closed Desert Club of La Quinta in Palm Desert, Calif. While Germain can't be charged from these alleged incidents, the vic-

tims can testify in court, Kelly said.

"What we have found is that victims were sexually abused in the early '80s and '90s in a similar manner," Kelly said. "The methods of abuse that were used were not changed in three decades. That's very compelling. Those victims can in a way help the new victims add validity to their abuse."

Comparing it to other similar cases, Kelly said it was unique and

(continued on page 13)



Sue Evans, Sue Evans Photography

Spreading holiday cheer

From L-R: Lance Cpl. Dao Johnson, Sgt. Francoise Reyes and Staff Sgt. Scot Birkley collected children's toys over the weekend at the Pleasanton Post Office on Black Avenue at Santa Rita Road. The Marines are collecting unwrapped and unopened toys for Toys for Tots through the holiday season. For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org. Toys and donations can also be dropped off at the following locations: Fire Station No. 1, 3560 Nevada St.; Fire Station No. 4, 1600 Oak Vista Way; Fire Station No. 5, 1200 Machado Place; Fire Station No. 3, 3200 Santa Rita Road; Fire Station No. 2, 6300 Stoneridge Mall Road.

Mystery persists as to cause of house fire on East Angela

Next-door neighbors displaced, are staying in nearby hotel

by Janet Pelletier

There's still many unanswered questions as to what led to an explosion and the ignition of flames that destroyed a house on East Angela Street, seriously injuring a woman and damaging two neighboring homes.

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department officials have handed the investigation over to the

Pleasanton Police Department, according to fire spokeswoman Sabina Imrie. Imrie said in instances where the fire is severe, damage estimates are in the \$1 million range and there are major injuries, it's common for the fire department to transfer the case to police.

Sgt. Jim Knox of the Pleasanton Police Department declined to discuss details of the investigation, including whether the fire was caused by a natural gas line leak or any other ignition device. He said he couldn't determine when police would wrap up the

case or reveal more information.

"We're looking at a number of issues," Knox said. "Because it's an ongoing investigation, I'm not going to disclose any details of the investigation. At this point, it's undetermined on exactly where and how it started."

Knox said 40-year-old Deonna Zuffa, who received second- and third-degree burns, is still receiving care at St. Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco, where she is in critical but stable condition. Donations, both monetary

(continued on page 7)

Don't die yet

Pleasanton to re-open gravesite sales at its Pioneer Cemetery next March

by Jeb Bing

If you want to be buried in Pleasanton, don't die yet. The City Council voted Tuesday night to allow sales of burial plots once again at the now-renamed Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery on Sunol Boulevard, but no sooner than March, after up to 50 full-size gravesites and another 50 cremains niches are installed.

Also, the price will be increased, from what used to be a few hundred dollars under the ownership of the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F), whose now-defunct Pleasanton chapter sold its historic Pleasanton Memorial Gardens cemetery to the city of Pleasanton for \$1 two years ago.

Burial fees will now total \$6,950 for a double-depth vault, meaning that two individuals will be buried in separate vaults, one on top of the other, in a single plot measuring 3 feet by 8 feet. Cremains niches will cost \$2,800, again for two vaults for cremains in niches measuring 3 feet by 4 feet. For both in-ground and cremains purchases, which must be paid at the time they are sold, the total fees include burial fees.

At the time the cemetery was acquired, Jim Wolfe, director of Parks and Community Services, who was given responsibility for the cemetery, ordered a shutdown of burials until all current burial sites and the potential for new ones could be determined. At least 54 people, including 42 who live in Pleasanton, have submitted their

(continued on page 13)

Sheriff's office hopes playing cards will help crack cold cases

Inmates will be given cards on unsolved to see if they can ID perpetrators

Alameda County Sheriff's Office officials said they hope arrests will be in the cards thanks to a new program in which jail inmates will be given playing cards featuring details on 13 unsolved homicide cases.

Sgt. Scott Dudek said the new decks will be given to the 4,400 inmates assigned to the county's jail system, many of whom play cards for up to six hours a day. Dudek said the idea is that looking at the cards repeatedly over time will trigger the inmates' memories and prompt them to come forward with information about what they may have seen or confessions or bragging they may have overheard while in jail.

Dudek said investigators hope that inmates who want to get a reward for information on the unsolved cases or who want to get their sentenced reduced will come forward. He said it's "unfortunate" that it often takes a reward or a reduced sentence to get inmates to come forward, but said "that's how it works."

Dudek said that since criminals tend to hang out with other criminals, there's a good chance that the inmates at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and the North County Jail in Oakland have information that can be useful to investigators.

"This could be a huge source of information for us," Dudek said.

The sheriff's office began looking into the possibility of playing cards featuring unsolved cold cases about a year ago after the idea was suggested by relatives of Dana Ramm, a

20-year-old Pleasanton woman who was found strangled to death on the side of Andrade Road in Sunol on Dec. 29, 1986, Dudek said.

Dudek said similar card programs are already being used in San Diego and the state of Florida, but they both feature 52 cases. The Florida program has solved two homicides, he said. Dudek said Alameda County sheriff's officials chose to focus on 13 cases, with each case featured on four cards, because they thought there would be a higher chance of success by focusing on a small number of cases.

"We want the inmates to look at these 13 cases over and over and over," he said.

The parents, family members and friends of the victims in the 13 unsolved cases joined Dudek, Sheriff Gregory Ahern and other sheriff's officials at a news conference at the county's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, which is next to the Santa Rita Jail.

Georgia Ramm, Dana Ramm's mother, said she thinks the cards are "a good idea" and "very unique."

Ramm said, "This is a little nudge to them (the inmates) to get them to report anything they know."

Mike Misheloff, the father of Ilene Misheloff, who was 13 years old when she disappeared while walking home in Dublin on Jan. 30, 1989, said, "I hope this develops some leads."

Misheloff said, "There are no

guarantees but there's potentially a big payoff with little effort or money. I think it's a good idea."

However, Essley Green, a 44-year-old Oakland man who's serving a 15-year sentence for his conviction on robbery charges, said he doubts that many inmates will come forward because they won't want to risk their lives by being labeled as snitches.

"I wouldn't say anything," Green told reporters who watched him and seven other inmates play cards at a recreation room last week at a maximum-security unit at Santa Rita.

He said, "A reward sounds good, but is your life worth that?"

Green said, "The chances are slim that any cases will be solved, but it's possible. If they can solve one case, then I guess it's worth it."

Most of the playing cards feature photos of the victims along with text describing the basic details of the crimes. Some of the cards feature evidence that's been found or information about persons of interest in the crimes.

In addition to the decks that are being distributed at the county jails, 500 decks will be distributed at bars and lounges thanks to a donation by the Jenny Lin Foundation.

Jenny Lin, a 14-year-old girl who was a straight-A student and a talented violinist, was murdered on May 27, 1994, by a suspect who entered her family's home on Pineville Circle in Castro Valley.

—Jeff Shuttleworth, Bay City News

Wieskamp elected LAFCo commissioner

Ayn Wieskamp, who is the president of the board of directors for the East Bay Regional Parks District, was elected to serve on the Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).

Weiskamp has served as an alternate on LAFCo and has extensive experience in local government planning issues having served for 19

years on the Livermore City Council and on various East Bay Regional Park District liaison committees. She will serve as the chapter's non-enterprise special district commissioner and replaces Jocelyn Combs, who did not seek re-election.

LAFCo is a state-mandated local agency that oversees boundary changes to cities and special dis-

tricts, the formation of new agencies including incorporation of new cities, and the consolidation of existing agencies. In California, there are 58 LAFCos working with nearly 4,000 governmental agencies in 58 counties, approximately 500 cities, and over 3,000 special districts. care and consumer affairs and protection.

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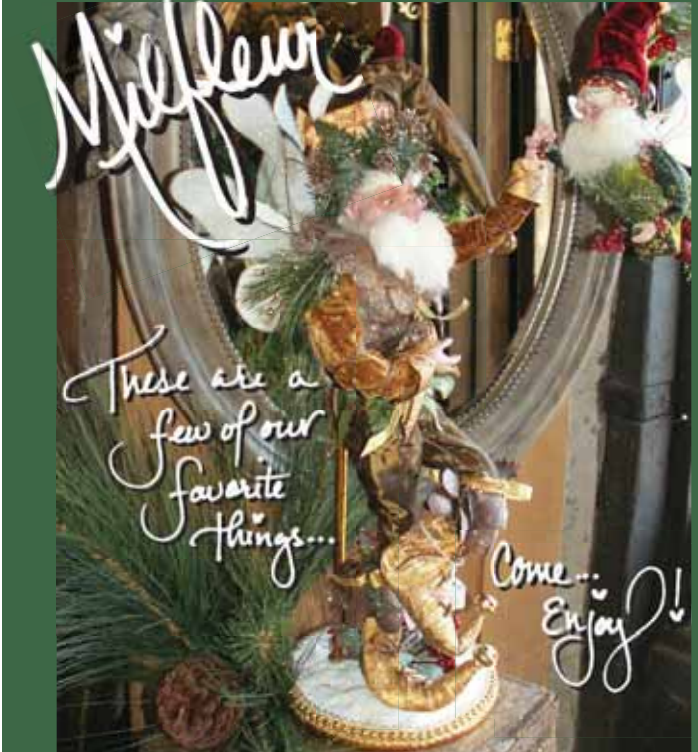


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Santa arrives in Pleasanton early

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation board members Jerry Pentin and Jaime Dowell, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Santa and board president John Loll hold a check for \$275,000. The donation brings the total amount given by PCAF to the city for the Firehouse Arts Center project to \$500,000 this year. The arts center, located at 4444 Railroad Ave., at Neal Street, is planned to open in early 2010.

Sue Evans

21 students given ed grants

In the latest round of student grants, the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation has divided \$6,780 to 21 students.

The grant program has been helping fund educational experiences outside the classroom each spring and fall for 19 years. Each grant application must be student authored with a teacher sponsor

and principal approval.

This semester's grants went to several programs, some of which include a multicultural oil paintings art program at Valley View Elementary, an Alzheimer's awareness club at Foothill High, a labyrinth for a relaxing mental state at Harvest Park Middle, a camera for the Bear Bulletin at

Alisal Elementary and a field trip to Golden Gate Park's Steinhart Aquarium for Horizon High.

District employees can also apply for grants to expand learning opportunities to students. Grant requests are accepted in amounts of up to \$2,500 and applications are available at PPIE's website, www.ppie.org.

—Emily West

Fire

(continued from page 5)

and clothing, are being received by Pleasanton Middle School, where the youngest son of the family, Devon Zuffa, is a seventh-grader.

The fire not only displaced the Zuffa family, but also the DePieros, who live next door.

Their two-story home in the 800 block of East Angela Street sustained damage to two bedrooms and it's estimated that they won't be able to live in the house for up to three months.

The DePieros, an elderly couple who live with their daughter Nancy Dooty and her two teenage children, are currently staying at a local hotel. Efforts are in the works to set up a bank account for donations to help the family. Check www.pleasantonweekly.com for updates.

Records show the house where the fire originated was sold in a foreclosure sale Sept. 30 to Marilyn and Richard Greenberg and it's unclear if the Greenberg's had insurance on the single-story home that's valued on some real estate



The fire at 839 E. Angela St. also damaged homes on both sides of it, including the DePiero home to the left.

websites at \$938,000.

Family escapes garage fire

Another Pleasanton home was recently damaged by a fire, displacing the family to a hotel until the home is fixed.

Nancy Bowen, a neighbor, said another neighbor leaving for work around 4 a.m. Dec. 14 saw flames while driving down Valley Trails Drive and called 911. The neighbor also called her husband, who Bowen said pried open the fence to the home to wake up the family.

Imrie said the garage fire in a

home in the 3000 block of Harpers Ferry Court was started by a car fire and spread to the garage. Three engines and a truck were dispatched and the fire was put out at 4:37 a.m. Firefighters were able to contain it to the garage, Imrie said.

The damage to the garage is estimated to cost around \$70,000 as well as \$50,000 in lost goods, which includes a vehicle.

Imrie confirmed the efforts of the neighbor to wake the family, saying the two adults, a 17-year-old and a 21 month old baby didn't suffer any injuries. ■



PMS class wants cell phones

Pleasanton Middle School's leadership class is collecting cell phones to recycle, doing their part to save the earth.

The class, taught by Gabby Klein, has learned that an estimated 500 million displaced cell phones, weighing 250,000 tons, could be headed for landfills soon. On the average, they say, Americans purchase a new cell phone every 18 months, and a cell phone is a popular holiday gift.

Many items like ink-jet and laser cartridges, laptops, video games, digital cameras, DVD and displaced GPS system are being recycled by the school, but the current emphasis is the cell phone. They can be dropped off to the school, located on Case Avenue, by Jan. 29.

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'Imagination' has a new home

Dublin school helping children in need to move to Schaefer Ranch

by Emily West

Ground on Dublin's new housing development Schaefer Ranch was broken by golden shovels, followed by dozens of miniature plastic shovels, marking a new beginning for the School of Imagination.

The one-of-a-kind school started in the rented Pleasanton home of Charlene and Mitch Sigman in 2001. Then called Happy Talkers and focusing on therapy programs for children with autism and special needs, it quickly grew from four children to 120, forcing the couple to move to a larger home.

In the past five years, the school has moved seven times. Most recently the school has been housed at CrossWinds church in Dublin, but the program continued to grow and the church moved properties.

"The last moving truck I ever want to see is one with the word 'permanent' on the side," Charlene Sigman said. "All I and our parents ever wanted was to have a stable environment, where kids with everything from autism to speech and developmental delays could have a familiar home that wasn't going to be taken away at a moment's notice."

The school was Dublin's Organization of the Year for 2007 and was also featured on CBS's "Eye on the Bay." James Reid, executive producer of the show, has since shown his support for the program by lending his talents to coordinate the groundbreaking event.

The Dec. 2 groundbreaking marked the beginning of what will be their last move. The 13,000-square-foot facility will include eight classrooms for the kindergarten, preschool and preschool readiness programs, and 10 individual therapy rooms. The school's programs also include speech therapy, occupational therapy, community outreach, parent support, social skills and academic tutoring.

"Our whole mission started when we saw the incredible need," Mitch Sigman said. "People drove, and still do, over 200 miles, sev-



School of Imagination students and teachers help break the ground of their school's new site.

eral days a week to get their kids to our inclusion program. We have placed children into typical classrooms, once diagnosed as too disabled."

Outgoing Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart and former city manager Richard Ambrose helped broker a deal with Discovery Builders to grant them the space in the West Dublin hills development, which is accessible by the extended Dublin Boulevard.

In her last day as mayor, Lockhart was one of several involved community leaders and members to welcome School of Imagination to their new home. Mitch Sigman said it was Lockhart who played "matchmaker" and the developers "fell in love with our children."

The Seeno family and Discovery Homes is funding 100 percent of the construction costs.

"Talk about a miracle," Mitch Sigman said.

As far as filling the building goes, the school continues to have support from Pleasanton North

Rotary. They have given \$35,000 to the school in November and have pledged more. Bill Wheeler, Frank Hanna, Dominic Pipitone, Judge Ron Hyde and Jim Ott were also there to celebrate at the groundbreaking ceremonies.

"PNR has made us their ongoing major beneficiary as well as providing the sweat-equity to complete the school," Mitch Sigman said.

Another school supporter is Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), who has helped the school secure additional funding federally and helping the program reach more children.

"He is the voice of our annual Autism Outreach and leads his staff to help us," Mitch Sigman said. "Together with County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, they connected us to become the 211 resource in Alameda County, for families needing assistance with their child's development."

To learn more about the School of Imagination, call 829-9552 or visit www.schoolofimagination.org.

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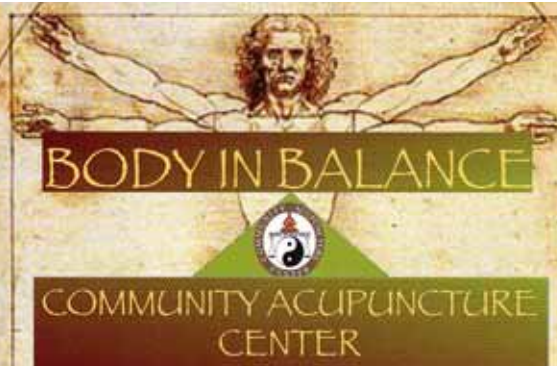
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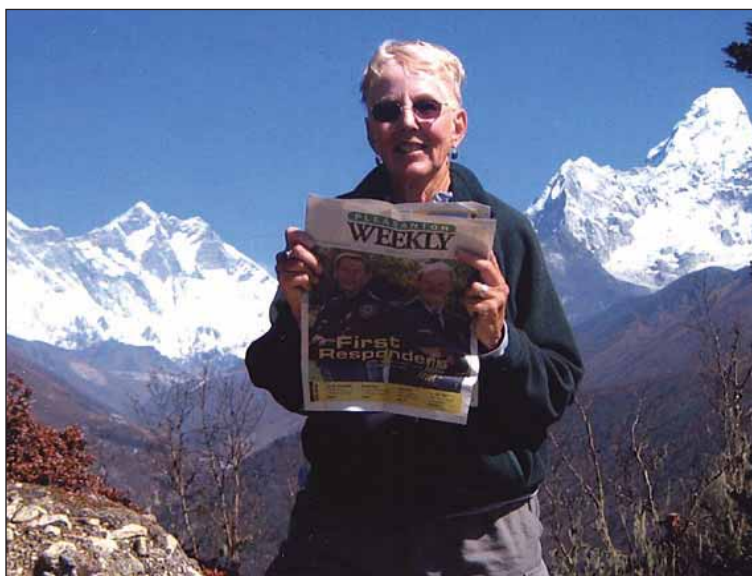
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Take Us Along



Merry Weekly

Bill and Natalie Cliff brought the Weekly and their five children: Calvin, Chaye, Chad, Cecily and Carlee (say that fast three times) reading the Pleasanton Weekly in Puerto Vallarta on Christmas Day.



Mount Weekly

Mary Bjorkholm climbed an impressive amount during her 18-day trek through Nepal. She brought the Weekly to the Mount Everest area of Tengboches, with beautiful views of Everest and Ama Dablam. It was her fourth time in Nepal, but first time in the Everest region.

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Hope Hospice

Meeting the needs of those facing the end of life

by Jeb Bing

With Medicare reimbursements decreasing next year and its number of end-of-life and family bereavement care up by 19 percent this year, Hope Hospice is among seven beneficiaries of the 2008 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund that needs your help.

Last year, Hope Hospice received \$18,950 from the 2007 Holiday Fund, money that the nonprofit organization was able to use to hire more trained caregivers in comforting both those in their final days as well as the families of loved ones who also needed support as they went through heart-wrenching challenges.

“Including our bereavement clients, we provided end-of-life care to 912 individuals in our fiscal year that ended last June 30, compared to 429 the year before,” said Ann Noll, director of patient services of the Tri-Valley’s Hope Hospice organization. “We’re seeing a significant increase in our patient and family care numbers both because of an aging population in the area we serve but also because the general public is becoming better educated about hospice services and family doctors are recommending hospice care for their terminally-ill patients.”

Organized 29 years ago, Hope Hospice in the Tri-Valley is an independent nonprofit not connected to any other hospice organization, although there are hundreds of similar groups throughout the country. It serves patients in Pleasanton, Castro Valley, Dublin, Livermore, San Ramon, Danville, Alamo and some areas farther north. For a number of years, the Dublin-based organization had a fundraising gift store in downtown Pleasanton, but closed that operation when its rent was increased and the store became unprofitable.

Its only fundraiser is the annual “Ship of Hope” gala, held earlier this year in the Blackhawk museum. Next year’s event is scheduled for May 1.

Hope Hospice trains and provides volunteers to stay with patients during their final days and to provide family caregivers a break from what is often round-the-clock care. Their patients for the most part are over 75 years old, although care is also provided for patients 18 and older. There’s also a separate organization in the Bay Area that provides pediatric care for younger patients, a service that requires special state licenses and training.

Although Hope Hospice is generally known for its end-of-life care, a major component of the organization helps family members and others whose loved ones are nearing life’s end.

“It’s a major challenge,” said Kathy Padro, communications coordinator for Hope Hospice. “Sad to say, there are many young families that have to deal with end-of-life situations with a loved one. We provide care for them and especially help prepare children for the end.”

“It’s a major challenge,” Padro added. “These younger families have a lot of needs. They’re not ready for their loved one to leave this earth; it’s very difficult for them to face.”

Padro said Hope Hospice has bereavement counselors specially trained to handle the emotional needs of children. They try to meet



A Hope Hospice patient sits with a dog provided by the Valley Humane Society.

“We’re seeing a significant increase in our patient and family care numbers both because of an aging population in the area we serve but also because the general public is becoming better educated about hospice services.”

—Ann Noll, director of patient services of the Tri-Valley’s Hope Hospice

with children in the family’s home so that the counselors and the kids can develop a familiarity while the loved one is still alive.

“They build a relationship with the children and really help prepare them for what’s coming, and they also help the rest of the family members as well,” she said. “We work with them after their loved one has died, which is why it’s important to build a rapport and establish a relationship ahead of time while the patient is still alive.”

Added Noll: “People think this is a very difficult and challenging job but it’s actually very rewarding. Our team members focus

on the positive and emphasize the quality of life and what’s important for that patient and family members. We really focus on making it the best that it can be.”

Comfort care, often called palliative care, is provided in the patient’s home, where most prefer to be. The goal is to do whatever is possible to keep the patient as free of pain and discomfort as possible and to allow the individual to live out his life in dignity and surrounded by loved ones.

Often, that includes pets—dogs, cats, even birds. Noll recalled the final days of Chuck Stockley, whose wife Allison brought a small

poppy to her husband’s bedside. “Todi” quickly became Chuck’s constant companion, Noll recalled, and was the center of his world when family members were away.

Pets also become a challenge for hospice workers and family caregivers, especially when the patient can no longer care for the animal. Identifying this new need in patient care, Hope Hospice developed a partnership agreement with the Valley Humane Society to provide pet care during the patient’s final days and, just as important, to assure the patient that the pet would be safely cared for as long as it lived, too.

One of the benefits of the partnership is a ready source of advice on dealing with patients’ pets, said Jennie Oliveiro, a Hope Hospice nurse.

“Most of the nurses here have pets of their own and can share pet stories with the patient,” Oliveiro said. “I feel pets represent a huge aspect of emotional strength for our patients and our families. And, if a patient must have care outside the home, we have worked with the family and the facility to make sure the pet can come for visits.”

Socorro Peebles, a Hope Hospice home health aide added: “We had a patient who was declining. He lived alone and would wake up finding his dog sleeping on his lap, face to face.”

“Usually, in a patient’s final hours, the pet is right there by their side,” Peebles said. “Sometimes, they behave strangely or whine all day and you just know that they sense the end is near.”

Another patient, Marion, a 90-year-old terminally ill patient in the Tri-Valley area, had only three wishes: to remain in her own home for the rest of her time, to have her little dog Spunky by her side till the end and for her dog to be adopted into a loving, life-long home after she was gone.

“This dog is my life,” she said. “I would not be alive without her—without her unconditional love.”

In accepting the patient’s goal to remain at home with her pet, the Hope Hospice team was prepared to do everything possible to prevent Marion from being transferred to a nursing home. But how to implement a care plan that included Spunky was going to be quite difficult. Marion’s caregivers were working 24 hours around the clock, and were unable to leave the patient’s side to tend to the dog throughout the day.

At this point, the Valley Humane Society became a key factor in the patient’s overall care plan, with its own volunteers walking and feeding the dog regularly and the society finding a loving home for Spunky which Marion knew about, and approved, before she died.

Although funds from the Holiday Fund will help meet Hope Hospice’s training, bereavement and other unfunded services, the organization also needs more volunteers. Requirements vary from fully-trained volunteers to help with medication and other personal needs of very ill patients to caregivers who can spend a few hours a day giving family members a break.

“There are a lot of ways people can bring their gifts and talents to Hope Hospice to help us meet our commitment to serve Pleasanton and other cities,” Padro said.

To learn more, call 829-8770 or check online at www.hopehospice.com. ■

Courtesy of Hope Hospice

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

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

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

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

Holiday Fund donors

Since the launch of the 2008 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, donors have contributed \$45,372 to the fund, bringing the total to \$90,744 with the match.

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How to give

Your gift helps seniors, children and others in need

Contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will be increased by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. For every \$1 contributed, \$2 will be donated to these local organizations. All contributions will go directly to programs that benefit Pleasanton and Tri-Valley residents. Contributions will be distributed by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation to the seven agencies listed below. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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

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

The following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

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

• **Emergency Room Expansion at ValleyCare Medical Center:** ValleyCare, a nonprofit health system, needs funds to expand its emergency room, built in 1991 to accommodate 13,000 patients a year and now handles more than 26,000. It will cost \$6.7 million to replace the facility and upgrade equipment, and the Holiday Fund will help get that started. For more information, contact Ken Mercer at 925-373-4566.

• **Hope Hospice:** Hospice care is unique because it works to not only meet the needs of those at the end of life but also supports the emotional and spiritual needs of the family as well. Hope hospice care is provided regardless of the ability to pay and relies on contributions such as those raised by the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

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

• **Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley:** An independent, nonprofit organization, this group offers a variety of services at no cost to seniors or to their families. Programs include health maintenance, nutrition, fitness, disease prevention, partner-in-safety, in-home counseling, friendly visiting programs and nurses on staff who regularly visit clients.

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

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

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Nicholas Daniel Lesser from Bruce & Kathleen Lesser.....	25
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Dan Gabor from Ann Gabor.....	100
Beverly Ann Howe-Merrill from Howard Merrill.....	100
Roger Dabney, George Jacobsen, Skip Mohatt & Chuck Volante from Don & Carol Bush.....	**
Gene Strom, Keith Strom & William Kolb from Carol (Kolb) Strom.....	300
John D. Steiner.....	50
Rich Gluck.....	100
Kyle J. O'Connor.....	200
Brian Melin from Patricia Melin.....	**
Carolyn L. Juniper from Robert Juniper.....	**
Leo Scully.....	**
Our Parents from Harold & Gena Gatlin.....	**
Eleanor M. Powers from Tom & Shirley Myers.....	50
Doris Walberg.....	100
Kyle O'Connor from The Dadrass Family.....	**
Harry & Toshiko Stewart from Rod, Christina, Alyssa & Danielle Browning.....	100
Marilyn Bowe from Jim Bowe.....	100
Irene & Theresa Baeta from Mr. & Mrs. Jim Teghtmeyer.....	**
Marv & David DeBernardi from Connie DeBernardi.....	200
Juanita Haugen from The Bob Group.....	**
Michael & June Carboni from Richard & Nancy Shockley.....	200
John A. Mavridis from Mom & Dad.....	**
Hank Gomez from Dorothy, Frank & Debra Gomez.....	150
Ruth DeFreece from Joe & Janice Biggs.....	**
Sandy Hiles, Mary Jancoski & Thom Jancoski from John, Cathy & Lauren.....	**
Brenda Lathlean Faggiano from Bill & Ellen Lathlean.....	100
James Reynolds from The Riggins Family.....	50
Philip Crumpler II from Phil & Shirley Crumpler.....	**
Our Papa from Jenny, Tommy, Valerie & Danny.....	100

Of Note



Hiking for the Firehouse Arts Center

Sophia Brown, Kennedy Truex and their RAGE U11 Premier soccer team (above) raised \$1,238 for the Pleasanton Firehouse Arts Center Project, well exceeding their original goal of \$500. As a community service project for the RAGE leadership program, Sophia and Kennedy, with the help of fitness professional and photographer Sue Evans, organized the half-day hike up the Pleasanton Ridge and into Augustin Bernal Park last month.

Flautist plays Carnegie Hall

Pleasanton Middle School seventh-grader Annie Wu was named the first place winner of the AFAF 5th Anniversary Celebration Concert Competition.

She performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York on Nov. 22. The 12-year-old has



been playing flute for five years.

Amador grad rebuilds landscaping for Mohr

Kevin Krakauer, a 2008 graduate of Amador Valley High School, recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Krakauer started as a Cub Scout in 1997 in Pack 901 and joined Boy Scout Troop 941 in 2001.

To reach the rank of Eagle, Scouts are required to earn at least 21 merit badges and to hold various leadership positions. Krakauer earned 23 merit badges and held Patrol and Troop leadership positions as he advanced in rank in the Troop.

Krakauer organized and led a service project for Mohr Elementary School. The project involved rebuilding irrigation and landscaping for part of the school grounds, and preparing an unused plot of land for use as a garden for kindergarten classes. The purpose is to allow young students to participate in gardening and to have a small window into nature, right

outside their classroom.

The garden includes various plants, such as pumpkins for Halloween, and is tended by kindergarten classes. The project involved 120 hours of volunteer labor and donations of material from several local businesses including Cochran Landscape Materials in Livermore and Workbench True Value Hardware in Pleasanton. His Eagle advisor was Don Deeds, Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 941.

Krakauer is now attending San Jose State University and is pursuing engineering and business. Troop 941 is based at Lynnwood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton and is sponsored by VFW Post 6298.

Wi takes first in AIDS art competition

Chung Wi from Foothill High School won first place in the Flowers Heritage Foundation's third annual "Don't Turn Your Back on AIDS" student art competition. The awards were announced at ceremony and auction Nov. 29 in San Francisco.

The program provides an interactive environment where high school students learn information regarding teen HIV/AIDS infections, risks and prevention. Participants are given orientations by AIDS outreach educators and are challenged to interpret their views of the disease through artistic expression.

Artwork can be viewed at www.flowersheritagefoundation.org.



Cemetery

(continued from page 5)

names to purchase plots once sales start again.

At Tuesday's meeting, Wolfe said those who have their names on a waiting list will be considered first when sales resume with Pleasanton residents to be given first choice.

Wolfe said the city has contracted with Catholic Funeral Cemetery Services (CFCS) for assistance in researching and organizing admin-

istrative records that were received with the acquisition of the cemetery from the I.O.O.F.

Since there are a number of state compliance requirements related to the operation of cemeteries, a level of expertise that Wolfe said city staff does not possess, the city has expanded its contract with CFCS to handle burial services. The contract stipulates that while CFCS is affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church, the organization will provide services to cemetery plot owners regardless of their beliefs.

Although the council agreed to re-open cemetery plot sales, it delayed action on another proposal related to improving the cemetery's landscaping and ongoing grounds keeping, which the city is responsible for handling.

After initial sales have been completed, Wolfe's successor as director of Parks and Community services, Susan Andrade-Wax, will report back to the council with information on total receipts and if enough funds have been raised to cover added landscaping costs. ■

Germain

(continued from page 5)

unfortunate that the alleged abuse went on for so long and was just now coming to light.

Germain has yet to enter a plea because his attorney said she intends to file a demurrer, which would challenge the legitimacy of the charges. At a previous hearing, Grossman said the alleged victims

came forward with their information after the time allowed in the state of California, known as the statute of limitations. In California, the statute of limitations in child molestation cases is 10 years.

"The investigation is still ongoing; it's not closed," Kelly said. "[This case] has the potential to remain open for a long period of time. Like a homicide case, you may catch the guy that did the crime, but with these crimes, you don't know how many victims there are out there. Each new victim is

almost like a separate case. We still have resources committed to this case and we're working with the prosecutor and the defense to make sure that all the proper procedures are followed."

Germain is still required to have supervision when spending time with his daughter. Other conditions of his release are that he is not allowed to leave the state or contact any minors or the alleged victims.

The next hearing will be at 9 a.m. Jan. 9 at the Pleasanton courthouse on Stoneridge Drive. ■

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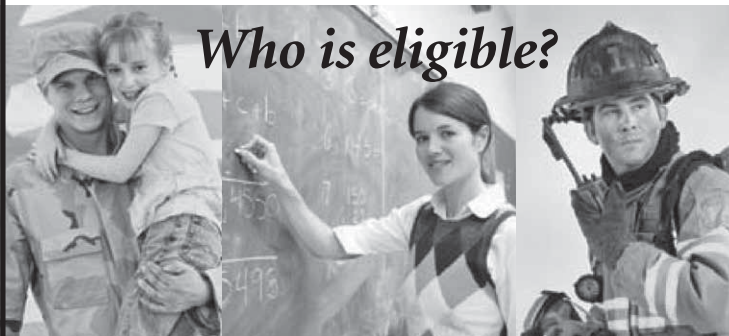
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Opinion

Editorial

Our 'new' City Council could be the best

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman has been named to several important and prestigious positions, including as a member of the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Local Area Formation Commission of Alameda County. At the same time, Councilman Jerry Thorne has just been named president of the East Bay division of the League of California Cities. These appointments make Pleasanton a stronger and more influential part of the decision-making process in Bay Area politics, positions that had been stripped from the city because of past political bickering.

Even more significant, though, the calm, agreeable spirit we're seeing on the City Council these days. Although it's a "new" council in that Hosterman and councilmembers Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan were just re-elected Nov. 4 and sworn into office on Dec. 2, the mayor and the councilmembers are the same as for the last two years, including councilmembers Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Thorne, whose terms don't expire until 2010. Yet anyone at the first two meetings since the swearing-in have noticed a new spirit of cooperation that differs from the more contentious atmosphere of most of the meetings this year and last. Perhaps that's because the contentious issues, such as Oak Grove and the citizens' coalition-sponsored Measure PP, are behind us. Last Tuesday, the council voted 5-0 on a staff recommendation to resolve any differences between PP and the similar Measure QQ that the council supported amicably. Even the principal PP supporters, who had not always talked "nicely" toward the council majority, said they were pleased with the outcome and promised to work with city staff and eventually the City Council to adopt a mutually-agreeable ordinance.

If this new spirit of cooperation continues, as it should, the Hosterman-Cook-Kallio-McGovern-Sullivan-Thorne council could be one of the strongest and most effective this city has ever seen. And with good reason. It's a council of seasoned politicians and experts in their fields.

Hosterman has abandoned her anti-war, Kyoto Accord, global warming diatribes that set her apart from mainstream Pleasanton in her early years as mayor and, in the last two years, has focused on local issues. It's not that she has changed her views on any of those earlier issues, but she parks them at the door when she puts on her mayoral robe. She's mended fences with the mayors of Livermore and Dublin, where her arguments over Stoneridge and other regional issues had made her a pariah in the Tri-Valley, and she now travels to Washington with them on mutual issue-focused visits to our Congressional delegation as a full-fledged member of the Tri-Valley team. She's also an active participant in the U.S. Conference of Mayors where she has lobbied for environmental and water bills that would benefit Pleasanton, as well as the country, earning her national recognition.

Cook-Kallio probably has more connections with county, regional, state and federal officials than anyone on the council. A high school teacher who instructs Irvington High School's "We the People" program, she knows teenagers and has strong views on how Pleasanton should serve its burgeoning teenage population.

McGovern, who won more votes than any other local candidate on Nov. 4, has also served as an elected official longer than anyone else, with 10 years on the school board. She's known for her focus on youth, has a strong partnership with the school board and school district, has championed bond measures in the past, and is a voracious reader of city documents that are given to the City Council to consider.

Sullivan is the "people's" man on the council with a perspective on democracy that gives everyone a say in how the city is run. A professional engineer who also has a passion for the environment and, in fact, works in that field, he is an advocate for open space, protected hilltops and air and water conservation.

Thorne is a retired corporate executive who brings that skill-set to every meeting. He served with distinction as vice mayor and the council's representative on the Wheels bus transportation authority, and will no doubt continue advancing as positions open on the League of California Cities.

In our view, this is a City Council well prepared to handle the challenges of 2009.

PLEASANTON
WEEKLY

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Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



Town Square is a forum for the community, by the community

If you've been online you've probably noticed a few upgrades being implemented on our Town Square site. Some of these come as a response to suggestions of users.

One of the main concerns from our forum users is the issue of "identity theft," for lack of a better term. A few of our regular posters have been the targets of people using their online name. So our site developers have made it possible for registered users to lock in their public online name. If someone else tries to use that online name, and it doesn't say "so and so is a member (registered user) of Pleasanton Weekly," the poster is an imposter, for lack of a better term.

However, the forum is not becoming a "registered user only" site and comments from anonymous posters will still be allowed. While there are drawbacks to anonymity, there are enough advantages that it is a positive attribute.

In addition to being able to keep an online identity, registered users can track topics and have an email sent to them when a comment is made. A new benefit of being a registered user is that now, when a new topic is started, the poster will have the option of restricting comments to registered users only.

We have also added "Report Objectionable Content" link at the bottom of every comment to make alerting us easier and there is now a "share" icon so users can share via social networking sites. There is also a search capability for Town Square forums next to the search

box at the top of the page.

A few additions are not as obvious but equally important. For example, in the terms of use we have added the following:

- You agree not to post comments under multiple names. Postings within a single topic from the same IP address made under different names will be deleted.
- You agree not to make posts that are primarily intended to promote, or create links to another website.
- You acknowledge that although we do not have any obligation to review, monitor or screen the content that is posted on PleasantonWeekly.com, and that we do not own such content, we are the sole judge of whether the content you post meets these Terms of Use, and that we may edit, remove or lock content you post on PleasantonWeekly.com at our sole discretion for any reason, even if not specifically addressed in this Terms of Use.

Having a community forum that is accessible to everyone, where everyone is respected, is an important part of our PleasantonWeekly.com site. Most of the recent improvements have come from suggestions or concerns of Town Square users. If you have questions, comments, suggestions or concerns, please email me at galen@pleasantonweekly.com.

Gina Channell-Allen, a 20-year journalism veteran, is the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Company, president of the Pleasanton Weekly and publisher of the Danville Weekly.

Letters

Brozosky's support helped PP pass

Dear Editor;

I would like to publicly express my appreciation to Mr. Steve Brozosky, a recent candidate for the mayor of Pleasanton. Steve ran his campaign with integrity and honesty, plus lots of hard work. Although I knew Steve prior to his recent run for office, I got the chance to know him as a candidate and I must admit, I was truly impressed—and I am not easily impressed.

His ability to recall details

regarding the city's General Plan, the Vineyard specific plan and historical western ridgeline protection was impressive. The generous amount of time he "donated" to debates and speeches in support of Measure PP was more than we could ever have asked of him or his family. I have no doubt that Measure PP passed with such a large margin—due largely in part—to Steve Brozosky. You are a school board member, a Rotarian, a past councilmember, a previous soccer coach, and proud parent and husband. Please accept my appreciation for all of your support. Thank you.

*Karla Brown
Proponent for Measure PP*

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-Steve S, Channel 7 News

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City offices will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, December 24th and 25th and on Thursday, January 1, 2009 for the Holidays.

Planning Commission

- The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for December 24, 2008 has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be held on January 14, 2009

Trails Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting

- The Trails Ad Hoc Committee meeting scheduled for December 22, 2008 has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be held on January 26, 2009.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Annual Leaf Pick and New 24/7 Hotline for Residents to Learn Schedule

The Operations Service Center will commence its annual leaf pick up services starting in early November through mid-January of next year. During this time, the City's leaf crew will be busy clearing the path for the street sweeper who sweeps the residential neighborhoods once a month. In order to give residents as much advanced notice as possible regarding their leaf pick up date, the City will advertise the start of the program in a variety of ways. A-frames will be placed in strategic designated areas of the City notifying the residents of their specific leaf pick up date for that area. A new telephone number has been introduced this year which allows residents to call and hear the leaf pickup schedule for that week. Signs will be posted on select City vehicles advertising this new phone number. Residents can call 931-5550 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to hear when their street sweeper and leaf pick up services will be provided.

City of Pleasanton Introduces Residential Battery Recycling Program

The City of Pleasanton has implemented a new residential battery recycling program. Pleasanton residents can drop batteries off at one of five sites located throughout the city. Each site has been outfitted with a battery recycling station featuring three color-coded containers with posted instructions and appropriate supplies to collect the following: alkaline and carbon zinc (heavy duty) batteries, rechargeable batteries and disposable lithium batteries. The five designated drop off sites are:

1. City of Pleasanton Operations Service Center – 3333 Busch Road
 2. Pleasanton City Hall Lobby – 200 Old Bernal Avenue
 3. Pleasanton Senior Center – 5353 Sunol Boulevard
 4. Pleasanton Public Library – 400 Old Bernal Avenue
 5. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Station # 2 – 6300 Stoneridge Mall
- For more information, the public can contact the Support Services Division of the City of Pleasanton at (925) 931-5580.

Pleasanton Sports Field Information is Now Online!

Is your game a rainout—or not? Just visit www.pleasantonsports.org to learn if your city or school sports field is open this winter. Some fields are closed as the result of maintenance, while others close during inclement weather. Get the latest status at www.pleasantonsports.org. You can also call the Sports Field Weather Line at (925) 931-5360.

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

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.
For complete information, please visit
www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Police searching for two female robbery suspects

Around 6 a.m. last Friday in the Home Depot parking lot on Johnson Drive, police said two women allegedly took a 64-year-old San Ramon man's arms and pressed a hard object into his back, which he believed to be a gun. The women reportedly made off with his wallet and car keys, and the victim said he saw them drive away in his orange 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt (license plate No. 5XWY741).

A robbery in the BART parking lot on Owens Drive was reported around the same time. The suspect was said to be driving an older model gold Cadillac.

An officer patrolling the area reportedly saw the Cadillac followed by the Chevrolet turning from Owens Drive onto Hopyard Road. Police said the Cadillac proceeded to get on westbound Interstate 580, while the Chevrolet, which was not reported stolen at the time, headed on eastbound I-580.

Police then pulled over the Cadillac and arrested an unidentified man for the robbery at the BART station.

The two female suspects are described as black, ages 18 to 20. One woman was about 5 feet, six inches with a medium build, wearing a black jacket and blue jeans. The other woman was approximately 5 feet, 10 inches, with a slender build, wearing a dark jacket and dark pants.

Motel 6 robbed at gunpoint

Pleasanton police are searching for a man who robbed a motel at gunpoint Saturday evening.

The robbery was reported at about 5 p.m. at the Motel 6 Pleasanton at 5102 Hopyard Rd., according to police.

A suspect allegedly entered the hotel and pointed a handgun at the reception clerk demanding money, police said.

The suspect reportedly walked out of the hotel lobby where he was confronted by the motel manager.

Pointing a silver semi-automatic handgun at the manager, the suspect demanded his cell phone and ran west through the parking lot with an undisclosed amount of money, discarding the phone as he fled the scene, according to police.

The suspect is described as a black man in his early 20s, about 6 feet 4 inches tall, with black hair and dreadlocks. He was last seen wearing a black hat, black top and blue jeans.

Police Report

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

Dec. 9

- Theft:
-7:02 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Drug/alcohol violations:
-12:14 a.m. in the 2500 block of Stanley Boulevard; DUI
-12:28 a.m. at the intersection of westbound I-580 at Santa Rita Road and Tassajara Road; DUI
-2:16 p.m. in the 4100 block of Stanley Boulevard; marijuana possession
- Battery:
-2:16 p.m. in the 4100 block of

Stanley Boulevard
•Disturbing the peace:
-5:19 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Dec. 10

- Grand theft:
-10:14 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Burglary:
-9:57 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road
-11:02 a.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive
-4:24 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
- Drug/alcohol violations:
-8:17 p.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive; under the influence of a controlled substance, DUI

-10:14 p.m. at the intersection of Garden Creek Circle and Stone Pointe Way; DUI

Dec. 11

- Grand theft:
-4:14 p.m. in the 2300 block of Foothill Road
- Vehicular burglary:
-6:10 a.m. in the 1500 block of Calle Enrique
-6:44 a.m. in the 1500 block of Calle Enrique
-6:51 a.m. in the 1500 block of Calle Enrique
- Vandalism:
-8:36 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; worth over \$400
-3:23 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue; worth over \$400
-3:39 p.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane; worth less than \$400
- DUI:
-12:13 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road
-1:18 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- Public drunkenness:
-1:58 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
-4:33 p.m. at the intersection of Kottinger Drive and Adams Way
-10:45 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Missing person:
-1:09 a.m. in the 3800 block of Mohr Avenue

Dec. 12

- Theft:
-12:10 a.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Drive and Bernal Avenue; stolen property possession
-10:40 a.m. in the 5300 block of Springdale Avenue; grand theft
- Burglary:
-7:54 a.m. in the 3500 block of Stanley Boulevard
-9:01 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street
- Marijuana possession:
-2:13 p.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive



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Transitions

Obituaries

Kerry Blake Caprista

Kerry Blake Caprista died Dec. 7 at home in the presence of her loving family after bravely battling liver cancer for four years. She was 47.

Born March 23, 1961 and raised in Santa Clara, Mrs. Caprista moved to Pleasanton with her family in 1990. She touched many lives with her giving and positive spirit. She encouraged all the students she came in contact with during her time at Lydiksen, Alisal, and Harvest Park schools. She enjoyed traveling, especially if it involved supporting one of her children's activities. She made numerous friends through club soccer and volleyball, as well as the Foothill High School music and sports programs. Her favorite destination each summer was her family reunion in Capitola.

She is survived by her devoted husband, William; her loving children, Kyle, Cory, Cassidy and Keenan; her parents, Thomas and Charlese Blake; and her brother, Chris (Debbie) Blake.

Friends and family are invited to a memorial service at 10 a.m. Saturday, at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., followed by a reception celebrating her life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Cancer Society or Hope Hospice in Dublin.

Lawrence A. Ferry

Lawrence A. Ferry died Dec. 10 at the age of 90.

Mr. Ferry was born June 16, 1918 in Oakland to Mary and Candido Ferry.

He graduated from Castlemont High School and Merritt Business College in Oakland. He held many titles and affiliations throughout his life. Among them were the president of the Western Horseman's Association, San Leandro branch; and president of the Hayward National Little League; manager of the Biggs and Haaga, East Bay Lumber and Supply Company; and several All Star Little League teams of Hayward. He was also the manager of East Bay Lumber and Supply Company's Babe Ruth Baseball teams for seven years. He was a partner in Standard Freight Lines Trucking Company in San Leandro from 1940-1948, owner and president of East Bay Lumber and Supply Company from 1948-1998 and the owner of Pepperwood Apartments in Livermore from 1968-2007. He was a San Francisco '49ers season ticket holder from 1946-2007 and an avid fan.

Mr. Ferry was an extremely generous man with his time, money, knowledge and affection. He was never too busy for anyone or anything. His family was the most important thing in his life, but he made everyone feel as though they were a part of his family and that

they were in turn the most important person in the world while they were with him. He always had a hug, a kiss and a story for everyone. Never has there been a more charismatic, positive, loyal, honest, hardworking, generous and supportive person with the strong work ethic and devotion to his friends and family.

Mr. Ferry is survived by his wife, Bettie Ann Ferry; brother, Albert Ferry of Castro Valley; sons, Ronald and Richard Ferry of Pleasanton; daughters-in-law, Barbara Ferry and Starlett Ann Ferry; grandchildren, Rhonni Lynn Ebojo, Rikki Lee Ebojo and Ricky Alan Jameson. His final resting place will be Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward, with his dear mother, Mary Gregoris, devoted stepfather, Louis Gregoris and beloved wife, Dorothy Ferry.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton. Donations may be made to Children's Hospital of Oakland.

Capt. Richard Rex Carlton

Richard Rex Carlton died Dec. 11 in Colorado Springs, Colo. with his wife, son and daughter-in-law by his side. He was 77.

Mr. Carlton was born April 6, 1931 in Medina, Ohio, one of 10 children of Floyd and Lena Carlton. After graduating from high school,



he enlisted into the Air Force and was stationed in Washington, D.C. where he met and married the love of his life. After leaving the service, he went to work with United Airlines. Besides Washington, D.C., he was domiciled in Denver; Cleveland, Ohio and San Francisco. He and his family called Pleasanton their home from 1968-2000.

His career included time as a ramp service person, mechanic and pilot. He had the privilege of flying the DC-6, Boeing 727, DC-10 and the

Boeing 747 before he retired in 1991 from United Airlines as a captain.

Mr. Carlton is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Kathleen Sinclair Carlton of Colorado Springs, Colo.; son and daughter-in-law, Richard A. and Julia L. (Finwick) Carlton of Monument, Colo.; three grandchildren, Bradford Carlton, Austin Carlton and Caitlyne Carlton all of Monument, Colo.; brother, Ted (Loretta) Carlton of Medina, Ohio; sisters, Jean Musolf, Janice Albrecht, Nita (John) Dohanyos, Bev (Chuck) Hoyt and Maxine Haring all of Medina, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Lavalle Carlton and Maynard Carlton; sister, Zilda Dorland; and brothers-in-law, Jack Musolf and Clair "Bus" Dorland.

Internment with military honors will be held Dec. 30 at Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Denver. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that memorial contributions be made in his name to Pikes Peak Hospice Foundation of Colorado Springs, Colo., the Alzheimer's Association or the Parkinson's Association.

Visit www.mem.com to sign the online guestbook and share thoughts, memories, and condolences to the family.

Grace M. Beck

Grace Beck died Nov. 24 at the age of 91.

Mrs. Beck was born July 14, 1917, a native of New York. She resided in Pleasanton for the past 22 years, and was a volunteer at the medical library at ValleyCare Medical Center.

She was a longtime member at St. Philips in Dublin, where private services were held. She is survived by her loving family: daughter, Carole of Mountain View; and brother, Ceasar Bottari of Ellenton, Fla. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Arnold, who died in 2005; and her two sisters, Jeanne and Botte. At the family's request, contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Pkwy., Ste. E, Dublin, CA 94568

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ON THE TOWN



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Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

www.eddiepapas.com

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

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

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

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. Now accepting reservations for holiday parties.

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

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern

Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com.

CONTINENTAL

Barone's

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

MEDITERRANEAN

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2008

ON THE TOWN



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ITALIAN

Amarone Ristorante

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Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299.

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La Vite Ristorante

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

JAPANESE

Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner

Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

PIZZA

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

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

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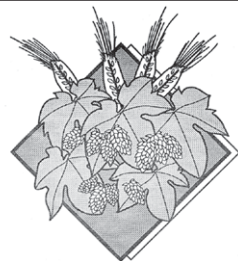
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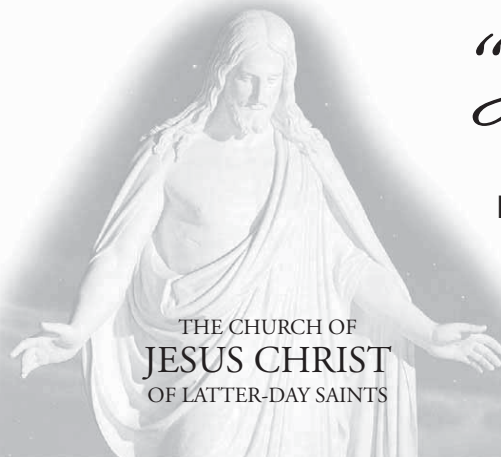
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