

Pleasanton Weekly

Angela Street arson: Former co-owner charged with arson in 2008 torching of Angela Street home PAGE 5

Young volunteers: Kids finding they're never too young to pitch in on giving, volunteer work PAGE 20

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VOL. XI, NUMBER 50 • DECEMBER 24, 2010

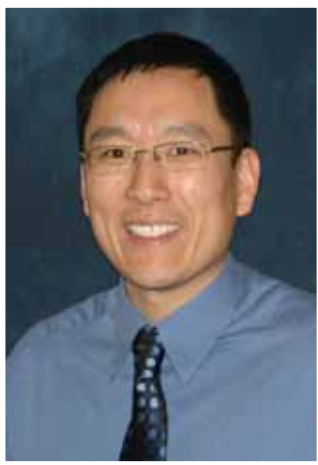
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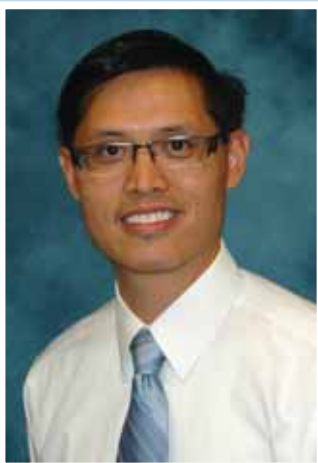
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

'Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus'

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church, which follows, has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

"Dear Editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"



Francis Pharcellus Church

Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 W. Ninety-Fifth Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginia's. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve



to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Editor's note: Francis Pharcellus Church was born in Rochester, New York February 22, 1839 and graduated from Columbia College of Columbia University in New York City in 1859. With his brother William Conant Church he established the Army and Navy Journal in 1863 and Galaxy magazine in 1866. He was a lead editorial writer on his brother's newspaper, the New York Sun, and it was in that capacity that in 1897 he wrote this famous editorial, placing himself within Christmas' history forever. Church died in New York City on April 11, 1906, at the age of 67, and is buried in Sleepy Hollow (N.Y.) Cemetery. He was a member of the Century Association. He had no children. ■

About the Cover

Only Santa's smiling as Ava Gutierrez, 2, and her sister Emma, 1, make their first visit to see Santa at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Their mother Amory is on our editorial staff. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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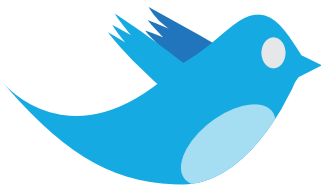
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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What does your long holiday weekend look like?



Madison Steele

Student

I am spending Christmas Eve at my cousin's house and Christmas Day at my grandma's house. I'm on the Amador Valley High School basketball team and we have a tournament the day after Christmas. I'm hoping to squeeze in some time to have fun with my friends, too.

Howard Benner

Electronics

We're spending Christmas Eve with our extended family and Christmas Day will just be with the kids. We'll have a nice turkey dinner. On Sunday I'll be watching football; that's Daddy's present.



Abigail Moore

Student

My family and I are just going to relax. We're planning to have a nice Christmas celebration and possibly visit some friends. Then we'll cook dinner and spend quality time together. On Sunday, we'll just regroup, and we might head out to find some after-Christmas deals. It's always fun to find different decorations and marked-down ornaments.

Denise Noval

Teacher

We're spending the holidays in town with our family and then we'll be going to Seattle for a wedding and New Year's Eve.



James Jenezon

Manager

I'm happy to be spending the holidays with my beautiful wife Kathy and The A-Team — our children Ashley, Alex and Allison. My in-laws will be visiting from Palm Springs, which I look forward to every year.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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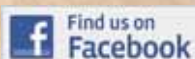
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Newsfront

DIGEST

Motorcycle sought for play

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is seeking a motorcycle, preferably an older model, to use as a stage prop in its upcoming show, "All Shook Up," which was inspired by and features the songs of Elvis Presley.

Send photos of motorcycles to news@trivalleyrep.com by Dec. 31. If your motorcycle is chosen, you will receive complimentary tickets to the show as well as a photo with you, your motorcycle and the entire cast. The show runs April 22-May 8.

"We promise to take very good care of your friend," say the organizers.

Climate Action Plan workshop

Pleasanton will host a free community workshop about the city's Climate Action Plan, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Participants will explore the challenges facing the city in accommodating growth while reducing future greenhouse gas emissions.

The workshop will feature a progress update on the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP) process, solicit feedback on proposed measures, and seek additional ideas, suggestions and input. Pleasanton joins many other U.S. cities in this effort, which begins with the creation of a formal CAP.

To learn more, visit www.pleasantongreenscene.org or email info@pleasantongreenscene.org.

Calling young actors

Auditions held from 6-9 p.m. January 11 & 13 at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Ages 6-18 (rock bands excluded). Send Youtube.com submissions/links via email to Mark Duncanson at mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us before Jan. 14. Call 931-3433 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Update your resume

If you're looking for a job, the Dublin Library can set you up with a job search professional to give you advice on how to make your resume more attractive to potential employers. Call the Dublin Library at 803-7275 for dates, times and to schedule an appointment.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Charges filed in 2008 Angela Street arson

Suspect also faces forgery charge

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

In a case that took more than two years to investigate, the former co-owner of a home on Angela Street has been charged with arson.

Deonna Zuffa, 42, was arrested at about 12:20 p.m. Tuesday by Pleasanton police on charges of arson, possession of flammable material with intent to set fire and one charge of forgery.

The fire, at 839 E. Angela was labeled "suspicious" at the time by Pleasanton police Sgt. Jim Knox.

Zuffa was the only one home when the explosion and fire at 11 a.m. Dec. 8, 2008 sent her fleeing from the house, engulfed in flames. Her clothes and shoes were still on fire when police who happened to be in the neighborhood rushed to her aid and extinguished the flames.

Neighbors at the time said they heard a loud explosion that shook the ground, followed by the fire that left the single-story home located across the street from St. Augustine Catholic Church a total loss. Two nearby homes were also damaged in the fire.

Zuffa received second- and third-degree burns over 60% of her body. She was treated at St. Francis Memorial Hospital's Bothin Burn Cen-

ter in San Francisco, but has since recovered, a police report said.

In conjunction with local police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department investigated the fire, sifting through the remnants to uncover evidence that the fire was deliberately set. Knox said it took two years for police to be able to build a case that linked Zuffa to the fire and for officials from the Alameda County District Attorney's office to review it.

Police concluded that an accelerant had been used to start the fire, and "substantial physical and financial evidence was collected which indicated Zuffa was responsible for the arson," the report said.

The motive appears to have been financial gain, according to the report. Zuffa and her husband Keith filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy in June, 2008, six months before the fire, according to public records. Records also show the home was sold for \$75,000 in a foreclosure sale on Sept. 30 to Marilyn and Richard Greenberg in the name of the Greenberg Trust.

Deonna Zuffa is also listed as a defendant in a civil case filed by her husband and financial institutions,



FILE PHOTO

A photo taken just after the fire that destroyed the Angela Street home of Deonna and Keith Zuffa. Deonna Zuffa was arrested Tuesday on arson and other charges in connection with the fire.

claiming that she forged his name. That case has not been resolved.

The investigation concluded that Zuffa acted on her own, without the knowledge of other members of the family, according to the police report.

Police said the Zuffas' two dogs had been taken to a groomer the day of the fire. Keith Zuffa was at work and their children were in school.

Deonna Zuffa is currently living in Lincoln, Calif.; she waived extradition and was booked at the Santa Rita Jail.

Days after the fire, a fund was set up by a local middle schooler, Andrew Ochoa, to help the family, which lost all of its belongings.

Pleasanton Middle School spearheaded the fundraising campaign for the family, which also includes sons Justin, a junior in 2008 at Amador Valley High School, and Devon, who was at the time a seventh-grader at Pleasanton middle. More than \$3,595 was raised, and the family also received more than \$2,000 in gift cards.

The remnants of the home remained in place and fenced off until April of this year, when the house was finally razed. Wrecking crews demolished the house but left the undamaged foundation and utility connections in place. It's expected the lot will be sold and a new home constructed on the site. ■

Holiday greetings



Happy Holidays! To the Pleasanton community, enjoy family, love and laughter this holiday season and may the new year be filled with peace, joy, faith and prosperity.

Rick Pickering
CEO, Alameda County Fairgrounds

(More greetings on page 12)

City Hall closing for holidays

Pleasanton closed today, Dublin all week

The Pleasanton City Hall will be closed today and again next Friday in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The city of Dublin offices and facilities closed yesterday and will remain closed through Monday, Jan. 3.

Offices there will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 4.

The post office will deliver mail both today and next Friday.

Police and fire services in both cities will continue to operate as usual.

—Jeb Bing

Holiday travelers are increasing

AAA says 10.6 million of us will be on California roads

BY JEB BING

More people in California and across the nation are traveling over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, according to the latest AAA Northern California survey.

Across the state, the survey estimates more than 11.6 million Californians will travel over the holidays, representing an overall increase of 3% compared to last year, AAA Northern California spokeswoman Cynthia Harris said.

The national average is up as well, according to AAA, with 92.3 million people in the U.S. projected to travel 50 miles or more during the holidays, which is an increase of 3.1% since last year.

More people are expected to get behind the wheel to arrive at their holiday destinations, with AAA projecting

that 3% more Californians — or a total of 10.6 million people — will opt to travel by automobile, Harris said.

To help ensure the safety of all of these motorists, AAA is offering their Topsy Tow service for members and non-members alike, Harris said.

From 6 p.m. tonight through 6 a.m. tomorrow and from 6 p.m. Dec. 31 through 6 a.m. Jan. 1, drivers in Northern California who have been drinking can call (800) AAA-HELP for a free tow of up to 10 miles.

"Just tell the AAA operator, 'I need a Topsy Tow,' and a truck will be on its way," Harris said. "Service is restricted to a one-way ride for the driver and his or her vehicle to the driver's home."

Harris also offers some gas saving tips for those traveling by car this holiday season, and advises motorists
See **TRAVELERS** on Page 7



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

What's Frosty doing inside?

Rylan Decoite, 2, seems surprised to discover a snowman in the children's section at the Pleasanton Library — and he's not even melting! The library was bustling Monday, especially the kids' area. It will be closed today and tomorrow for the Christmas holiday, and Dec. 31-Jan. 1 for New Year's. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Shoppers should have keys at the ready, police say

Extra precautions needed during post-Christmas rush

By JEB BING

In the busy post-Christmas holiday season, Pleasanton police are urging motorists and shoppers to take extra precautions to protect their safety in public places.

Speaking at a meeting of the Valley Real Estate Network, Capt. Eric Finn and Crime Prevention Officer Ken McNeill said thefts can be avoided by making sure purses and parcels are kept out of view in parked cars and by shoppers taking extra care in leaving stores and walking to their cars.

"It's important to have your car keys at the ready as you're walking toward your vehicle," Finn said. "Be prepared to open the car door quickly, get inside and then drive away. When in a crowded parking lot, don't sit there on the phone; just move on."

McNeill urged the public to be aware of surroundings. If shoppers see someone approaching them who looks suspicious, change direction or go back into



JEB BING

Crime Prevention Officer Ken McNeill and Capt. Eric Finn at real estate meeting.

the shopping center if it looks as if you're being followed, he said. Shoppers also should watch for someone sitting in a nearby car who looks as if they're watching pedestrians. Once inside your own car, lock the doors and drive away.

"So if people are potentially looking at you as a victim, make sure you get going and get out of that situation," Finn said. ■

Retailer REI to open in Dublin

Plans to hire 50 to sell to outdoor enthusiasts

By JEB BING

National retailer REI has announced that it will open a new store in Dublin next fall, taking over the space once occupied by a Honda automobile dealership.

The future REI location at 7099 Amador Plaza Road, between Dublin and Amador Valley boulevards, was vacated by Honda of Dublin which built a new showroom and service facility farther north on Dublin Boulevard. REI plans to tear down the old building and build a new, 24,000-square-foot facility.

REI sells brand-name gear and apparel for camping, climbing, cycling, fitness, hiking, paddling, snow sports and travel products. The new store also will offer a bike shop for quick assemblies and repairs, and a seasonal gear rental department for customers to test out new outdoor activities.

"REI has been honored to outfit outdoor enthusiasts in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1975 through our store in Berkeley," said Tim Spangler, REI's vice president of REI, which stands for Recreational Equipment, Inc. "The Dublin store will provide us the opportunity to bring our friendly expertise and quality outdoor products closer to the more than 42,500 active REI members that live within 15 miles

of the new location."

The company currently serves nearly 417,000 active members through 10 stores in the San Francisco Bay Area. The firm operates 114 retail stores nationwide and has two online operations, rei.com and REI-OUTLET.com, in addition to manufacturing its own REI brand and Novara bike products.

To staff the new store, REI will recruit approximately 50 people. Hiring will occur three months prior to the opening and employment information will be available at www.rei.com/jobs.

Through its locally driven grants program, the company also supports local non-profit organizations that help people experience and restore the outdoors, providing \$3.7 million of grant support to non-profits last year.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, REI granted \$272,000 to 21 non-profit partners in 2010, including the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, East Bay Regional Park District and Save Mount Diablo. REI Dublin also will provide community space for the company and its local partners to host outdoor-related classes, presentations and events.

Although it operates as a consumer cooperative, the public can shop at REI, paying a one-time membership fee of \$20. Members

receive an annual member refund based on their purchases. More than \$80 million in annual refunds was distributed to more than 3.9 million active members this year based on the co-op's 2009 sales, the retailer said.

REI members also receive discounts on gear rentals and REI Adventures trips and REI Outdoor School classes, in addition to free shipping on purchases of \$75 or more through REI.com, REI-OUTLET.com and phone direct sales orders.

REI was founded in 1938 by a group of Pacific Northwest mountaineers.

Linda Maurer, Dublin's Economic Development director, said the city is "thrilled about (REI's) decision to locate here."

"They will be tearing down the half-built building at the old Honda site and building a new structure there," she said. "Dublin has been working on this deal for a long while and we're happy to finally share the news."

REI is the second sporting goods store to announce plans to open a retail operation in Dublin. Earlier, Sports Authority, which has 450 stores in 45 states, said it will open a sports gear store in a portion of the now-closed Mervyn's Department Store on Regional Street. ■

Pleasanton man arrested for 'inappropriate interaction' with handicapped four-year-old

Arrest caps three-month investigation

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

A Pleasanton man has been charged with one felony and one misdemeanor for committing lewd acts and "annoying or molesting" a four-year-old handicapped girl, according to a police report.

Michael Carr, 23, was working as a driver for the girl's family; he was arrested Monday near a new job after a three-month-long investigation into what the report called "inappropriate interaction

with the girl.

Police do not believe there were any other victims, but asked anyone with possible additional information about others to contact them at 931-5100.



Michael Carr

The charge of showing lewd

material, a felony, carries a maximum sentence of seven years; the second charge is a misdemeanor, according to Pleasanton police Sgt. Jim Knox, because the girl was not physically touched. That charge could bring a maximum sentence of a year in prison and a fine of \$10,000, if Carr is convicted. He could also have to register as a sex offender.

Carr was booked at Santa Rita Jail pending a court appearance. ■

Longest (and darkest) night of the year

Full lunar solstice eclipse comes again in 2094

Last Monday night was not only the longest night of the year but a night of beautiful celestial activity.

During the lunar eclipse, the earth's shadow covered the full moon, creating a red shadow that was visible by the naked eye. For 72 minutes of eerie totality, an amber light played across much of California, throwing backyards and hills into an unusual state of ruddy shadow.

The eclipse began on at 10:33 p.m. Pacific time and took about an hour for the "bite" to expand and swallow the entire Moon. Totality occurred at 11:41 p.m.

This lunar eclipse was special



because it fell on the date of the northern winter solstice. How rare is that? According to Geoff Chester of the US Naval Observatory, while total lunar eclipses in northern winters are fairly common, (there have been three of them in the past 10 years alone), a lunar eclipse

smack-dab on the date of the solstice is unusual.

Chester inspected a list of eclipses going back 2000 years.

"Since Year 1, I can only find one previous instance of an eclipse matching the same calendar date as the solstice, and that was Dec. 21, 1638," he said. "Fortunately we won't have to wait 372 years for the next one. That will be on Dec. 21, 2094."

We hope Pleasanton Weekly staffer Amory Gutierrez who snapped this photo will have camera at hand to photograph that one.

—Jeb Bing

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A walk in the park

Get in shape with others the old-fashioned way

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Pleasanton is on the move, walking for wellness along with others around the world.

World Walk to Wellness Day kicks off its activities from 7-10 a.m. Dec. 31 in Pleasanton in the Sports Park on Hopyard Road.

"This is the time of year when many of us are making New Year's resolutions," said W. Ron Sutton, founder of World Walk to Wellness and CEO of ACCUSPLIT, a pedometer and stopwatch manufacturer. "We know that walking is good for us, especially if we make it part of our daily routine."

Community members are volunteering to lead "Walk With Me" loop walks every 30 minutes and to sponsor monthly walks throughout 2011.

"Walk With Me" leaders so far include Sutton as "Mr. Pedometer," Ward Belding (aka vocalist "Uncle Sam"), City Councilman Jerry Thorne, community leader Dolores Bengtson, and Jill Daniel, registered dietician.

"Lots of research has shown that the 'buddy system' is the best way to commit to an active lifestyle for a whole year," said Sutton. "Friends can encourage friends to keep on walking."

The Dec. 31 event includes the opportunity to support Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation with a donation of \$5 per walker. But this is just a suggestion, not a requirement to join the walk, say organizers. Each donation up to \$20 will be matched by event sponsor ACCUSPLIT to help support PPIE Wellness Grants for local schools. Past walks have raised \$5,000 for PPIE.

A World Walk to Wellness Festival will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 8, at the Pleasanton Public Library. It will have booths handing out health tips inside the library's community room, and a chance to take



YU TAO

World Walk to Wellness Day planning team members are (l-r) Penny Johnson, events coordinator for the library; Joanie Fields; W. Ron Sutton of ACCUSPLIT, which is an event sponsor; and Jerri Long.

an easy stroll down Main Street on your own or with a "Walk With Me" leader. A special guest at the festival will be Parvin Ahmadi, superintendent of Pleasanton Unified School District.

Sutton got the idea for the walk from his agent in Taiwan who held a walking event the day before New Year's Eve.

"She's a national hero, one of two gold medalists for Taiwan," Sutton explained. "She had hundreds of people show up in Taipei. She sent us photographs and we got inspired to do this around the world."

It began in Pleasanton three years ago, he said, and it's simple: Just show up to walk.

"We think we have our template down right now and the whole year we're going to be asking agents, dealers around the world, to join," Sutton said.

A volunteer is putting up a website, www.worldwalktowellness.org, that will enable groups around the world to post videos of

their walks.

"What I hope to do next year is stay up and watch the new year cross over in every time zone and watch as people post their events online," said Sutton.

People will also be able to sign up for walks on the website, and it will list the details of Pleasanton walks, which organizers plan to be monthly events.

Walks are tentatively scheduled for the mornings of Feb. 26 and March 19 on Arroyo Mocho, and April 9 on the Marilyn Kane Trail, to be led by Dolores Bengtson and of particular interest to those who like to see native bird and plant habitats. May, June and July walks will be linked to First Wednesday street fairs downtown, and the August walk will precede a Friday evening Concert in the Park.

To volunteer to lead or sponsor a World Walk to Wellness 2011 event, call Joanie Fields at 462-4312; W. Ron Sutton, 580-5961; or Jerri Long, 462-5164. ■

Ex-news anchor named head of Golden Gate Bridge authority

Says 'difficult fiscal challenges ahead'

Janet Reilly, a former TV news anchor and unsuccessful candidate for San Francisco supervisor last November, was chosen president of the Golden Gate Bridge's governing authority Saturday.

Reilly has served as a member of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District board since 2003. She is one of four members of the public appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to the 19-member body. One other member is appointed by the mayor, and four others are on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Reilly previously worked as a TV news anchor, served as an aide to former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and was a public relations

manager for Mervyn's department stores. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and their two daughters.

In a statement released by the district, Reilly said she was honored to serve as board president.

"I recognize and fully appreciate that we have some very difficult fiscal challenges ahead of us, but we will continue to thrive and provide our much needed bridge, bus, and ferry services," Reilly said.

Reilly also noted that a celebration is planned for the iconic bridge's 75th anniversary in May 2012.

In November, Reilly lost a close race for supervisor of San Francisco's District 2 to investment banker Mark Farrell.

Reilly began her career as an anchorwoman-reporter for CBS-affiliate KGWN-TV in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Mass Media Communications from UCLA. Janet is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received a Masters degree in Journalism from Medill at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Janet Reilly is married to businessman Clint Reilly. Clint is the owner of the Merchants Exchange Building in San Francisco's financial district, as well as other real estate properties. He is a former president of the board of directors of Catholic Charities CYO but is not currently a member of that board.

—Jeb Bing

BART board picks Franklin to head agency

Pleasanton's McPartland chosen as vice-president

By JEB BING

Bob Franklin, who worked for BART for six years in its finance and planning departments, has been chosen as president of the agency's board of directors for 2011, became the first former BART employee to serve in that top position.

At the same time, board member John McPartland was selected as vice president. McPartland's district includes Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, Sunol, San Ramon, and parts of Castro Valley, Hayward, and Danville.

Franklin represents District 3, which covers Kensington, Piedmont, San Leandro, San Lorenzo,

and portions of Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward, and Castro Valley. He was elected to the nine-member board in 2004.

After recognizing the work of outgoing board president James Fang, Franklin outlined his priorities for the upcoming year, including replacing the system's aging fleet of train cars, improving community relations and fostering a positive relationship with employees.

"We have the oldest fleet for an agency of our type, with cars that average 30 years old," Franklin said, adding that by the time the cars are replaced, the average age will be 51 years old. ■

Downtown salon closes, blaming poor economy

Euphoria Nail & Body Bar's outstanding gift cards in question

Euphoria Nail & Body Bar, which promoted itself as Pleasanton's "upscale nail boutique, has closed its doors at 660 Main St. due to a lack of business.

Pleasanton Weekly readers, commenting on Town Square, said they had recently purchased or been given gift cards for services at Euphoria and wondered now if they'll be honored somewhere else.

"Unfortunately, due to the very bad economy we have not been able to sustain (our business)," said a statement from owner Jovann Walker, who opened Euphoria in the spring of 2008.

"Downtown Pleasanton is a wonderful city and we have so

much to be thankful for from this experience such as winning 'Best Mani/Pedi' in 2008 and 2009, (being) voted 'Best in Customer Satisfaction amongst Tri-Valley Salons 2010' and being ranked within the 'Top 10 Salons in Eastbay' by Nail Magazine in July 2010, to name a few," this statement said.

In a message signed by "Jovann, Michael & Staff," Walker said: "Everyone here at Euphoria thanks you for your past support, business and every enjoyable moment we've had with you as our customers and friends. Thank you for taking this journey with us as we explored every new and innovative product."

—Jeb Bing

TRAVELERS


Continued from Page 5

ists to keep luggage off the roof, be gentle on the gas and brake pedals, and properly inflate tires.

The number of travelers flying this year is up as well, according to AAA projections, with more

than 478,000 Californians are expected to take to the skies to get to their holiday destinations.

AAA's tips for holiday airport travel include checking in online and printing your boarding pass at home, packing light, and leaving room for plenty of time at the airport, Harris said. ■



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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Rotary helps our community

Fresh on the heels of Pleasanton's downtown Rotary Club serving turkey dinners with all the trimming to Pleasanton seniors, the Pleasanton North Rotary Club is preparing for its New Year's Eve "Ball at the Mall" to benefit children and those in need in our community. These service organizations, including the Pleasanton and Amador Valley Lions Club, Tri-Valley Rotary and Pleasanton Kiwanis hold benefits throughout the year to raise funds for nonprofits that need our help. Like the Pleasanton Weekly's annual Holiday Fund, these efforts make a difference in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley where the new Census might show a high percentage of affluency, but there are still thousands in less fortunate situations.

Pleasanton North Rotary's first annual New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall will be held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Stoneridge Shopping Center. The fundraising gala will benefit children in our community. The dance party event for adults over 21 at a ticket price of \$75 per person will feature live music, DJ Brad Kinney of Brad Kinney Productions as Master of Ceremonies and spinner of recorded music, and a piano bar for those who enjoy quieter entertainment. Cocktail food and several no-host bars will be situated at various locations throughout the Mall's common areas and complimentary champagne in commemorative glasses will be served to toast the New Year at midnight. The beneficiaries are:

- The School of Imagination, which offers families educational, developmental and enrichment services to ensure that their young children's individual needs and true potential are discovered.
- Pleasanton Partners in Education (PPIE) Foundation, a community-based organization which exists to enhance learning experiences for students of the Pleasanton Unified School District.
- Dublin Partners in Education (DPIE), which maximizes resources and enriches the learning experiences for all students of the Dublin Unified School District, and,
- Axis Community Health, which provides medical care, mental health counseling, substance abuse recovery and nutrition services for those in need in the Tri-Valley.

The event is being led by Pleasanton North Rotarians Bill Wheeler of Black Tie Transportation and Mitch Sigman, co-founder of the School of Imagination and Happy Talkers. Janet Lockhart, former Dublin mayor and executive director of the Dublin Partners in Education organization, pointed out in a recent message that "these are tough times for many people in our community and local nonprofit organizations and schools are feeling this, especially."

Pleasanton North Rotary is presenting a wonderful fundraising event that will be both classy and affordable. It's a chance for the public to have a fabulous New Year's celebration close to home, and, best of all, to feel good about helping our treasured Tri-Valley non-profits and local schools. It promises to be a fun and festive opportunity to help our own children while celebrating the new year with friends and family. Managers at Stoneridge Shopping Center, which has a capacity for thousands and is already beautifully decorated for the holidays, stepped up with enthusiasm when the Pleasanton North Rotary Club approached them to host this benefit for the community. Tickets can be purchased by going to www.theballatthemall.org. Hotel, transportation and babysitting services also are available online. We hope to see you there. ■



Visit Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com to comment on the editorial.

Give to the Holiday Fund

Sunset Creek Lane neighbors did

By JEB BING

Jacqueline and Audriana Templeman and their friend Hayden Jolley wanted to help those in need during the holiday season so they sold some of the gifts they already had in a neighborhood fundraiser.

The result: \$17, which they brought to the Pleasanton Weekly as a contribution to the 2010 Holiday Fund.

"They really wanted to be a part of helping others, so they went door to door to other Sunset Creek Lane homes to sell their gifts and raise the money," said Donna Templeman, mother of Jacqueline and Audriana.

The contribution helped raise the Holiday Fund total to \$71,358, with this year's goal set at \$100,000.

A banner on Main Street promoting the fund and a sign on the Pleasanton Weekly's offices at 5506 Sunol Blvd. also have brought contributors to the door. That's good news for the five beneficiaries of this year's campaign: Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, Hope Hospice, the Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center at ValleyCare and the Valley Humane Society.

With charitable contributions lagging across the country due to a sluggish economy, these organizations need help from the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund more than ever. An added advantage of contributing to the Holiday Fund is that for every dollar given, the Tri-Valley Community Foundation matches it with another dollar. That means the \$17 donated by Jacqueline, Audriana and Hayden has doubled, making their contribution \$34, a welcome gift from the folks on Sunset Creek Lane.

Besides the matching funds, every dollar contributed goes to the beneficiaries. All administrative costs are covered by the Pleasanton Weekly. Unlike contributions that may go to national organizations where administrative costs



JEB BING

Contributors to the Pleasanton Weekly 2010 Holiday Fund (clockwise) are Donna Templeman, her daughter Jacqueline, 11; Hayden Jolley, 7, and Donna's younger daughter Audriana, 8. The three girls collected \$17 in their Sunset Creek Lane neighborhood, a contribution that has been doubled through the Weekly's matching funds.

can skim 15-20% off the top, every dollar contributed here stays here.

Also, funds contributed to national charities often don't make their way back here again to the Tri-Valley or even California. Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley are not on anyone's list as a demographic area in need of public aid. But some here are. Unemployment is just as severe here as in other parts of the region. Even many with jobs have taken pay cuts and severe reductions in their health care plans. They need our help and Axis Community Health and Open Heart Kitchen are among the charitable agencies that are meeting those needs.

Along with a list of donors, this week's Pleasanton Weekly also carries a contributor's form. If you haven't given already, Jacqueline, Audriana and Hayden and their neighbors hope you'll do what they did and contribute. ■

LETTERS

Hostility toward teacher's union

Dear Editor,

I confess that I find it strange and rather sad that the teacher's union is viewed with so much mistrust and hostility in Pleasanton. Ask anyone what image is conjured up by the word "teacher" and the answer is usually "a kind, hard-working figure who cares for his students." How strange then, that the phrase "teacher's union" elicits such a dramatically different response. Are the teachers who choose to belong to their union somehow transformed into totally different people?

Teacher's associations were developed to ensure that educators would

be viewed as professionals and receive protections from people who place politics over sound educational practices. Before there were unions, it was not uncommon for teachers to be fired for getting married, becoming pregnant, having an adult beverage with friends, teaching about evolution or being a member of the wrong political party. It is against these forces that teacher's unions have worked to provide protections through collective bargaining. This process allows for the creation and maintenance of a contract establishing fair working conditions, fair compensation and a process for dealing with unfair treatment.

A teacher's union is nothing more than a collection of those same saints who greet your children with a smile each day.

**Trevor Knaggs,
President, Association of
Pleasanton Teachers**

Pleasanton Weekly

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

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

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

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POLICE BULLETIN

Auto burglaries spike in Pleasanton

Eight vehicles in Pleasanton were targets of auto burglaries in the last week, according to police reports

One that occurred between 1 p.m. Dec. 11 and 11 a.m. Dec. 13 in the 4400 block of Sutter Gate Avenue, netted commercial test equipment worth \$8,100 in addition to an \$800 laptop computer \$100 in tools, reports said.

Three of the break-ins occurred in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue. One, on Dec. 17 between 2:30 and 2:52 a.m., netted a lock box with office supplies inside; a second, also in the same time period netted a \$5 box of potato chips. No details were available on the third, which occurred Dec. 19 between 1 and 1:30 p.m.

One, in the 7900 block of Limewood Court between 10 p.m. Dec. 15 and 4 a.m. Dec. 16, yielded a \$40 purse and \$10 worth of headbands.

Others took place in the 3300 block of Norton Way, between 8 p.m. Dec. 10 and 7:45 a.m. Dec. 13, in the 8000 block of Horizons Court between 8 p.m. Dec. 13 and 7:15 a.m. Dec. 14.

POLICE REPORT

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

Dec. 12

Battery

- 10:28 a.m. in the 900 block of Montevino Drive
- 11:30 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:11 p.m. in the 3500 block of Wind Cave Court
- 7:43 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Dec. 13

Theft

- 10:15 a.m. in the 6000 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; robbery
- 3:50 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft
- 8:45 p.m. in the 1800 block of Plumeria Court; identity theft

Child endangerment

- 4:18 p.m. in the 800 block of Bonde Court

Dec. 14

Theft

- 8:05 a.m. in the 5300 block of Pleasant Hill Road; petty theft
- 9:36 a.m. in the 8000 block of Horizons Court; petty theft

- 12:06 p.m. in the 5500 block of Corte Sonora; identity theft

Burglary

- 12:43 p.m. in the 3600 block of Touriga Drive

Auto burglary

- 7:35 a.m. in the 4400 block of Sutter Gate Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:36 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; possession of marijuana
- 5:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; DUI, hit and run

Dec. 15

Theft

- 10:15 a.m. in the 400 block of Pine Hill Lane; identity theft
- 11:09 a.m. in the 3000 block of Warrenton Court; petty theft
- 1:59 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft
- 5:22 p.m. in the 2700 block of Calle Alegre identity theft

Dec. 16

Theft

- 5:02 a.m. in the 7800 block of Oak Creek Drive; grand theft
- 9:05 a.m. in the 3900 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; theft
- 9:20 a.m. in the 7000 block of Valley Trails Drive; mail theft

- 12:44 p.m. in the 200 block of W. Angela Street; grand theft

- 9:10 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Dec. 17

Theft

- 10:16 a.m. in the 1800 block of W. Lagoon Road; auto theft

- 12:29 p.m. in the 3500 block of Capella Court; identity theft

- 2:42 p.m. in the 100 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft

- 5:01 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; petty theft

- 9:30 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue

Battery

- 10:34 a.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:10 a.m. in the 6400 block of Owens Drive; DUI (23152)

- 7:25 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; possession of a controlled substance, petty theft, possession of a concealed weapon

Dec. 18

Theft

- 12:07 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; theft

- 6:01 p.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

OBITUARIES

Elliott Charnow

Long-time Pleasanton resident and well-known musician and teacher Elliott Allen Charnow died Nov. 27 at the age of 68, after a long battle with emphysema.

He was born in San Mateo and began his career in music while attending Carlmont High School in Belmont. He played the clarinet in the band and the orchestra, as well as completing all the requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from San Jose State University. He was a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity. He began his teaching career at Castro Valley High School in 1964, where he met his future wife, Judy, a first year teacher who later taught Spanish and French at Amador Valley High School.

In 1971, Mr. Charnow began teaching music at Chabot College in


Hayward; he ended his career there as Dean of Humanities, retiring in 2000. During that time he was a member of the American Federation of Musicians (local 153), the Music Educators National Conference, the California Music Educators Association and the Music Educators of Northern California. He was a long-time director of the Hayward-La Honda Music Camp. After retiring, the Charnows left Pleasanton to

move to Placerville. They celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in April, surrounded by family and close friends.

Mr. Charnow is survived by his wife Judy; son Steve Charnow (Ashley) of Clovis; daughter Diana Charnow Gonter (Lou) of Placerville; five grandchildren; and his sister Sheila Alperstein (Glenn) of Woodland Hills. A memorial service was held in Placerville.



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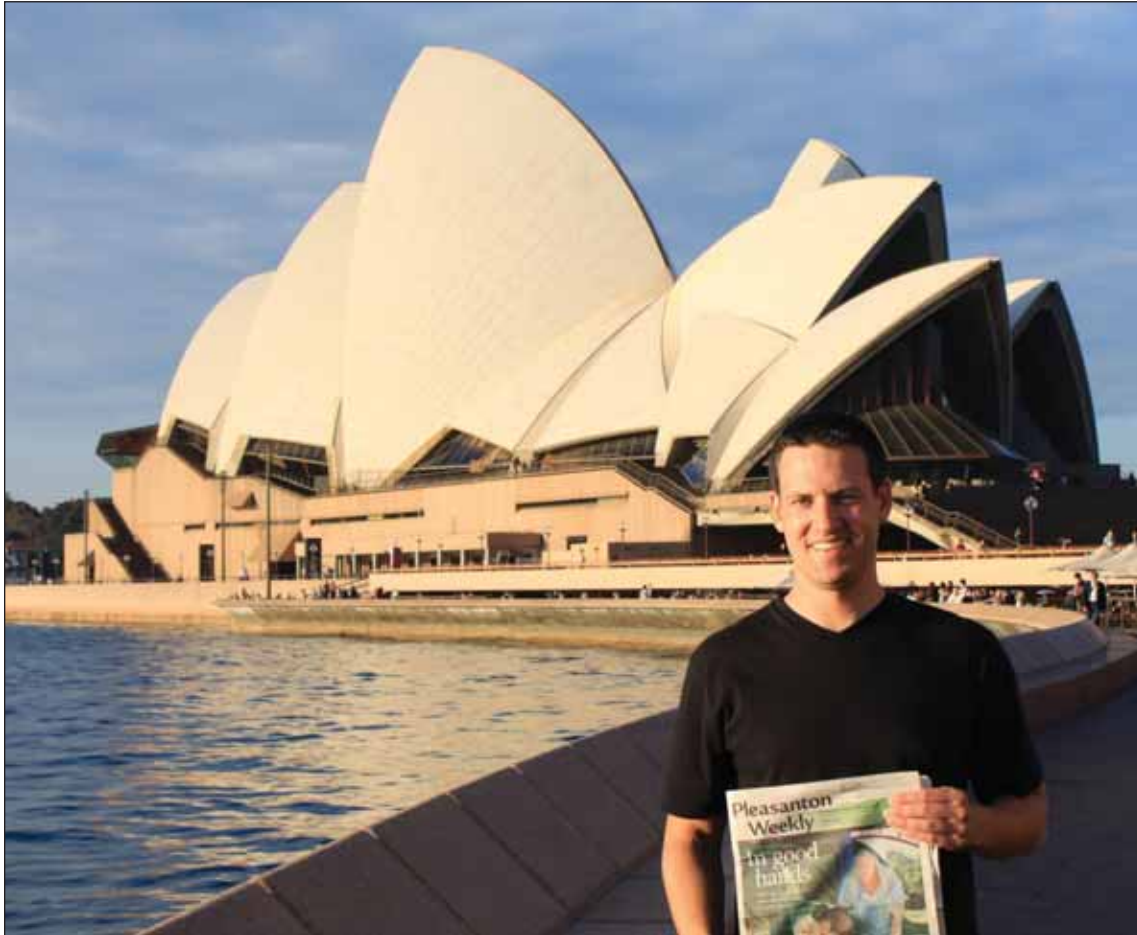
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Up for the opera, mate? Kyle Shapiro, shown in front of the Sydney Opera House, visits Australia with a group of American filmmakers to meet Australian filmmakers and tour studios.

Send photos to editor@pleasantonweekly.com, subject line "Take Us Along," or mail to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Any caption information such as who is in the photo, where you are and anything fun you did on your trip is appreciated. Happy travels!



TAKE US ALONG



North to Alaska: Scott and Ron Otvos take time to read their Weekly while fishing in the Alagnak River in Katmai National Park in Alaska.



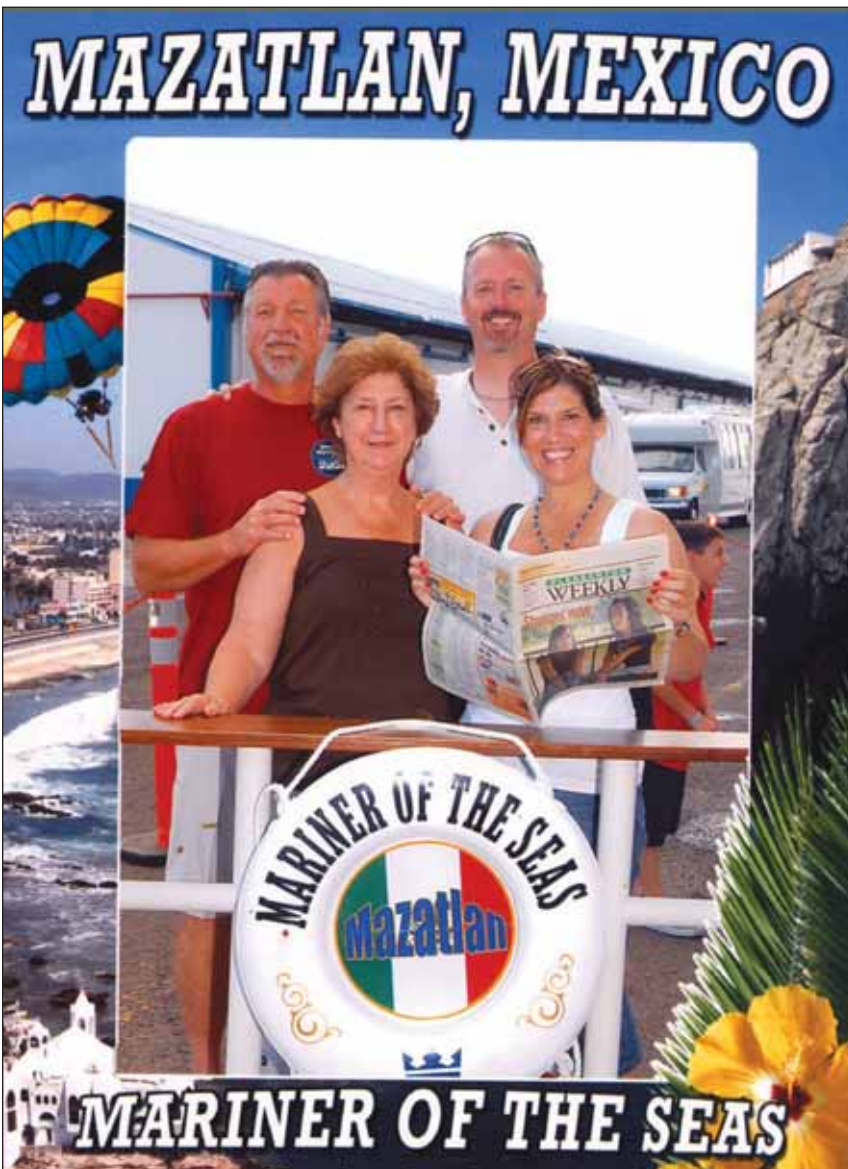
Wish we were there: Jon and Kathleen Kalb and their Weekly enjoy a white sandy beach while on a Blue Lagoon cruise around the Yasawa Islands in Fiji.



Bonjour, Quebec: Students from Foothill and Amador Valley high schools and Hart Middle School took along their Weeklies to avoid homesickness while visiting Quebec with their French teachers, Katy Arcuri and Marianne Ottaway. Shown at the Le Chateau Frontenac hotel are Nicole Fitzsimmons, Lexie Martoglio, Marianne Ottaway, Sahana Rajan, Priyanka Walimbe, Kelly McDeavitt, Jessica Burge, Evelyn Minaise, Trevor Feliciano, Daiei Le, Arjun Teh and Katy Arcuri.



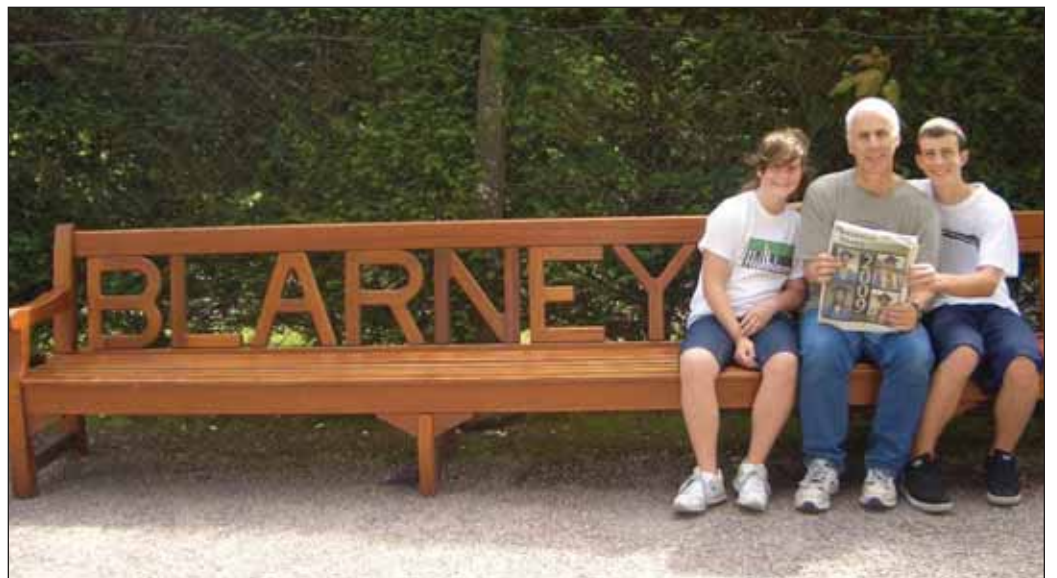
Diving into the Weekly: Celebrating Tim Lundell's jump from a perfectly good airplane that took off from the Byron Airport are (l-r) Greg Lundell, Randy Frazier (friend and tandem expert who accompanied Tim), Jackie Lundell, James Lundell (age 3), Mark Lundell, Tim, George Viebeck and Dan Wallen.



First cruise: Sandra Kay (aka Writeous Mom) with brother Larry Harrison, Mom Sharon Zuro and her husband Rick Zuro and their Weekly on a Royal Caribbean cruise to Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta.



Calgary sites: The Kemsley Bennett family, (l-r) Patrick, Jyllian, Peter, Laryn and Bill, enjoy their Weekly while hiking above one of the lakes in Calgary, Canada, where they also visited the Stampede, the zoo and other attractions.



Full of Blarney? Erin, Pat and Kevin Costello take a break from sightseeing in Ireland to check out their Weekly. They did not report on whether they visited the famous stone.

Community
leaders
send
their
greetings

BY JEB BING

Happy Holidays



Best wishes from our family to yours this holiday season. We're looking forward to the coming year as an opportunity to continue serving the people of the Tri-Valley and the 11th Congressional District. Happy New Year and may 2011 be filled with health, happiness and prosperity for our country, our community, and our families.

**Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton),
Mary McNerney and family**



Happy Holidays to everyone. May the New Year be filled with plenty of good health, laughter, peace and prosperity. Reflecting on the challenges of 2010 and committed to make a difference with a flexible approach, 2011 promises to be a great year. My best wishes to the entire Pleasanton community. Happy New Year!

**Parvin Ahmadi
Superintendent of Pleasanton schools**



Holiday greetings to the community for and health working with on efforts to create jobs and transportation which the

First District



The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department wishes you a happy and peaceful holiday season. If you don't already have smoke detectors in your home, please make it your New Year's resolution to get them! Almost half of reported house fires occur in homes with no smoke detectors or non-functioning smoke detectors. Be happy, healthy and safe in 2011!

**Chief Jim Miguel
Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department**



The Pleasanton Rotary wishes everyone a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous New Year. We are blessed to have a wonderful community in which to live and work. Please join us in 2011 through community service to make it even better for all of our residents.

**Tom Fox
President
Pleasanton Rotary Club**



From a would like support and merchant everyone a ward to

Pleasanton



etings and best wishes to the Pleasanton
or a wonderful holiday season and a safe
y New Year. I look forward to continue
the city and its residents and businesses
improve the economy, protect and gen-
and deliver important local and regional
ion projects, preserving the qualities for
city of Pleasanton has become known.

Scott Haggerty
District Supervisor, Alameda County



Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all! We
are all tightening our belts, our city, our school
district, and each and every one of us. Yet, we
celebrate the season, and with that celebration
brings the love of family and friends. I wish for
you and your family the very best!

Jennifer Hosterman
Mayor of Pleasanton



Thank you Pleasanton Weekly, for giving all of us
at the Chamber this opportunity to wish everyone
a safe, healthy, happy holiday season, and our
best wishes for a prosperous New Year. What a
blessing it is to live, work and raise a family in
this wonderful community!

Scott Raty
President/CEO
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce



all of us in downtown Pleasanton we
e to thank you for your continued sup-
patronage of our wonderful downtown
s, restaurants and businesses. We wish
a joyful holiday season and we look for-
seeing you often downtown in 2011.

Laura Olson
Executive Director
Pleasanton Downtown Association



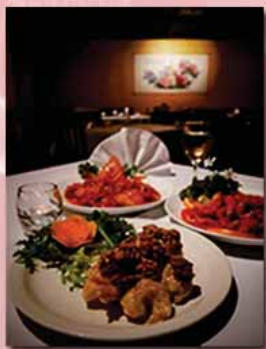
Hacienda extends Holiday Greetings to all of Pleasan-
ton and the Tri-Valley. With gratitude, we pause to join
with the community in reflecting on those successes we
enjoyed in 2010. With determination, we look forward
to working with all of our business and community
partners to make 2011 even better. To all, we hope you
find a holiday season filled with good cheer and the
sustenance provided by family, friends and colleagues.

James Paxson, General Manager
Hacienda Business Park Owners Association



Holiday Greetings! 2011 marks the 10th anniversary
of the Sept. 11 attack on our nation. Since then our
service members have fought bravely to defend our
freedom and bring hope to oppressed people around
the world. Please keep these service members in your
thoughts and prayers this coming year.

Doug Miller
Post Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Pleasanton Post 6298n



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AMERICAN

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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

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, and 2010. 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.

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub since 1995. Try one of our 6 House Beers brewed FRESH weekly. Full bar and daily happy hour! Watch all sports with friends on our multiple screens. We feature a full menu including lunch and dinner specials. To-go orders are welcome. Facilities available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday. Visit www.mainstreetbrewery.com for activities and special events.

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Author Visits

PSYCHIC IRMA SLAGE Her books: Phases of Life after Death and Psychic Encounters, A guide to having your own spirit contact. She will be signing books at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Slage speaks to spirits and promotes death as simply our next step in life. "Death is only the beginning of another portion of our existence." Call 931-3405.

Book Clubs

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

TOWNE CENTER BOOKCLUB The club meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826 or visit www.townecenter-books.com for the current selection.

Civic Meetings

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP Participants will explore the challenges facing Pleasanton in accommodating growth while reducing future greenhouse gas emissions. We will be seeking input on energy, land use, waste, transportation, water, and more. The workshop is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11 at Veterans Memorial Hall, 301 Main St. Call 931-5506 or visit www.pleasantongreenscene.org.

Classes

ART STUDIO FOR ALL MEDIA Can't find space to do your art? Drop in from 12:30-3:30 p.m. every

Wednesday at the Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. It offers space for artists and crafts projects. Open sessions are designed for individuals to work independently in a creative and friendly environment. Cost is \$1.25 activity fee. Call 556-4511 or visit www.dublin.ca.gov.

FREE FIFE (FLUTE) AND DRUM LESSONS The Young American Patriots Fife and Drum band "YAPs" is a Pleasanton-based parade band dedicated to perpetuating the music and history of the American Revolution of 1776. It will host free drum or fife (flute) lessons from 6:30-8 p.m., every Friday. Call Jason Giaimo at 484-0265 or visit www.youngamericanpatriots.com.

HEALTHY INTERNATIONAL COOKING Six classes cover Latin, Mediterranean I and II, Thai, Indian, and Japanese healthy cooking. Classes are from 6-9 p.m. Thursday evenings, Jan. 13 through Feb. 17 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost \$40 for resident and \$45 for non resident and \$12 supply fee payable to the instructor. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

PASTEL PAINTING WORKSHOP Join artist Debbie Wardrope in this workshop focusing on painting in pastel from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 18 through Feb. 9, at Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St. Whether you're a beginner or a more advanced student, this fun and relaxed class will give you the opportunity to create beautiful paintings in a supportive environment. All levels of expertise are welcome. Cost is \$90. Call 846-4322 or visit www.studiosevenarts.com.

YOGA BASICS COMMUNITY CLASS Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, teaches Yoga Basics, a yoga class that is open to the public and meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Supplies are available for class. Cost is \$12. Call 200-4060.

Clubs

BOOST YOUR CAREER AT TOASTMASTERS Grow professionally at Chamber Chatters, a Toastmasters club that meets from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills. Visit www.chamberchatters.wordpress.com/.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month. It is a social gathering and time to explore the history of our American roots. For meeting time and location, call Susan at 699-4147.

EAST BAY EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION The East Bay Executives Association is a non-profit organization for helping businesses network with other businesses. It meets at 7:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays monthly at Shari's, 3360 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley. Call 600-7342.

KIWANIS CLUB The Kiwanis Club meets at 11:45 a.m. Fridays at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. For information, call 1-800-Kiwanis.

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB This club is a great way for new and established residents to make new friends. It meets for coffee on the first Wednesday of every month and for lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. The group has activities like hiking, walking, Bunco and more. Visit www.pleasanton-newcomers.com or call Ruby M. at 462-6404.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. It has a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122

W. Neal St., Pleasanton. Cost for lunch is \$17. For information, visit www.PleasantonRotary.org.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON NORTH Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at the Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Dr. Call 580-7947 or visit www.pnr-rotary.org.

SOCRATES CAFE The Socrates Cafe discusses modern philosophical questions using the Socratic Method, on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Peets Coffee, corner of Valley Ave. and Hopyard Rd. No politics involved. Call 249-1865 or visit www.digiassist.com/SocratesCafePleasanton.html.

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS Virtually Speaking Toastmasters club meets from noon-1 p.m. every Thursday at Polycom, 4750 Willow Rd. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

Tickets \$20-\$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

JEFF BORDES AND PANTHELION - PLEASANTON NATIVE BRINGS 'NU CLASS' HOME Will be performing from 8-10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Panthelion Quartet features the new musical genre known as "nu class", performing an energetic blend of jazz, classical, and urban-groove styles. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for adults; \$12 for children and \$18 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN WITH HART CABARET SERIES Vocalists Chelsea Nenni and Zachary Franczak perform songs from The Sound of Music, The King and I, Oklahoma, Carousel, South Pacific, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15 and 2 p.m. Sunday, January 16 at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for adults, \$15 for children and \$22 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

TINGSTAD AND RUMBEL Together for more than 24 years, they perform the perfect blend of finger style guitar, oboe, English horn and ocarina. They will be performing from 8-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14 at the Firehouse Art Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for adults, \$12 for children and \$20 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Concerts

CYPRESS STRING QUARTET TO PERFORM AT CLASSICAL SERIES A young, well-established ensemble, will perform Mozart K.465 'Dissonance', Schulhoff's 'Five Pieces for String Quartet' and the Debussy 'Quartet'. The concert is from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

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Events

ART, CRITIQUE & COFFEE Art, Critique & Coffee (ACC) meets at 10 a.m. each Friday at Borders Cafe, 4575 Rosewood Dr. Artists and art lovers are welcome to view latest works as they discuss how to better each piece before it is released to the public. Call 461-5084.

FARMERS MARKET Island Earth's farmers market is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays in the parking lot between Macy's and Sears at Stoneridge Shopping Center. It features organic produce, artisan wares, fresh flowers and more. Call 510-769-1525 or visit islandearth-farmersmarket.org.

PEACEFUL WAR PROTEST Pleasantonians 4 Peace has an ongoing peaceful war protest from 5 to 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at First and Neal streets. Contact Cathe Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowling@pacbell.net. Visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE Pleasantonians 4 Peace sponsors a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. The group reflects on the human and monetary costs of the war, honors veterans who have sacrificed, and visualizes ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. They plan to continue this monthly event as long as necessary. Contact Cathe Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

Exhibits

'CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD' The Harrington Gallery will host Paintbrush Diplomacy's international children's art exhibit, "Celebrations Around the World,"

from Dec. 11 through Jan. 12 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The gallery is open noon-5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. A donation of \$2 is suggested. Paintbrush Diplomacy seeks to promoting peace and understanding through the universal language of art and encourages awareness of international issues through art exchanges and exhibits of works by children ages 5-18. Call 931-5340 or visit www.paintbrush-diplomacy.org.

TRY-VALLEY TOYBOX COMES TO MUSEUM Toy aficionados will share their collections at the third "Treasures of the Tri-Valley" exhibit from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays, from Nov. 10 through Jan. 30, at Museum on Main, 603 Main St. There will be toy-making crafts and opportunities to meet the collectors. Call 462-2766 or e-mail education@museumonmain.org.

Fundraisers

BALL AT THE MALL North Rotary announces the first annual New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at Stoneridge Shopping Center. The \$75 gala event will feature a live band, DJ, a piano bar, cocktail foods and no-host bars, to benefit children in the community. Champagne in commemorative glasses will be served at midnight. Call 877-543-7852 or visit www.theballatthemall.org.

Health

ART FOR THE HEART ValleyCare is sponsoring a free art therapy program for cancer patients and their loved ones. A local artist from Lilly Oncology will lead participants in an art lesson from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 240. Supplies and lunch

will be provided. Call to register, 734-3319.

CANCER SURVIVOR PROGRAM Exercise program for breast cancer survivors will be held from noon-1 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 1 through Feb. 22, at LifeStyleRx, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The program, consists of yoga and pilate's taught by instructors who are certified and have experience working with post op patients. Call 454-6316 for more information.

COLON CANCER AWARENESS ValleyCare is hosting a free educational seminar on "Colon Cancer Awareness." Hear Dr. Entwisle discuss important risk factors, from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, March 17, at ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 240. Refreshments will be provided for registered guests. Call to register, 734-3319.

DIABETES MANAGEMENT CLASSES Free Diabetes Class. Seven-week series will teach you how to manage your Type 2 diabetes or Pre Diabetes, eat the foods you love, how and why to check your blood sugar, medications, exercise and more! New series from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8 - March 5 at Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Call 510-383-5185 to register.

HEALING TOUCH ValleyCare Health System is hosting a free learn at lunch seminar on "Healing Touch." This treatment was developed by nurses to help cancer patients restore balance in their life. The lecture is from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 8, at ValleyCare Health System Women's Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Conference Room 240. All registered participants will receive a free lunch. Call to register, 734-3319.

LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM A Using the Internet for Health Information seminar is from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 11, at ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas



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Bldv. Margaret Hsieh, the Medical Librarian at ValleyCare Health System, will present the program, helping users to find credible information from the Internet. Call to register, 734-3319. Pleasanton.

TEAM IN TRAINING INFO MEETING Keep your resolution to get healthy and give back to your community in 2011! Join The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training (TNT). Attend the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Call 800.78.TRAIN or visit www.teamintraining.org/sf.

USING THE INTERNET FOR HEALTH INFORMATION ValleyCare Health System's Medical Librarian will be giving a free talk on "Using the Internet for Health Information" from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 11, at ValleyCare Health System Women's Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Conference Room 240. All registered participants will receive a free-boxed lunch. To register, call 734-3319.

Holiday

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY Visit the 28th annual free Christmas display from 6-9:30 p.m., Dec. 3 through Jan. 1, at Casa del Pomba, 352 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore, with over 325,000 lights plus a new walk-through display. A new theme every year tells a story. Grand opening will be Friday, Dec. 3, with a candlelight procession down the street. Open every night, weather permitting. Visit www.casadelpomba.com.

Kids & Teens

JOB'S DAUGHTERS BETHEL NO.14 This group meets at 7 p.m., on the second and fourth Monday of every month, at Pleasanton Masonic Lodge, 3370 Hopyard Rd. It is for girls between the ages of 10 and 20 who have a Masonic relationship. It teaches the girls team work, leadership and public speaking. Call 683-5401.

M.O.M.'s READING TIME Preschoolers and their parents are invited to meet from 10-11 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Let Museum On Main introduces your preschooler to books and activities about the unique people, places, and events in our community. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Miscellaneous

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ONLINE BOOK SALE Did you know you could buy books from the Friends of the Library at Amazon.com? The Friends have a year round magazine and paperback book sale in the library and have two major book sales a year. To buy books, visit www.amazon.com/shops/ptwnfriends or call Nancy Bering at 462-4368.

On Stage

CABARET Focuses on 1931 nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub, English

cabaret performer, Sally Bowles, and the young American writer, Cliff Bradshaw. Performances are at 8 p.m. Jan. 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29 and at 2 p.m. Jan. 23 and 30 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$17-\$32 for adults and \$17-\$28 for seniors and children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Seniors

2011 TAX CHANGES Since 2001, the estate exemption has been increasing, from \$1 million in 2001 to \$3.5 million in 2009. In 2010, there was no estate tax. Now that 2011 is approaching, what will the status of the law be? Come and learn about the law and what this means for you and your estate plan. The workshop is from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost \$1.75 for resident and \$2.25 for non-resident. Call 931-5369 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

BRAIN MATTERS Enjoy a morning of fun while learning how to keep your brain active and your memory sharp. The class is held from 10-11:30 a.m. the first and third Fridays of every month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Word games, puzzles, challenging activities, reminiscing and more, geared to help you age-proof your mind. Cost \$1.75 for resident and \$2.25 for non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS Pleasanton Public Library hosts Computer Classes for Seniors including Beginning Internet on the first Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Beginning E-mail on the second Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Open Practice on the third Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Advanced E-mail on the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of every month, at the Adult Computer Area in the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Computer classes are designed for mature adults. Registration is required; call 931-3400.

DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER FOUNDATION MEETING The Dublin Senior Center Foundation meets at 9 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every month, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Call 556-4511.

DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER MINI-LIBRARY The Dublin Senior Center Mini-Library is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday at the senior center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. The library gladly accepts donations of like-new used books published in the last five years, puzzles, magazines within three months of distribution, and videotapes. Unused books are donated to Friends of the Dublin Library. Bring donations to the office for processing. Call 556-4511.

DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER OFFERS MUSIC CLASSES Dublin Senior Center offers two music classes including Sing-a-longs with Judy Kufin and Merrill Ito at 10:30 a.m., Thursdays; and Ukulele Beginning Instruction with Judy Kufin and Merrill Ito at 1 p.m., Tuesdays, both at the Senior

Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Cost is \$1.25 for each class. Call 556-4511.

FREE MEMORY SCREENING FOR SENIORS Caring Solutions is sponsoring free memory assessment on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Call 556-4511 for a 30-minute appointment. Preregister by the Monday prior to reserve an appointment. Informational materials are available at the Senior Center.

LEARN WHAT THE INTERNET CAN DO FOR YOU You don't need to own a computer to attend this program. The class will introduce you to the internet and show you how it benefits you to use it. The class is from 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

LUNCH PROGRAM The lunch program sponsored by Spectrum Community Services is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Lunch is served at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.25. Reservations required a day in advance by 1 p.m. Call 931-5385.

PEDDLER SHOPPE AT THE SENIOR CENTER The Peddler Shoppe in the lobby of the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., offers the handmade wares of talented local senior artisans. It's a great place to buy gifts. The Shoppe is staffed by volunteers and is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings; and 9 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday monthly.

PREVENTING FALLS Habits developed over a lifetime can put you at risk for a fall. There are many simple things you can do to reduce your risk of falling. Lively & informative discussion on identifying what might put you at risk for a fall & how to reduce those risks and avoid falling. Class is from 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost \$1.75 for resident or \$2.25 for non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

TECH TUESDAY A new computer class with Las Positas College student volunteers will guide you through various programs, applications and answer computer questions. Class is from 10-11:30 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost \$5 resident, \$6 non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

TRANSCRIBING FOR YOU Transcribing for You has volunteers that will transcribe and print your letters to be sent. The service is located at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$1.50. Call 556-4511 for an appointment or email seniorctr@ci.dublin.us

Spiritual

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY The Gospel of Luke will be the topic of study for the CBS Women's Class, for women of all ages and children up to 5 years old. Classes are held every Thursday from 9:30-11:30

a.m. at Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Dr. Call 399-5072 or visit www.communitybiblestudy.org.

MEDITATION STUDY GROUP Practice new meditation methods, based on teachings of Shinzen Young, using audio, video and handouts from 7:15-8:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at Tri-Valley Unity's gathering place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. Contact Gayle at gstaehle@comcast.net.

NEW CHURCH ROCK BIBLE CHURCH Been meaning to find a casual, compelling, community church but Sundays are your day to sleep in? Pastor Scott Berglin and his wife Julie, longtime Pleasanton residents, are offering service from 5-6 p.m. at Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Ct. He has 20 years ministry experience committed to scripture. Call 519-3169 or visit www.rockbiblechurch.com.

TRI-VALLEY UNITY CHURCH CLASSES The Tri-Valley Unity Church will offer class for children, ages 1-10, during church service, 10-11:15 a.m. It also offers ongoing adult classes and small groups. All are welcome. Location of church is 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

WEEKLY LDS BIBLE STUDY Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hosts a weekly bible study from 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the church, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. Refreshments served. For information, call 305-9468.

Sports

PHASE 1 GROUP RIDE This easy-paced road ride is ideal for new riders, riders coming back from time off, or those wanting a more social/learning environment. Meets at 10 a.m. Saturdays to go 20-35 miles, with a monthly ride of 40 miles. Re-groups every 10 miles and one longer stop. Call 485-3218 or visit cyclepath.com.

Support Groups

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP The American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Support group meets from 7:30-9 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at LifeStyleRx, 1111 East Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Call 833-2784 or visit www.valleycare.com. 7:30-9 p.m. Free

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem-solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month, and from 7-9 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month, at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.

CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP Overwhelmed by clutter? Learn how to deal with it by attending this support group, which meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday at St. Mary & St. John Coptic

Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador Dr., Rm. 7. Call 200-1943 or visit www.clutterless.org.

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR SUPPORT GROUP If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about this common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us from 10 a.m.-noon on the third Saturday of each month, in the Blackhawk A and B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Rd. Call 487-5706 or e-mail galexplor@comcast.net.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP Formed in 2003 this support group's mission is to provide support and comfort to the families of Pleasanton residents whose loved ones are deployed in the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. This group has monthly meetings and other events such as the upcoming Dec. 4 Christmas/Holiday "pack out" of comfort and care items to be sent to deployed members of the armed forces. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where these personnel have streamers displayed with their name, rank and branch of service. Contact Chairwoman Pat Frizzell at PleasantonMilitaryFamilies@gmail.com or Chris Miller at millercj3@gmail.com.

Volunteering

BLOOD DONATION CENTER Learn about ways to greet, inform and thank our community's blood donors from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13 at Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave. Advance sign-up required. Call 510-594-5165 or email blackstone@usa.redcross.org.

BLOOD DRIVE American Red Cross mobile blood drive from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26 at Safeway, Employee Fitness Facility, 5858 Stoneridge Mall Rd. Call 738-1365 to schedule an appointment.

SENIOR SUPPORT PROGRAM NEEDS DRIVERS Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for volunteer drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. This program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle, carry automobile liability insurance, and have a clean DMV record. Contact Jennifer Cullen for more information at 931-5387 or e-mail ja.cullen@yahoo.com.

TV30

TRI-VALLEY SPORTS FINAL Back for its sixth season of covering team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley, Ian Bartholomew and George "Dr B" Baljevich will present commentary and footage covering this season of football and girl's volleyball. The show will air at 3:30, 7 and 10 p.m. Monday-Friday, and is available via Video on Demand at www.tri-valleytv.org.



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 five 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 five 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 462-1755 or visit www.axishealth.org.

■ **Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center at ValleyCare:** The ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, established in 1991, offers free access to easy to understand, up-to-date health and medical information. Open to the public, the library is located in the ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270, Pleasanton. The center is named for Ryan Comer, a star baseball player at Amador Valley High School who died of a rare form of pediatric cancer known as rhabdomyosarcoma in 1991 at age 17.

■ **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 area at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton, Holy Cross Lutheran and Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Livermore, and CrossWinds Church in Dublin. Visit www.openheartkitchen.org or call 580-1616.

■ **Valley Humane Society:** This nonprofit group's mission is to teach responsible pet ownership. It assists in rescuing and placing abandoned or injured animals and operates an adoption center on Nevada Street in Pleasanton. It does not euthanize unless health problems dictate. Call 426-8656.

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Please make checks payable to **Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund**

Enclose this coupon and send to: **The Holiday Fund, Pleasanton Weekly**
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The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 206, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its website: www.tvcfoundation.org. The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2010, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.



Thank you to our Holiday Fund donors

Since the launch of the 2010 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 390 donors have contributed \$71,358 to the fund. Forty eight anonymous donors have given \$17,325 of that total.

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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 eighth 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.



DANELLE TOWNSEND

You're never too young to volunteer

Kids find that helping others is its own reward



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Lucy Sigman (left) and Dania Espinosa, second-graders at Lydiksen Elementary where they are members of Club 40, wait to give goodie bags made by the club to Shepherd's Gate for children in its transitional housing. Top: Steve McRee, director of Shepherd's Gate, gratefully accepts donations from members of Club 40 at Lydiksen Elementary.

BY KATIE LYNES

During the holiday season, many kids start telling their parents what gifts they want. But others look beyond their own interests to do something charitable, knowing that not everyone in the world is as fortunate as they are, and it's not that hard for a kid to volunteer to do something worthwhile.

Everywhere people turn they are encouraged to donate or volunteer, such as at the cash registers at Safeway where clerks ask for a donation to support various causes. Also, schools inspire kids to help out.

In Deborah Evans' Teens and Families class at Pleasanton Middle School, the students decided that they would collect non-perishable food to donate to Open Heart Kitchen in time for the holidays. Evans encouraged her students to buy canned foods the next time they went to the grocery store and to bring them into class. Not only would these donations help the Open Heart Kitchen, but the students would feel good about their generous actions.

In addition, at Pleasanton Middle School a few of the after-school clubs promote volunteering. California Junior Scholarship Federation put on a holiday luncheon for Pleasanton seniors this week. A lot of hard work went into planning the luncheon, but all the students have fun in the process and know that the seniors appreciate their efforts.

Another after-school club, known as U Club 40, has its members volunteer with the residents at Parkview Assisted Living Center every few months by visiting them.

They usually talk to them, watch a movie, or entertain them in some other way.

Schools also promote being charitable through undertakings such as Service Learning projects where students learn about a specific issue and try to improve it by donating, volunteering, educating others about it, raising money, and more. For example, some students chose to collect gifts for children at Shepherd's Gate in Livermore, which provides housing for battered women and their offspring.

Julia Green, a sixth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School, loves to volunteer because it makes her feel good.

"I like to volunteer because I like knowing other people are getting the same advantages as I am," she said. "We get so much and others have so little."

Her favorite time to volunteer is around the holiday season. Last year, Julia with her sister Jenna and their mom served meals at a nearby soup kitchen on Thanksgiving Day because they knew that they were fortunate enough to celebrate on whatever day they chose with a loving family, while those they served were less fortunate. The Greens celebrated their own Thanksgiving the next day.

Most of the time Julia volunteers on the weekends with her group at Crosswinds Church, usually collecting canned goods and clothing, then bringing the items into San Francisco to give to the homeless.

Though Julia finds it enjoyable and gratifying to spend time volunteering, she does give up family time in order to do it. She is glad that her family supports her, especially during the holiday season. Julia said her family realizes that volunteering motivates her to work hard and makes her feel accomplished, knowing that she can help others even though she is just a kid.

Currently, Julie is trying to start her own business to help others, making jewelry to sell on the Internet and give the proceeds to a nonprofit organization yet to be decided. Julia is passionate about children in Africa who are kept as slaves and know she will choose a charity that addresses this issue.

"These kids have nothing when we have everything we need," she said.

Jackie Senechal, an eighth-grader, has been volunteering with her church group at Trinity Lutheran Church for awhile. She presently is helping out with the church's Operation Christmas Drive, collecting presents for people in need in many places, including Africa. With her church, Jackie also participates in beach and trail cleanup days and helps out at the food bank.

"I also volunteer with the church every now and then if something else pops up that I am interested in," said Jackie. She always enjoys volunteering, but says it's even more fun when she's joined by her friends and family.

In the future, Jackie sees herself doing more volunteer work, perhaps at the food bank. She also wants to go on her church's mission trip in the summer. Her family encourages her because they like that she is being helpful and taking part in a great activity.

"Volunteering is fun in most cases, and in others I do it because it's the nice thing to do," Jackie said.

Kids can volunteer in many ways to help with issues that they feel strongly about, giving their time and also donating or raising money. Their efforts go a long ways and help them to become giving and compassionate people at a young age.

Typically adults suggest to children that if they want to make a difference they should choose just one charity and support that charity exclusively because it shows their commitment. Plus it makes more of an impact to focus on just one organization, as opposed to spreading themselves too thin.

There are many groups to choose from, so the decision can be difficult. Right in Pleasanton, for example, Valley Humane Society accepts young volunteers to socialize and care for homeless pets until they are adopted. Other places to volunteer are Parkview Assisted Living Center and Open Heart Kitchen.

Volunteering makes a difference and only takes a little bit of time and effort. It teaches kids the valuable lessons of generosity and not caring whether they get something in return. They feel it is the right thing to do for those less fortunate and that in itself is enough of a reason to volunteer.

—Katie Lyness is a youth correspondent for the Pleasanton Weekly. She is an eighth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School.



Katie Lyness

OF NOTE



COURTESY LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

The Las Positas College Talk Hawks win awards at a statewide forensics tournament with (back, l-r) Salim Razawi, Brandon Rogers, Adam Neylan, Jenella Presley, Lanea Warren, (front) Katie Johnson, Jordan Adelman, Director of Forensics Janet Brehe Johnson and Megan Sinclair.

Talk Hawks come out on top

Las Positas College student Adam Neylan won First Place in Open Programmed Oral Interpretation at a recent forensics competition among colleges including Stanford University, Pepperdine University, and UCLA.

"This was the toughest competition of the season," said Director

of Forensics Janet Brehe Johnson. "Thirty-seven colleges, most of which are four-year colleges and universities, competed in the Robert Barbera Invitational Tournament at CSU Northridge on Nov. 20-21."

Following is a list of the individual award-winners:

■ Katie Johnson: Finalist Open Duo Interpretation and Finalist Open Poetry Interpretation

■ Adam Neylan: First Place Open Programmed Oral Interpretation and Finalist Open Programmed Oral Interpretation

■ Salim Rawazi: Finalist Open Poetry Interpretation

■ Brandon Rogers: Finalist Open Duo Interpretation

■ Lanea Warren: Finalist Open Prose Interpretation and Finalist Open Informative Speaking

Rotary honors Student of Month



Sarah Williams, shows with a prosthetic hand she helps make, thanks Pleasanton Rotary members for their support.

Pleasanton Rotary Club recently honored Sarah Williams from Amador Valley High as its Student of the Month. Williams, a recent transfer from Valley Christian, has a 3.60 grade point average and she also started Creative Kindness, which makes blankets for foster care children. She started out with a goal of 100 blankets but has made 6,000. She is also involved in making prosthetic lands for land mine victims, and she thanked local Rotary Clubs for their support.



Our readers want to look, feel and be their very best.

Market your business to 32,000 homes in Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville, Diablo, Pleasanton and San Ramon. Call your ad representative today to reserve your space in next month's "Staying Healthy."

Pleasanton Weekly
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VIEWS
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'Benchmark' for Steve Taylor

Floor Coverings International (FCI), North America's oldest and largest shop-at-home flooring retailer, announced recently that Pleasanton resident Steve Taylor, owner of FCI servicing Alameda County, is winner of the new Benchmark Award. Taylor was chosen due to his outstanding success and commitment to the FCI brand, said the organizers, after a contest was held among FCI's 82 franchise owners throughout the U.S. and Canada based on top line revenue, profit and outstanding customer experience.

In addition to the award, Taylor hosted FCI's quarterly Business Review Session, a two-day, peer-driven conference for more than 20 franchise owners.

"I'm so grateful to be recognized for this award," said Taylor. "In a time when many businesses are struggling, we have been fortunate enough to maintain success and continue offering superb flooring services for residents throughout the East Bay."

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Friday, December 24 - 5PM

Family Candlelight Services - Friday December 24 at 7:30PM & 9:00PM

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115 Announcements

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155 Pets

Who Adopted Cha Cha & Grayson?
 CHA CHA and GRAYSON were 2 out-
 side cats I cared for last year who I
 loved, brought to Valley Humane &
 were adopted- Yay!! I'd just like to
 hear from whoever adopted them:
 how're they doing, what kind of
 housecats they have become? Please
 email me if you have info about
 these 2 kitties. Thank you, Alice
 (alice@radiancemagazine.com)



201 Autos/Trucks/Parts



Cadillac 2007 CTS
 20X8 crave alloy No. 10 rims with
 245/35R20 nexen tires with less than
 500 miles wear

Porsche 2004 Cayenne Turbo - \$29,500

202 Vehicles Wanted

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 3231 Vineyard Ave, Current

215 Collectibles & Antiques

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 In Proof Sets For A Total Of 109 Coins,
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Royal Doulton figurine - \$25

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235 Wanted to Buy

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240 Furnishings/Household items

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 Entertainment Cabinet - Free

MIKASA PHOTO FRAME 5X7 - \$35

New Jukebox Shaped Ent Ctr - \$60

245 Miscellaneous

2011 Entertainment Coupon Books -
 \$30

Lionel Train Set - Complete - \$225

Non-stick stove top grill - \$20

RED WORMS FOR COMPOSTING - \$25



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435 Integrative Medicine

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Pilates Training



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PET OF THE WEEK

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 some, long haired fel-
 low desperate for a
 home. He came to us
 from Fairmont Animal
 Shelter back in May.
 Licorice is looking for
 his own window where he can sit all day without 30 other
 cats around to pester him! Once in a home he would
 surely be cool and collected but he never adjusted to the
 shelter situation. If you have an extra window sill and an
 open mind and heart, call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org
 to learn more. Valley Humane Society is located
 at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton and is open 11 a.m.-5
 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.



MELISSA BONNEL

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 stories and hot
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express
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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 8
Lowest sale reported: \$230,000
Highest sale reported: \$600,000
Average sales reported: \$424,750

Livermore

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$84,000
Highest sale reported: \$665,000
Average sales reported: \$390,111

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 8
Lowest sale reported: \$315,000
Highest sale reported: \$713,000
Average sales reported: \$559,750

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$155,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,205,000
Average sales reported: \$658,579

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during November 2010

Dublin

8505 Ardmore Place G. Gerhard to M. Mondon for \$450,000
5501 De Marcus Boulevard #633 N. Qasimi to T. Shalizi for \$230,000
8395 Deervale Road Federal National Mortgage to A. Fung for \$340,000
5625 Idlewood Street R. & D. Gammon to B. Sediqi for \$595,000
7325 Lone Court B. Victoria to J. Pritchett for \$450,000
11830 Kilcullin Court Dover Investments to J. Lee for \$326,000
4601 Newhaven Street D. & C. Redmon to A. Savariapichai for \$600,000
10784 Sornoway Lane Charles Schwab Bank to A. & D. Kokin for \$407,000

Livermore

705 Austen Way J. & S. Krueger to C. & J. Drzewiecki for \$610,000
4964 Candy Court Livermore Valley Investments to A. & D. Jensen for \$508,000
1486 Chapparal Way G. & R. Romero to G. & D. Arellano-Womack for \$450,000
384 Garden Common Nomura Asset Trust to C. Forney for \$213,000
1978 Hawk Street IRBS Corporation to J. Berg for \$430,000
1349 Hillcrest Avenue Boyd Trust to A. Bolduc for \$345,000
1557 Hollyhock Street A. Polonsky to S. Slupesky for \$330,000
425 Mulqueeney Street Moulton Trust to N. & P. Rodriguez for \$425,000
1085 Murrieta Boulevard #120 Carrington Mortgage to DADB Inc. for \$84,000
1085 Murrieta Boulevard #131 J. & N. Wang to J. Li for \$98,000
597 North L Street D. & S. Austin to J. Shaikh for \$320,000
524 Oriole Avenue Wells Fargo Bank to N. Thorp for \$340,000
4502 Phyllis Court Simeon Trust to R. & S. Dhesikan for \$540,000
515 Rose Street R. & C. Strobe to L. Baer for \$379,000
1585 Roselli Drive Dellis Trust to G. & T. Brown for \$435,000
2239 Sherry Court Rooney-Fowler Trust to Bankhead Trust for \$665,000
675 South H Street E. & B. Cole to R. Hawley for \$445,000
2342 Westminster Way E. & E. Landin to D. Ward for \$405,000

Pleasanton

3616 Annis Circle J. Tong to V. Sathyaseelan for \$620,000
5483 Black Avenue #1 J. Klein to J. Zhong for \$315,000
7126 Corte Balboa J. & T. Segura to M. & P. Weeks for \$711,000
4063 Fallwood Court J. & K. McCaslin to J. Yin for \$582,000
4265 Garibaldi Place C. Kim to Lin Trust for \$575,000
562 Grapevine Drive C. & K. Thomsen to L. Gunabalasingam for \$577,000
706 Neal Street J. Parlett to D. Lyons for \$713,000
2825 Whitney Drive Nelson Trust to S. & S. Sengupta for \$385,000

San Ramon

143 Arapaho Circle L. Libician-Welch to A. Ko for \$780,000
2624 Basswood Drive C. & A. Lewandowski to K. Murray for \$549,000
9545 Belle Meade Drive Walters Trust to J. Wong for \$485,000
2826 Bethany Road A. Singh to W. Wang for \$925,000
207 Compton Circle #A Litton Loan Servicing to K. Huang for \$203,000
5260 East Lakeshore Drive American Trust to L. & R. Gandt for \$545,000
386 Eastridge Drive R. & J. Delacuadra to K. Condeff for \$249,000
7063 Emerson Lane M. & S. Yohana to C. Do for \$1,030,000
2529 Harlow Lane S. & S. Aramandla to B. & A. Kantheti for \$838,000
332 Jade Court A. Laursen to J. & N. Masiello for \$624,000
216 Latera Court K. Chan to S. Subbian for \$745,000
3379 Loreto Drive IMB Reo Limited to C. Duong for \$500,000
2619 Marsh Drive J. & T. Mitchell to L. Monareng for \$450,000
415 Melrose Court A. & M. Laurlund to A. & R. Aggarwal for \$1,205,000
2708 Moet Lane B. & M. Bunker to M. Kakulavaram for \$689,000
3210 Montevideo Drive I. & M. Babu to C. Babu for \$800,000
2101 Mornington Lane C. Campbell to A. & H. Mangla for \$785,000
215 Reflections Drive #13 V. Lam to Avram Trust for \$155,000
2287 Rosemount Lane R. Quiocho to K. & T. Gaddipati for \$956,000

Source: California REsource

The Fabulous Properties Team
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Happy holidays from
 The Fabulous Properties Team

As the end of the year draws near, we count our blessings and we thank you for your support. We wish you and your family the best of holiday happiness and success in the New Year!



Call us if you are thinking about moving.
 NOW is the time to prepare for the Spring market.



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Merry Christmas from
 Northern California Brokers



Phyllis
 Catania



Gerald Mace
 Kent Smith



Brian
 Wright



Leanna
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David
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Deborah
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Bob
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SEASONS GREETINGS



Charles, Delores, Danica, Mariah, Cieara

Happy Holidays to All
from our home to yours.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing Everyone a Joyous Holiday Season
and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2011.



7914 PARAGON CIRCLE
SOLD FOR \$1,425,000

9663 CROSBY DR, PLEASANTON
THE PRESERVE \$1,898,000

6645 AMBER LN, PLEASANTON
CARRIAGE GARDENS \$1,398,000

DOWNTOWN, PLEASANTON
NOT ON THE MLS CALL FOR PRICE.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

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-Sellers of Paragon Circle



SELLER REPRESENTED BY PHYLLIS AND PETER
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5 Bd 4(2) BA • 5,200+/- SQ.FT., 0.62+/- ACRES
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