

Pleasanton Weekly

Holiday Fund helps those who need it most » 21



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Remembering our city of roses

Pleasanton once was known as a top rose-growing city in America, thanks to Jackson & Perkins (now bankrupt), which grew and developed roses here. Less known is the work of the DeVor family, today represented by Mary DeVor Dolan and her husband John. Mary's grandfather and father worked for Jackson & Perkins, and then opened the DeVor nurseries, first in Livermore and later along Mohr Road on land they purchased from the Bush family long before Ponderosa built its Ironwood development there.

Mary met John Dolan at the University of Nevada. He left his job as deputy budget director for the state and the two moved back to Pleasanton, where Mary was born in 1943. Now 70, John Dolan also was a rose aficionado, and eventually opened Dolan International, headquartered here but with rose plant propagation farms in Bakersfield and through agents in Ecuador and Colombia. Those agents, Dean Rule and Luis Mariano Botero, are now assuming much of the business and worldwide customers this month as Dolan International closes its Pleasanton business.

Dolan's name is synonymous with many of the top rose varieties grown in the U.S. and Latin America. A trailblazer, he worked tirelessly to open up American-bred roses to the rest of the world through his insight, knowledge and hands-on experience. He traveled the world joining and teaching other rose growers to build the business, and introducing award-winning varieties that helped make roses a global flower in demand. He was the force behind the 30 million plants of "Classy" and more than 30 million plants of the #1 variety in Eastern Europe, "Forever Young."

In September, John Dolan was honored with the prestigious gold medal award by the Society of Florists at a convention in Palm Springs. He thanked the owners and breeders he worked with for over 38 years in the cut rose business, including the important varieties they bred, such as Jack Frost, Forever Yours, Junior Bridesmaid, Coed, Sassy, Fondly, Excitement and Royalty/Vega.

Anyone who has had the fortune to spend an hour with John Dolan quickly realizes the depth of his expertise includes far more than production numbers and variety selections. He is well-versed on politics,



John Dolan at Dean's Cafe last week.

golf, fiscal analysis, soccer and history. His dedication to the industry is obvious in the years he has spent in various offices, including the board of governors of Plant Producers, treasurer of Roses Inc., long time director of The Hill Memorial Fund, and more than 15 years as the vice president and president of the International Rose Breeders Association. With help from other rose growers, he was successful in persuading both Colombia and Ecuador, which are fertile countries for top-of-the-line rose growing, to pass patent laws for rose varieties. Although competitive with his own roses, he is also respected for never hesitating to recommend a competitor's variety if it out-performed one of his own.

Both Mary and John Dolan are also known for their patience. Mary says it takes up to 10 years after a new variety seed is germinated before the successive generations can be screened and tested and finally made commercially available. Plus, the process doesn't always work or the final result is a rose not worth patenting.

Mary points out that the rose business has rapidly changed with online buying making international purchases as easy as shopping at the local flower stores once was. But then she says the city she and John came back to 33 years ago has also changed. "I remember when we first drove into town, John saw a population sign for Pleasanton that read 3,000. It was also known as the small town with the most bars. There are a lot more people living here now, including where we used to grow roses, but fewer bars, which is just fine with us." ■

About the Cover

Joyce and Bob Shapiro have been named the Pleasanton Weekly's "Couple of the Year" for 2011, joining the select group of individuals and couples who have earned the title since we started recognizing community leaders in 2001. They may be the most award-winning individuals to share the recognition. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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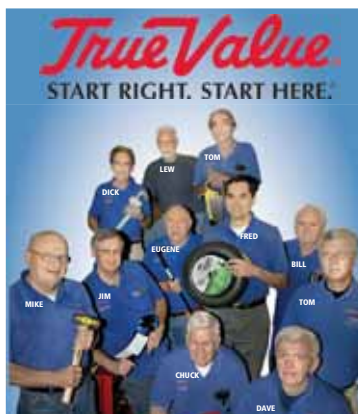
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Treating and Beating Migraines

Migraine headaches affect over 35 million men, women and children in the United States alone and that number is increasing as time goes on. Nearly one in four households includes someone with migraines. Approximately 18% of American women and 6% of men suffer from migraine. What is not well known is that approximately 10% of school aged children also suffer from migraine.

Non-migraine sufferers do not realize how seriously painful and debilitating a migraine headache can be. More than 90% of migraine patients are unable to work or function normally during an attack. Every 10 seconds, someone in the United States goes to an emergency room with a headache or migraine. Migraine ranks in the top 20 of the world's most disabling medical illnesses.

Traditional medical treatments include drugs such as Imitrex, Maxalt, Cafergot, Fiorinal and Fioricet can help combat a migraine once it has begun, however these medications do not prevent migraines or even address the cause of the headache. Additionally, medications such as beta blockers, calcium channel blockers, antidepressants and anticonvulsants have not produced good results and in far too many cases produce significant unwanted side effects.

Research in the fields of alternative medicine has discovered that most headaches, including migraine are caused by one or a combination of the following:

- Abnormal pressure on the nerves and meninges at the base of the skull
- Allergies and sensitivities to certain foods as well as stimuli such as light, sound and barometric pressure that serve as a major trigger for migraines.
- Toxicity of the liver and kidneys.

Fortunately, recent technologies have been developed that can address and correct all three of the above migraine triggers. What is even more promising to the migraine sufferer is that these treatments do NOT involve the use of harmful drugs.

For a limited time, James Stalker, DC, located by Stoneridge Mall is offering a complete migraine evaluation that includes an in-depth consultation about your headaches, a unique, painless pressure point relief test that has been shown to shut down a headache in just minutes, a comprehensive food allergy evaluation to determine which, if any of the foods you are eating may be triggering your headaches and a customized treatment plan specifically for your own unique condition designed to correct the root cause of your headaches.

The normal fee for this evaluation is \$125, but for a limited time Dr Stalker is offering the entire exam for only \$25 to those who would like to reduce or eliminate their migraines. A limited number of appointments are available, so call 925-243-7168 today for your appointment.

For more information please visit www.nrc.md and also www.allergyreliefcenters.com



Pleasanton Affordable Housing Opportunity

The Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center (TVHOC) is now accepting applications from interested households for two homeownership opportunities offered through the Pleasanton Homeownership Assistance Program. Current properties include a 2BR townhome offered at \$239,970 and a 3BR duet home offered at \$278,350. Buyers must enter into a resale restriction agreement with the City which establishes residency and other requirements and restricts the price and process for future resale.

MAXIMUM ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Note: A minimum income is also required based on down payment and debt-to-income ratios.

Household Size	Income Limit
2	\$59,050
3	\$66,450
4	\$73,850
5	\$79,750

Application packets may be obtained at the TVHOC offices, 141 N. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA (tel. 925-373-3130) or online at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/housing (City of Pleasanton web site). All applications must be received at the TVHOC offices, 141 No. Livermore Ave., Livermore, CA, by no later than Thursday, December 29, 2011, 5:00pm. Applications received after this date and time will be filed and processed as needed to identify an eligible homebuyer. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

Please email your questions to info@tvhoc.org

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How do you give back during the holidays?



Patrick O'Neill
Student

My family and I go caroling to people in need and the elderly, and bring them treats like cookies and things.

Stefanie Poe
Account executive

This year we went to a shelter in San Francisco to package food and make soup. Yesterday I went to the firehouse to drop off toys for their Toys for Tots program, and I make it a point to always donate when asked at stores while I'm shopping.



Annette Buck
Nutrition Services

The kids and I always empty out all of our dollar bills and coins and put the money in the Salvation Army buckets. A few years ago we went to Costco and purchased jackets for the children of a local needy family.

Donna Henninger
Nutrition Services

We get a needy family's name through our church. After we buy them clothing, toys and whatever else they might need, we deliver everything as a family.



Jake Davila
Maintenance worker

A few years ago, I needed credits for my civics class. My friend and I helped with a donation center that passed out school supplies and other things for needy kids in the area. It was really fun, and I would love to do it again.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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The winter months are typically a challenging time for blood collection due to busy holiday schedules and inclement weather.

But the need for blood is constant.

The American Red Cross invites you to visit its Pleasanton Blood Donation Center. In addition to collecting whole blood, the center has recently expanded to collect double red cells and platelets—making it a convenient destination for local blood donors of all types.



Every two seconds, someone needs blood. You can do your part to help save a life by donating blood at your local Red Cross. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

Pleasanton Blood Donation Center

5556-B Springdale Avenue - Near the Stoneridge Mall

Donate Whole Blood or Double Red Cells

Monday, Friday and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Donate Platelets

Friday - Monday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.



American Red Cross

DIGEST

Spare the Air Days

Even before the sun set Tuesday, predicted weather conditions and unhealthy air prompted the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to proclaim the season's fifth winter Spare the Air Day for Wednesday, which meant that wood burning, both indoors and outdoors, would be illegal. The alert also bans the burning of manufactured fire logs and other solid fuel. Last week, there were four consecutive Spare the Air days.

The ban was in effect for Pleasanton, the Tri-Valley and the rest of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southern Sonoma and southwestern Solano counties, air district officials said.

About one-third of the harmful soot in the winter air can be attributed to wood smoke from the roughly 1.4 million fireplaces and wood stoves in the Bay Area, according to the district.

Book sale results

The Friends of the Pleasanton Library netted \$16,947 at its September Book Sale, it announced this week, thanking patrons for donated 850 boxes of merchandise and volunteering to organize and run the sale.

Funds from the two annual sales are used to supplement library services and materials, such as shelving, tables, chairs, carts and music programs. The Spring Book Sale will take place March 30-April 1.

Visit friendsofthepleasanton-library.org for the latest news and volunteer opportunities.

Increase in chimney fires

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District reports a sharp increase in home fires caused by fireplaces, chimneys and home heating units. It suggests scheduling annual inspections of fireplaces and chimneys with a licensed contractor and equipping chimneys with approved spark arrestors; never burn trash, paper or holiday wrap in the fireplace because embers can float up the chimney and onto the roof; discard ashes in a closed metal container, fill with water and store outside away from the home; and check whether furnaces are in need of a checkup.

Also, if using a portable heater, keep it three feet from items that can catch on fire and ensure the heater has an automatic turn-off function if it should tip over.

Big bong battle

A tale of two cities:
City of Pleasanton vs. Cigarette City

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Walk into any convenience store, and you'll probably find drug paraphernalia behind the counter in the form of rolling papers and cigar wrappers, more commonly known as "blunt" wrappers.

But a battle is brewing between Cigarette City and Pleasanton officials about bongs, glass pipes ostensibly used for tobacco but more often used to smoke marijuana.

Walid Akbarzadeh owns and runs Cigarette City. He was told last week by Pleasanton police to take bongs off his shelves and to stop selling them.

"They're like, 'No, that's illegal,'" Akbarzadeh said. "Why did it take two years to come out and say it's illegal?"

He said he included in his business license application to Pleasanton that he intended to sell pipes.

When he opened, Akbarzadeh said police officers told him, "Just keep minors out."

"That was their only concern," he said.

He points to city municipal code that specifically allows the sale of drug paraphernalia, as long as it's "in a separate room or enclosure to which minors not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian are excluded."

Akbarzadeh said he's been told all along — up until recently, anyway — that his shop was legal.

Both those things are true, said Larissa Seto, assistant city attorney. But, she said, state health and safety law trumps city codes.

"The provisions in municipal codes have been superceded by the California Health and Safety Code, making trafficking in drug paraphernalia (including both possession and sales) a misdemeanor," Seto said. "Because the city has never had a business seeking to sell drug paraphernalia, the city has never removed these provisions from municipal code."



GLENN WOHLTMANN

The outside of Cigarette City, on First Street, which has brought complaints from parents, neighbors and nearby businesses. Owner Walid Akbarzadeh says he's prepared to compromise with the city on what he's allowed to sell.

She agreed the city's code enforcer did tell Akbarzadeh his shop was legal.

"Our code enforcement officer, when he reviewed municipal code, had the same misconception that had Mr. Akbarzadeh. We corrected

that. ... He's only allowed to operate as a tobacco shop, selling cigarettes, tobacco pipes and the types of things he listed in his business application," Seto said.

See **BONG** on Page 8



PHOTOS BY JEB BING

Christmas cheer, courtesy of Rotary

More than 275 seniors enjoy an early Christmas dinner at the 30th annual holiday event sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pleasanton at the Pleasanton Senior Center on Sunday. Above left, School Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi and community volunteer Joanie Fields help dish out the turkey dinners while, right, Harvest Park student Sophie Nethery serves the dinners, joining her dad Rotarian John Nethery as one of the volunteers at the event. For Rotarians, work shifts started at 7 a.m. and ended late in the afternoon as they greeted, entertained and served seniors, including some in their 90s and a number in wheelchairs or using walkers. Rotarians Don Lewis and drummer Ed Rouquette entertained onstage with favorite Christmas melodies.

Late school break causes problems for some parents

Others agree with timing of break

Parents of Pleasanton school kids will have to wait a little longer than usual to dash off to Grandma's house for Christmas.

The district, unlike others nearby, stuck with its traditional plan of running school until the Friday before Christmas. That means the last day of school before the break is Friday, Dec. 23, albeit a half day. The Pleasanton school district will run its break until Jan. 6, with a weekend following, so kids won't return until Jan. 9.

Bill Faraghan, assistant superintendent of human resources, said the district usually works with Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon Valley school districts to coordinate calendars. He said the Pleasanton district put its calendar together based on the usual agreement that schools would remain in session until the Friday before Christmas. Faraghan said Pleasanton put its calendar together first and learned later that other districts had opted for an earlier break.

Both Dublin and Livermore will be off from Dec. 19 through Jan. 3; San Ramon Valley schools will get off the same day but be off through Jan. 4.

The timing of Pleasanton's break is causing some problems for parents. Julie Nostrand, who wrote a letter to the editor (see pg 15), said she won't get to do much of what's become family

tradition for her kids, who are third- and fourth-graders at Valley View Elementary School.

"All the activities that we do that lead up to Christmas are impacted. For instance, when does everyone get to go and bake cookies with Grandma? We usually use the breaks to go see Christmas lights around the area. That's going to be tough this year," Nostrand said.

She added that her children have been invited to holiday parties from kids in other districts that they either won't be able to attend or will have to leave early because those are school nights.

While she characterized her issue as "trivial," one aspect might not be: the financial impact for families who have to arrange an extra week of child care.

"All the other activities start back up on the first week of January," Nostrand said. "What do you do with your kids that week?"

While many parents are complaining — Trevor Knaggs, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, noted he's received a number of emailed complaints — some see the late break as a good thing.

Tim Totah has first- and third-graders and said the break gives kids more time in school before their extended winter vacation.

See **SCHOOL BREAK** on Page 10



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Public asked to comment on proposed county needs assessment plan

Document available online through Dec. 22

The cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore have completed a draft report for the Eastern Alameda Human Services Needs Assessment, which will soon be available for public review.

The report, assembled by Resource Development Associates, reviews current human services, identifies gaps in services, and addresses opportunities for improving services in the Tri-Valley based upon input elicited through focus groups, human service agency staff and clients, public schools, the recent U.S. Census and others.

Among the human service needs in the Tri-Valley that are included in the document are cultural competency and language barriers,

access to medical care, homelessness, transportation issues, substance abuse, children's needs and daycare, senior needs, the needs of those with disabilities, AIDS awareness, prevention and services, and more.

The report can be reviewed online on the city of Pleasanton website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us from today through Dec. 22. Public comments will be considered for incorporation into the final draft, which will be available in early 2012.

Comments should be directed to Peter Neely at pneely@resourcedevelopment.com or (510) 488-4345 x113.

—Jeb Bing

Lab, Intel move Tri-Valley science fair to Hayward

Retired San Ramon teacher named director of new Alameda County program

By JEB BING

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has announced plans to expand the Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair it has sponsored for the past 15 years and move it to Hayward.

The fair, affiliated with the Intel Corp., has served students in Alameda County and has become a model for fairs in other areas. For years, it has been held at the Robert Livermore Center in Livermore or at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Because of its success, the Intel Corp. decided to take the fair beyond the Tri-Valley, said Linda Lucchetti of the Livermore Lab. The fair has been renamed the Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair (ACSEF), with its first program to be held March 20-22 at Chabot College in Hayward.

While other science fairs in the state have struggled to continue or have declined in participation, the Tri-Valley numbers have steadily grown, making it a hallmark of science education excellence, Lucchetti said.

During the past 15 years, some 6,195 students have participated, an impressive growth from its first year of 125 students in 1997.

Lucchetti said several of the science fair participants have gone on to careers in science, technology, engineering and math fields. At least one is now an employee at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, formerly the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, in Palo Alto.

The new science fair will be run by a board of directors from the community, chaired by retired San Ramon Valley Unified School District science teacher Patti Carothers. It will allow participation by all middle and high-school age students in Alameda County.

Lucchetti said the transition to the new fair will offer an expanded, larger countywide event, including growth opportunities for Tri-Valley students who already participate, and will open doors for new students who have not yet had access to an Intel-affiliated science fair.

With the Lab's help and that of the Intel Corp. and others, the new science fair, which will be affiliated with the California State Science Fair, will provide a level of scientific outreach that has been long missing from Alameda County.

Lucchetti said the new fair pledges to help students gain perspective of the world through science, critical thinking, leadership and creative problem solving. Educators are encouraged to get their students involved in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (S.T.E.M) experience.

For further information and details about how to get involved as a student participant, fair volunteer, judge or to make a donation, visit the ACSEF website at <http://www.acsef.org> or contact Patti Carothers, the fair director, at 426-7879 or by email at alamedacountySEF@gmail.com. ■



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GLENN WOHLTMANN

Cigarette City owner Walid Akbarzadeh looks over paperwork from the city in his store. He has removed bongos and other items the city calls drug paraphernalia from his shelves. He's prepared to go to court to fight the city's claims.

BONG

Continued from Page 5

Akbarzadeh, however, maintains that bongos are not drug paraphernalia until someone uses them for something other than tobacco. He estimated that he'd sold 200 bongos, which he calls glass, since he opened almost two years ago.

He said the city has told him his store has been morphing into a head shop — the kind of place that caters exclusively to drug clientele. Seto agreed.

"His business, I would describe it as 'evolved.' When it first went in it had a lot more of the merchandise that he indicated he'd be selling," Seto said, adding that meant tobacco products. "It has evolved into the selling of drug paraphernalia. Now that the merchandise has changed, a lot of it is listed in California Health and Safety Code as being illegal."

Akbarzadeh, though, said he's been selling bongos since the day the store opened, although he said he added stock and put more of

them on display.

Referring to the visit by the code enforcement officer, Akbarzadeh said he felt like he was being targeted by city officials.

"He comes back two weeks later saying, 'We've got some complaints about your store. We're going to have to see if you're breaking any city codes,'" Akbarzadeh said.

He added he'd even been told by two police officers, whom he identified, that his store was legal, although Seto said, "He hasn't been able to tell us which officers said that."

"He is selling bongos, air-driven pipes, is selling scales and containers that have marijuana leaves all over them and he is selling different kinds of chamber pipes, carburetor pipes," Seto said. "If he were just selling loose-leaf tobacco, the papers to roll tobacco cigarettes — these things are allowed to be sold in tobacco shops. But he is selling scales and small types of Baggies that are listed in the state law as drug paraphernalia."

Seto said the city is hoping for voluntary compliance, but added, "If he's unable to do that, we're going to have to bring an enforcement action."

That could mean a misdemeanor or conviction, although Akbarzadeh has taken every questionable item off the shelves while the fight continues.

Part of the problem is likely to do with complaints. While Seto couldn't say how many the city had received — more than 10, she allowed — she said those complaints have come from all quarters.

"Parents of school-age children, residents in the area and then business owners in the area (all have contacted the city to ask that something be done)," she said.

It probably doesn't help that the store is just a few blocks from Village, the school district's continuation high school. On any given afternoon, students from Village are among those who frequent the store, although Akbarzadeh said he's always careful to ask for identification from even those who have become regulars.

"There's customers we know are 18, but (I say) let me see some ID," he said. "There a lot of 18-, 19-, 20-year olds, they come in here every day, but I still want to see if they have it on them," Akbarzadeh said, explaining that some police officers have stopped his clients with cigarettes and checked their IDs.

Akbarzadeh said there are a lot of things that could be done without targeting his business, which, he said, has brought in \$50,000 in sales tax during the 21 months it's been open.

"If (police are) trying to protect the community, they need to go after drug dealers," he said. "Parents who are worried that this shop is here, talk to your kids, try to tell them about drugs, advise them about the dangers of drugs. If my brother gets drunk, I'm not going to go after shops that sell alcohol."

Akbarzadeh said some police officers have been slandering him, saying that his store sells drugs. He said he's ready to fight the city, either for the right to bring bongos back, or to get compensated for the

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investment he made before the city decided to crack down.

He said that Dublin and Livermore have similar shops; San Ramon has one as well, and others are in operation across Alameda County.

If Akbarzadeh decides to ask for the right to bear bong, state code spells out exactly what kind of evidence would be presented on both sides.

It reads: "In determining whether an object is drug paraphernalia, a court or other authority may consider, in addition to all other logically relevant factors, the following:

- (1) Statements by an owner or by anyone in control of the object concerning its use.
- (2) Instructions, oral or written, provided with the object concerning its use for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into the human body.
- (3) Descriptive materials accompanying the object which explain or depict its use.
- (4) National and local advertising concerning its use.
- (5) The manner in which the object is displayed for sale.
- (6) Whether the owner, or anyone in control of the object, is a legitimate supplier of like or related items to the community, such as a licensed distributor or dealer of tobacco products.
- (7) Expert testimony concerning its use. ■



GLENN WOHLTMANN

A wall holds items that range from ashtrays, top, to cleaners for bongs and other glass items to blunt wrappers to tobacco products.

TAKE US ALONG



Brrrr: Chris, Mabel and Jeremy Lawton catch up on hometown news while visiting the Mendenhall Glacier outside of Juneau, Alaska, on their cruise to Alaska in July. They decided to ignore the headline that said: "Dive right in."

Holiday Fund
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PAGE 22

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Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC, dba Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, has received authorization to accept deposits from the California Department of Social Services.

Lockout protest Saturday

Some local religious leaders are inviting their congregations to come out tomorrow to help support the workers who have been locked out of Castlewood Country Club.

Kristi Laughlin, project director of the East Bay Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, is asking for a show of solidarity with the workers, with food, song and a holiday procession through town, much the same as the event held last year around the same time.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the corner of Main Street and Bernal Avenue.

Workers were locked out of the country club on Feb. 25, 2010, in a dispute over health care costs. Little movement on either side has taken place in months, although the case is set to go before the National Labor Relations Board early next year.

The dispute has led to a number of protests at the club, including a June 23 protest in which 23 people were arrested for blocking Castlewood Drive in what organizers described as an act of civil disobedience. That protest drew close to 100 demonstrators and nearly 50 police officers from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and Pleasanton.

—Glenn Wohltmann



JEFF HORNING

Band shines at NorCal finals

Foothill High School Band and Color Guard perform their award winning field show entitled Terra Nova at the Northern California Band Association Finals hosted by Fairfield High School, where they clinched the top award of Grand Sweepstakes Winner. Honors included first places for Jazz Band and Field Show, seconds for Parade Color Guard, Wind Ensemble, Field Show Color Guard, Field Percussion and Field Woodwinds; thirds in Parade and Field Brass; and fifth in Percussion.

Special recognition went to Director of Bands Joshua Butterfield; Drum Majors Matt Beach, Meredith Horning and Diana Fu; Percussion Captain Gene Lee; Color Guard Captain Courtney Capurro; Brass Captain Rose Doylemason; and Woodwind Captain Nicole Weiderecht

Y classes in session

The Tri-Valley YMCA is holding an assortment of Health and Wellness classes that range from Beginning Sassy Jazz to Bootcamp to candlelight Yoga. Go to trivalley.ymcaeastbay.org to view the list of classes and a schedule.

Although the classes begin this week, participants may join at any time with a prorated costs or may drop in to try a class.

Tri-Valley YMCA Health and Wellness Director Bobby Andraesen asks that anyone interested in a class that is not offered at a good time contact her so the Y can try to adjust its classes to meet the needs of its members. Call 263-4443 or email bandraesen@ymcaeastbay.org.

Cost per class for YMCA members is \$8; nonmembers pay \$13; drop-in classes are \$15. Y membership is \$35 for Dec. 12-June 30.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

SCHOOL BREAK

Continued from Page 5

"They have a good four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I prefer that so they can solidify what they've been learning with a minimum of breaks," Totah said, pointing out that kids had a total of 10 days off for their Thanksgiving break.

"I don't think they need an earlier break. I think it's wonderful planning by the school district," he said.

Knaggs said that even with the later break, high school students will have two weeks to study before final exams.

The district is not alone in having a later break. Sunol Glen, which offers classes for kindergartners through eighth-graders follows the same schedule. The Athenian School in Danville will be off from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3, and Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward will be off from Dec. 23 through Jan. 9. St. Raymond in Dublin will have its vacation from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3.

Nearly all others will have breaks similar to Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon Valley. Valley Christian in Pleasanton, which offers a K-5 program, will have its break from Dec. 16 through Jan. 2, as will St. Philip Lutheran School in Dublin, which has classes for kindergartners through eighth-graders, and Quarry Lane in Pleasanton, which holds classes for K-12.

Other schools with earlier breaks are:

- St. Michael Catholic School in Livermore
- Carden West in Pleasanton
- Our Savior Lutheran School in Livermore
- Carondelet High School in Concord
- De La Salle High School in Concord

—Glenn Wohltmann



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Valley Community Bank names Billen 1st vice president

Longtime resident started career as teller in Pennsylvania

Valley Community Bank has promoted Bernie Billen to First Vice President and Manager of its Pleasanton office, succeeding Brent Chaney, who has retired.

Billen first started in the banking business as a teller in Erie, Pa. In 1985, she moved to Pleasanton and resumed her banking career when she joined the staff of Community First National Bank. After seven years there, she left banking for five years to become membership director at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.

Billen returned to banking in 1997 as branch manager at Bay

View Bank in Pleasanton. When that bank closed, she joined Valley Community Bank as vice president of business development in 2002.

Billen is well known for her involvement in the local business community. She has served on the board of directors of both the Pleasanton Chamber and the Pleasanton Downtown Association. She also

is a member of the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association and the Hometown Holiday Celebration steering committee.

She received the Community Development Award and Carol Bush Volunteer of the Year Award by the Pleasanton Chamber as well as the Arch Angel Award by the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

"Since I have been based at this office for many years and know our customers, I am confident that the transition will be seamless and everything will run as smoothly as it did under Brent's leadership," Billen said. ■



Bernie Billen

Echopass appoints industry veteran to executive VP post

O'Connell also will serve as quality control chief

Pleasanton-based Echopass Corporation, a 2011 market share leader in cloud-based contact centers, has named Brian O'Connell as its Executive Vice President and Chief Quality Officer.

O'Connell has more than 25 years of management consulting experience at Accenture, as well as strategy and operational management for The Hartford Financial Services Group. At Hart-



Brian O'Connell

ford, he was Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, with responsibilities that include the development and implementation of a centralized, enterprise-wide information technology strategy.

He spent 25 years at Accenture, where he was both a managing director and partner. During that time, he also served as managing director of the Life Insurance Industry for North America and Asia and of the Technology Work Group for North America.

He serves on the board of directors of ACORD (Association for Cooperative Operations Research

and Development), a standards organization for the insurance industry, as well as the Boston College Technology Council.

"Echopass has become the market leader in the hosted contact center market through our commitment to large enterprise customers, their customer service requirements, and their success," said Vincent Deschamps, CEO and chairman of Echopass.

"Brian's experience and skills will allow Echopass to develop broad and deep strategies in the delivery of critical customer facing solutions for our clients," he added. ■

New Safeway online site helps holiday planners

Survey shows most women find decor, menus most demanding

A recent survey by Pleasanton-based Safeway Corp. shows that 75% of women find perfecting their holiday decor and meal menus is among the most demanding aspects of holiday entertaining.

To help transform the holidays from ordinary to extraordinary this year, Safeway said it is providing shoppers with a variety of fresh ideas, tips and tricks from top experts, including Debi Lilly, an entertaining and decor expert partnering with Safeway, and Jeff Anderson, executive chef of Safeway's Culinary Kitchens.

Lilly's entertaining ideas, tabl-

escape and home decor tips, her "debi lilly" design collection and floral arrangements are accompanied by Anderson's favorite holiday recipes at Safeway's new Holiday Inspirations site. The online site also illustrates ways shoppers can save in its two Pleasanton stores.

Also available by download from iTunes is a proprietary Safeway Chef Assistant mobile application to help hosts save time and shine during the holiday season, Anderson said.

"We listened to our customers and set out to solve their chal-

lenges during this festive season by providing them with tips and recipes to make holiday entertaining easy, affordable and fun," said Mike Minasi, president of marketing at Safeway.

"Our survey results showed us that there's an opportunity to build broader awareness of all that Safeway has to offer to alleviate seasonal stress," he added. "With our new Holiday Inspirations website and the Chef Assistant mobile application, Safeway provides inspiring solutions to help with holiday menus and events, big and small." ■

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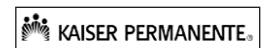
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Photos clockwise from right show Joyce and Bob Shapiro's current Christmas card that features their well-known gourmet cooking and wine connoisseur skills; the two outside the home of Seghesio winery CEO Peter Seghesio; Mayor Jennifer Hosterman with Bob and Joyce Shapiro and two of their grandchildren (l. to r.) Sierra Wong, 5, and Grace Shapiro, 5; the Shapiros with their home-made "I love Pleasanton" sign at a recent Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce event at Barone's restaurant's outdoor garden. Inset at far right shows the Shapiros serving dinners to seniors at the Rotary Club of Pleasanton's Christmas dinner.



GINA PIPER



SAUL BROMBERGER.





HARVEY KAMENY



BILL CODY

The Shapiros: Our COUPLE OF THE YEAR

BY JEB BING



JEB BING

Joyce and Bob Shapiro have been named the Pleasanton Weekly's "Couple of the Year" for 2011, joining the select group of individuals and couples who have earned the title during the 11 years the Weekly has recognized community leaders since 2001.

The Shapiros may be the most award-winning individuals to share the recognition. Both have volunteered their services and served on key community boards for many years, with Joyce going back to the 1970s when she owned a building and operated a business in downtown Pleasanton, and Bob to 1999 after he married Joyce and moved here.

Just this year, they received four major awards, including the Mayor's Award "for demonstrating a generous concern for others and a spirit of service dedicated to the betterment of the Pleasanton community." Earlier in the year, they were honored with the Martin Luther King Jr. Business Legacy Award, the Community of Character Foundation award and the Local Hero award presented by state Assemblyman Bob Wieckowski (D-20th).

Both served as fundraisers for the Pleasanton Firehouse Theater, the Las Positas College Foundation and the Sandra K Wing Healing Foundation. In fact, fundraising and support for charities and nonprofits often take place at their home on Kottinger Drive, a spacious single story residence that Joyce first moved into in 1966. It was there she delivered her first child, a daughter Robin, with her first husband Gerald (Jerry) Getty, who died of a heart ailment in 1984.

Joyce met Bob in 1991. They married in 1994 and Joyce moved to Westchester County, N.Y., where he was a corporate executive with Prodigy. The move came after Pleasanton's three-day centennial celebration, which she chaired.

The newlyweds moved to Michigan a year later when Bob took a new job, and then back to Pleasanton and the Kottinger Drive home when Bob joined a dot.com firm. When that business closed in the height of the dot.com bust, he obtained a real estate license and joined Keller Williams. He built the small local office into a major area-wide real estate firm, leaving the agency as general manager and its chief executive after nine years of service.

Joyce Shapiro has been a recognized business and community leader in Pleasanton for the last four decades, and is continuing now in the fifth. Following in the footsteps of her parents, the late Ett and Ray Young, who lived in Castlewood and owned properties on Main Street, she joined her sister in starting the Gingham Clinic at Neal and Main. That's when she first joined the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, launching a 40-year involvement in business and civic interests that continues today.

She began the organization now known as the Pleasanton Downtown Association where she served as its first president in 1979 and again in 1981. She was president of the Chamber in 1978. During that time, she was also appointed to the Pleasanton Planning Commission, serving through 1985. Active in the California Down-

town Association, she was its statewide president in 1982 and also president of the Junior Women's Club.

One of her early awards came when she was voted the best overall chief executive officer at the Valley Volunteer CEO dinner in 1993. Returning to Pleasanton with Bob from New York and Michigan in 1999, Joyce picked up where she left off as a community volunteer. She compiled the Pleasanton 2000 fact book, which was also printed in Braille, and at the same time was a founding board member of the Tri-Valley Senior Support Program. In 2003, she received the Chamber's Carol Bush Award for Volunteerism, and was honored the following year with the PDA's President's Award as its most valuable volunteer.

A graduate of the 2004-05 Pleasanton Leadership Program, which is sponsored by the Chamber and city of Pleasanton, she was asked to become its program manager, a volunteer position that she has held for the last six years. Bob also is a graduate of the prestigious program.

Since rebuilding their home on Kottinger Drive in 1999, they've made it their showplace for the neighborhood and also their center for entertaining hundreds of civic, city and business leaders over the years. It was featured in a Home & Garden section of the Pleasanton Weekly.

Joyce also is a master chef who "loves to cook and always has." Bob is a wine enthusiast, a connoisseur, "but not a sommelier," he insists. Together, they're the ultimate party and dinner hosts, and friends crave invitations to events at the Shapiros. These include, among many, the winning bidders of Las Positas College's twice-a-year fundraisers which award the highest donors an evening at Joyce and Bob's home. That no doubt explains why the college foundation raised a record amount in contributions earlier this year.

Also enjoying the Shapiros hospitality over the coming holidays will be their family. That will include Bob Shapiro's son Scott Shapiro, his wife Shannon, and their daughter Gracie, who live in Oakland, where Scott is a senior advertising executive for Disney and the ABC group.

Joyce's two children in what the couple calls their melded family also will be there. They are Rod Getty and his wife Cathy, and their two children Taylor and Megan; and Robin Wong and her husband James, and their daughter Sierra. Rod, a civil engineer, is vice president of an engineering firm. Robin has been a physical therapist at ValleyCare Health System for 17 years. ■

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY



JEB BING

Just weeks away from the wrecking ball, this 1908 bungalow on Old Stanley Boulevard wins a reprieve. It'll be moved and restored.

Houses, houses, houses

Housing issues continue to dominate the Planning Commission and City Council agendas as we close out 2011, but sometimes a simple one-on-one chat between a developer and a community activist can bring results that make us all proud. Such is the case with the approval Donato Builders received in a hard-fought development petition to build 13 affordable cluster homes on old Stanley Boulevard (between Main and First streets) that also involved tearing down a 1908 bungalow on the half-acre site at 4189 Old Stanley Blvd. Councilman Matt Sullivan and Linda Garbarino of the Pleasanton Heritage Association opposed the measure because, they said, there just aren't many 100 year old houses left in the city and this one should be preserved.

In a spirit of cooperation not often seen when preservationists and developers clash, Donato's Tom Martin and Garbarino met again after the council's vote favoring the demolition and agreed that sometimes old things are worth saving. It's not clear how it will happen or who will provide the land, but Martin and his firm will move the house to another site early next year before starting construction on the new homes. Councilman Jerry Thorne, who had supported tearing the house down, told Martin and Garbarino that they have his promise — and no doubt Sullivan's — to help find a place for one of the city's oldest homes.

There was more good news for Ponderosa Homes, which also won planning and City Council approval to build 31 homes on a 19.5 acre site along Trenery Drive and Martin Avenue. That's four more than originally allowed for the site, but these homes will be much smaller and finally will be built as Ponderosa sees the local housing market improving.

Not so happy, though, are neighbors next to a house at 205 Neal St., where Realtor Dave Cunningham and Architect Charles Huff want to add more space on the first and second floors. Their first plan also lacked appeal for the Planning Commission because of what planners called a "boxy" look. So the two came back with a more stylish design and less intrusive side yard that won the commission's OK, but still didn't please the neighbors, who have now appealed the decision. Cunningham and Huff will now have to make their case all over again to the City Council on Jan. 10. ■



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GUEST OPINION

By MATT SULLIVAN

Vice Mayor is about democracy — or the lack of it

Readers of the Pleasanton Weekly may wonder why the selection of Vice Mayor generates so much excitement and probably think “why doesn’t the City Council grow up and take care of business?” As with many things in politics there is much more to the story.

As is true in our national and state politics, corporate and other special interests have flooded Pleasanton

elections with campaign contributions in recent years, and as a result, they pretty much have their way at City Hall. Locally, this is manifested by business PACs, developers and land speculators, so-called Independent Expenditures and other special interests. To think of this in terms of the current “Occupy” parlance, they are the 1%, while you — citizens and residents — are the 99% who have been left out in the cold.

The Council majority of Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne has been in lockstep these past five years and has consistently voted in support of these special interests. Councilmember Cindy McGovern and I are usually in the minority with a different

vision for our city. We have a long history of fighting for the citizens and residents who have been shut out of the process and who have little or no influence at City Hall. The Vice Mayor position is more than ceremonial and allows participation on important regional and state policy-setting boards. The fact that McGovern and I have served only one year out of eight as Vice Mayor effectively disenfranchises this constituency from the higher levels of government decision making. This monopoly on power by the Council majority and these special interests while shutting out the larger community is exactly the point.



Matt Sullivan

Now, Pleasanton is a wonderful

city — great parks and amenities, safe streets, good schools and a great place to live, work and play. It has remained that way only because of committed and active residents who refuse to accept government that is owned and operated by moneyed interests. In recent years we have seen voter referendums and initiatives — or the threat of the same — to prevent destructive hillside development, stop big box retail that would exacerbate traffic problems and decimate our locally owned stores, to plan high density housing in a way that is acceptable to the community, and to force a discussion on public employee compensation reform — and even lawsuits brought by citizen groups to force the Council to do the right thing to protect the environment and our quality of life. You shouldn’t have to work this hard! You should expect your city government to work to-

ward the common good, not for the good of powerful special interests at your expense.

The Vice Mayor issue is not trivial, and it is emblematic of the erosion of your democratic rights and symbolic of what’s wrong in our city government. If we can make representative democracy work anywhere, we can make it work at the local level. But it won’t be easy. And we will only have it if we fight for it.

Matt Sullivan was elected to the Pleasanton City Council in 2004. He first became active in city government issues 16 years ago when he joined a neighborhood organization opposed to building a West Las Positas interchange at I-680. He was appointed to the city Planning Commission in 1998, where he served until his election to the council. He and his wife Wendi, a teacher at Pleasanton Middle School, have two children.

LETTERS

Teaching kids to hit and run

Dear Editor,

My wife was heading to work about 3:20 in the afternoon on Dec. 2, minding her own business, enjoying the quaint little shops in downtown Pleasanton, when she was hit at the stop sign in front of the gas station on Main Street. She didn’t panic since it was just a fender bender, nothing too big. She looked in her rear view mirror to see a mother and her kids inside a gray/silver SUV with their hands clasped to their faces in shock.

So my wife pulled into the little gas station, got out and turned to see where they were parked — and she saw them pull right through the stop sign and take off like nothing ever happened. Wow. She couldn’t believe it. Who does that? Especially with her children inside the car.

So I “applaud” you (hands clapping in disappointment, shaking my head), the mom that decided it was a good idea to rear end someone and take off. My analogy is that she was like a dog who grabs a piece of pizza off the table then scampers to hide under the table knowing that you won’t go under there to scold him in front of her children.

Jesse Takens

Dublin values students

Dear Editor,

I just recently attended a Realtor Tour of Dublin High School. It is clear that Dublin values their students. The new buildings are light, airy, and high tech. Construction continues while the students use the campus. Spirits and scores are high.

Bravo, Dublin!

Pat Griffin

Winter break too late

Dear Editor,

What was the Pleasanton Unified School District thinking when they set the 2011-12 calendar? Keeping kids in school until Dec. 23 is

ridiculous.

Fact: All other school districts end school for the holidays on Dec. 16, allowing families time to travel and enjoy the winter holidays.

Fact: Kids, especially those in elementary school, have a hard time focusing in class when visions of sugarplums crowd out long division.

Fact: Families who wish to honor the school schedule and not receive truancy slips will miss travel, baking cookies with grandmas and trips to see the valley lights.

For a school district that routinely gives kids eight days off in November, trying to make up for that lost time by taking an extra week in December won’t work and every other school district around us knows it. The week of Dec. 19-23 will be a waste of time. Let’s hope the schools figure out a better way to manage their calendars next year.

Julie Nostrand

Bad reception

Dear Editor,

Is my neighborhood the only neighborhood in Pleasanton with terrible cell phone reception? I live in the Vintage Hills II neighborhood. Why is it that I get cell phone reception most places in the East Bay, except in Pleasanton?

Steve Vernon

Fears low-cost housing

Dear Editor,

Your recent article on the city moving forward with the court-imposed high-density, lower-cost housing mandate made me afraid for the town I’ve known for over 25 years. My parents moved here in the early ‘80s. I moved back (to an apartment) this summer after hav-

ing to give up being a homeowner in San Leandro.

I am a single mother, raising an amazing biracial daughter, who is a wonderful human being and awesome student. Harvest Park is making her work harder for her straight As in eighth grade and I appreciate it immensely. Knowing that developers will be able to build this type of housing, which will inevitably bring more crime and inhabitants who have less pride in their homes, deters me from trying to buy a home again here.

This is not a racist or elitist, un-PC judgment, rather an observation. One need only ask the San Ramon Police Department about the number of call-outs to the lower-income apartments near Dougherty Valley High School. If the city of Pleasanton is forced to allow such development, can we at least insist that very strict CC&Rs be imposed on those who are fortunate enough to be given a chance to join a superior community, so Pleasanton doesn’t become more like the majority of Alameda County?

Christine Gibney

Don’t need combat team

Dear Editor,

The Dec. 2 Pleasanton Weekly has on the cover a terrifying figure of a police “officer” decked out in full camouflage. The article itself was extremely superficial and explained how much money we as taxpayers are saving by combining teams.

What was left out of the story is how much money we spend maintaining a combat team that to my knowledge we have never used, except to torture peaceful

Share your opinion with us

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words or guest opinion pieces up to 500 words to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or post it on Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com.

protestors. This is a team in search of something to do, and the misapplication of violence perpetrated by the police indicates to me not only how unnecessary it is for a town to have a full time combat squad, but the damage that results to the honor and integrity of the community when this force is unleashed on its own citizens.

I would call for the dissolution of combat squads in the police at the local level and maintain a much smaller force for the very specific purposes such as hostage situa-

tions. We spend too much money on military solutions to political problems.

John Williams

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POLICE BULLETIN

Police nab thieves in separate incidents

Four people were arrested this week on auto burglary charges after reports from a home and the Stoneridge Shopping Center, police reports said.

Three people were arrested Dec. 12 after a resident in the 5200 block of Pleasant Hill Road called police to report a suspicious person looking in car windows at around 4:30 a.m. Police discovered three people in a car nearby, according to a report, which said credit cards and IDs fell out of the car when the driver got out.

Michael Joseph Jeske, 41, and Robert Lee Cargia, 40, both of Gilroy, were charged with five counts each of possession of stolen property, as was Mary Margaret Morgan, 38, of Salinas. Garcia was also arrested on a charge of possessing lock-picking tools, and Jeske was arrested on a charge of possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance.

Ruben Cruz Ochoa, 29, of Richmond was arrested at Stoneridge Shopping Center on Dec. 11 after both a wary shopper and mall security reported a suspicious person driving slowly through multiple lanes of parked cars. Police received the first call at about 1:49 p.m. and witnesses identified Ochoa as the person they'd seen. A search of Ochoa's car turned up screwdrivers, car stereo wires, wire cutters, cell phones and two apple iPods. A separate auto burglary of a stereo was linked to the thefts.

In other police reports, a nine-foot-tall menorah was stolen in a burglary at Congregation Beth Emek in 3400 block of Nevada Court. The menorah, valued at \$3,000, was last seen in a storage building Oct. 9. It was reported stolen at 11:16 a.m. Dec. 9; a door may have been left unlocked.

A residential burglary in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court netted a \$1,000 Gateway laptop and a \$1,000 central processing unit. The burglary, which occurred between 5:15 p.m. Dec. 5 and 8:05 a.m. Dec. 6, also yielded \$230 cash and keys.

Marquise Deshean Ceasar-Smith, 23, faces a misdemeanor charge of carrying a concealed weapon after a report from a woman at Stoneridge Mall. Police detected the odor of marijuana, and a search led to the charge.

POLICE REPORT

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

Dec. 6

Theft

- 2:21 a.m. in the 2300 block of Meadowlark Drive; possession of stolen property, public drunkenness
- 9:26 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; auto theft
- 4:23 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall road; petty theft
- 5:19 p.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway; petty theft, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

- 5:32 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery

Burglary

- 8:25 a.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court
- 3:04 p.m. in the 1100 block of Blanc Court

Carrying a concealed weapon

- 1:26 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Public drunkenness

- 5:55 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- 11:41 p.m. in the 5800 block of Valley Avenue

Dec. 7

Theft

- 7:58 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; grand theft
- 2:49 p.m. in the 4100 block of Moller Drive; forgery
- 3:52 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; grand theft, identity theft
- 4:30 p.m. in the 4400 block of Tosca Court; grand theft, petty theft
- 6:15 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; forgery

Dec. 8

Theft

- 2:56 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; identity theft
- 7:17 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 8:31 p.m. in the 7500 block of Owens Drive; theft

Auto burglary

- 2:53 p.m. in the 3000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 1:02 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 3:16 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 3:32 p.m. at the intersection of W. Las Positas Boulevard and Ascot Court

Prank calls

- 2:41 p.m. in the 3000 block of Tonopah Circle

Public drunkenness

- 3:23 p.m. in the 5100 block of Monaco Drive

Dec. 9

Theft

- 8:21 a.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 9:13 a.m. in the 2100 block of Pamezia Court; identity theft
- 11:41 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 1:48 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 10:15 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

Burglary

- 11:16 a.m. in the 3400 block of Nevada Court
- 12:22 p.m. in the 6000 block of Gibraltar Drive

Battery

- 11:32 a.m. in the 100 block of Valley Avenue
- 8:20 p.m. in the 3600 block of Cameron Avenue

Threats

- 5:37 p.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Vandalism

- 12:48 p.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue

DUI

- 1:49 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive
- 7:59 p.m. at the intersection of Via di Salerno and Vantini Way

Dec. 10

Theft

- 10:34 a.m. in the 1800 block of Harvest Drive; petty theft
- 10:45 a.m. in the 3800 block of Pinot Court; identity theft
- 5:34 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft
- 7:36 p.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall road; grand theft

Auto burglary

- 5:44 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 5:54 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:29 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Battery

- 1:17 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; battery, vandalism

DUI

- 2:07 a.m. at the intersection of I-580 and Santa Rita Road
- 1:02 p.m. at the intersection of Black Avenue and Hopyard Road

Dec. 11

Theft

- 10:58 a.m. in the 5300 block of Sonoma Drive; theft
- 1:49 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; possession of stolen property, lock picking, auto burglary

- 4:40 p.m. in the 5800 block of Sterling Greens Circle; identity theft

- 6:54 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft, petty theft

False imprisonment

- 1:24 a.m. in the 2200 block of Segundo Court; false imprisonment, brandishing a weapon

Battery

- 9:39 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

Auto burglary

- 1:45 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto burglary, vandalism

Vandalism

- 12:01 a.m. in the 7300 block of Elmwood Circle

- 8:36 a.m. in the 4200 block of Dundalk Court

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:27 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive; public drunkenness

- 1:11 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue; public drunkenness

- 2:54 a.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue; DUI

- 4 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

- 11:16 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; possession of a prescription in another's name

Dec. 12

Theft

- 4:29 a.m. in the 5200 block of Pleasant Hill Road; petty theft, possession of stolen property, lock picking, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

- 10:53 a.m. in the 5100 block of Case Avenue; grand theft

- 4:41 p.m. in the 5000 block of Owens Drive; grand theft

- 10:47 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Burglary

- 7:25 a.m. at the intersection of I-580 and El Charro Road

- 10:54 a.m. in the 8000 block of Canyon Creek Circle

Battery

- 12:45 a.m. in the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:26 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; marijuana possession

Dec. 13

Identity theft

- 10:18 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

- 1:47 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hillcrest Way

- 4 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road



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Classes

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Pleasanton Public Library will host a beginner's internet class that will meet for a monthly four-class series at 9 a.m., with a choice of Tuesday or Thursday, at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This program is free, but registration is required; call 931-3400.

Go WILD, GO BIRDING! Come bird watching at the Alviso Adobe Community Park and learn some birding basics from 1-2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15, at the park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Make your own bird book and birdhouse and discover the fun sport of birding! Cost is \$3 for residents; \$5 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

PIGMENT-MAKING AND CAVE-PAINTING Learn to make pigments from some of the materials nature provides from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 14, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Use the pigments to make cave paintings like those who lived on this land before us. Cost

is \$5 for residents; \$7 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

Clubs

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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 first 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 Ann at 510-507-5509 or email anariso@comcast.net.

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.

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.pleasantonnewcomers.com or call Ruby M. at 462-6404.

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE This group will host a Peaceful War Protest from 5-6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 28 (the group hosts one on the fourth Wednesday of every month), at the corners of First and Neal streets. Visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

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.rotaryclubofpleasanton.org.

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.

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS

Virtually Speaking Toastmasters club meets from noon-1 p.m. every Thursday at Electrical Reliability Services, 6900 Koll Center Pkwy., Suite 415. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

Concerts

'EARLY ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE'

Celebrate Elvis with Jim Anderson and the Rebels at their "Early Elvis Presley Tribute," at 8 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 7-8, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$25, \$20 and \$15. Call 931-4848 or visit www.jimandersonmusic.net.

Events

FARMERS MARKET Visit the Pleasanton Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday, on East Angela Street between Main and First streets. The Farmers Market is open every Saturday, year-round, rain or shine, to provide the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, sold by the very farmers that planted, nurtured and harvested the crop.

WINTER SKIES Come out and view the stars above when the sky really puts on a great show! Enjoy games and hands-on activities that will aid in the search for answers from 7:30-9 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Dress with the weather in mind. Cost is \$5 for residents; \$7 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

Exhibits

'COLLAGE COLLECTION' Livermore Art Association will present a collage-themed show of "Collage Collections" from Dec. 1-31, at the Livermore Library, 1188 S.



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Health

FREE HEALTH ADVISORY CLINIC
HCCC Human Services believes that service to mankind is service to God and its aim is to reach out to the community and touch people's lives through health, food and education. The clinic is open from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 31 at Shiva Vishnu Temple Office, 1223 Arrowhead Ave., Livermore. Call 371-5640. Registration not required, just walk in.

Holiday

LAS POSADAS Pleasanton Public Library and Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association host a community holiday celebration in the Mexican tradition with music, drama, food, singing and fun for the entire family. The event is from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The event is free. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

Miscellaneous

BLOOD DRIVE IN LIVERMORE
American Red Cross will host a blood drive from 1-7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 30, at the Asbury United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. To make an appointment, call (800) RED CROSS (733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: ASBURY925).

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/

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Celebrate a Cash Country Christmas

James Garner will perform a holiday tribute to Johnny Cash at 8 p.m. tomorrow at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. in Pleasanton. Garner, who sold out the Firehouse earlier this year, will feature a collection of treasured classics from Cash's many holiday albums recorded between 1963 and 1991. Tickets range from \$12 for children to \$15-\$25 for adults. Go to www.firehousearts.org or call 931-4848.

ptwnfriends or call Nancy Bering at 462-4368.

Seniors

CHAIR PILATES Pilates' principles help you with daily living activities; sitting, standing and walking. Classes are held from 3-3:45 p.m., Fridays, Jan. 1 through Jan. 30 at Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Cost is \$12 for three classes. Sign-up the Friday prior to the first class. Call 556-4511 or visit www.Dublin.ca.gov.

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.

Spiritual

REIKI GROUP The Japanese systems of Reiki is a spiritual practice which uses meditation, chanting, visualizations, and hands-on

energy group work so that you can connect to their true nature. No prior Reiki experience is necessary. Classes are from 10-11:45 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of every month at Tri Valley Unity's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. Contact Gayle at gstaehle@comcast.net.

ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH Liturgy worship service is from 10-11:30 a.m. every Sunday at St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., offers Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 a.m.; Worship at 10:30 a.m.; and Children's Church at 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study takes place 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Call 846-8650 for weekly programs.

TRI-VALLEY CHANUKAH EVENTS AT CONGREGATION BETH EMEK The Chanukah season is underway. The entire community is welcome to share this special season at a variety of events, including menorah lighting, Chanukah gift sale, kids activities, and more. Congregation Beth Emek is located at 3400 Nevada Court. For more details or event dates, visit www.bethemek.org or call 931-1055.

down into levels based on ability and distance. Call 400-4336 or visit www.thecyclepros.com.

TEAM IN TRAINING INFO MEETING Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team In Training (TNT), the largest and most successful endurance sports training and fundraising program, will inspire and support you to achieve your goal of an endurance event. Attend a meeting from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Call 800-78-TRAIN or visit www.teamintraining.org/sf. For more information visit www.TeamInTraining.org/sf or attend an info meeting!

Support Groups

BEYOND TREATMENT BREAST CANCER This group provides a safe place to express and share thoughts, concerns and experiences of living with the uncertainty after treatment for breast cancer, the physical effects and problems related to intimacy, marriage, reproduction and employment. The group meets from 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month at ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite #270. The group is facilitated by Mary Prishtina, RN, and Estee Goren, MFT. Call 399-1177.

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

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

MORNING GROUP RIDE - CYCLING A group ride starts at 8:30 a.m. every Saturday from Cycle Pros Bike Shop, 728 Main St., meeting in the parking lot. The ride breaks into groups based on skill and distance. The regular ride usually covers 25-40 miles at speeds of 14-18 mph. The long ride covers 35-60 miles at a brisker pace. Routes vary each week. On Sundays mornings, there is a group ride for everyone, same time, same place, broken

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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. 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.

DEPRESSION & BIPOLAR Depression Bipolar Support Alliance, DBSA, is a support group for people who live with depression, bipolar and other disabilities. They can help each other navigate the ups and downs of life! A place where you can be yourself and feel safe. The group meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m. every Wednesday, at St. Claire's Episcopal Church, Classroom 1, 3350 Hopyard Rd., although it is not affiliated with the church. No charge for meetings. Call 462-6415

or visit www.dbsalliance.org/pleasanton.

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. For more information, view their blog at www.eastbayet.com or call 487-5706 or email eastbayet@comcast.net.

HOPE HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS Hope Hospice offers ongoing grief support services for adults, teens and children including a Transitions Support Group; Tragic Loss Support Group; individualized grief support; caregiver support; on-site support for schools; youth organizations and the workplace; community support services; a resource library; and more. For more information or to register, call 829-8770.

INTEGRATED MIND AND BODY GRIEF SUPPORT This comprehensive set of grief support services is offered at the Hope Hospice Grief Support Center from 5-7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Ste. 100., Dublin. Services include various forms of gentle touch as well as guided imagery, meditation and stress management. Restore

the energy depleted by grief. No charge. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP Formed in 2003 this group provides support and comfort to the Pleasanton families whose loved ones are deployed in the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. The group has monthly meetings and other events such as "pack outs" of comfort and care items for deployed members of the armed forces. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where streamers are displayed with the name, rank and branch of service of Pleasanton military personnel. Learn more at www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org.

STEPPING STONES ON YOUR GRIEF JOURNEY The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Join a bi-monthly support group "Stepping Stones on Your Grief Journey" at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays, Dec. 8 and 22, Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23, and March 8 and 22, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. No pre-registration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Call Mary Hagerty at 846-5377.

TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS AND ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m., on the fourth Monday of every month, at the Groves at Dublin Ranch in

the Clubhouse, 3115 Finnian Way, Dublin. It hosts special speakers like doctors or specialists. For more information, call JoAnne at 875-0960.

Volunteering

"SHARE THE GIFT OF READING" Change a Life! Become a tutor. Pleasanton Library's Project Read needs volunteer tutors to help adults with English skills. New volunteer tutor training from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Tutors need to be at least 18 years old, fluent in American English, but not necessarily a native speaker. Call 931-3405.

BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Activity Center, 4005 Stoneridge Dr. Call 1-800-733-2767 or go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment and use sponsor code CCOP.

LIONESSE SEEK NEW MEMBERS The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at its regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. A \$2 to \$5 donation is requested. Participating in the many activities of the group is a great way to meet local people. The Lioness are a service club that helps many worthy causes in our community. Call 443-4543. 6:30 p.m. Free- \$2 to \$5 donation requested 925-443-4543.



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- December 24 Holy Eucharist with Children's Christmas pageant, 5 p.m.
Instrumental Prelude – the Amador HS Brass Quintet, Flute & Organ, 8:30 p.m.
Choral Eucharist with Brass Quintet and Timpani, 9 p.m.
- December 25 Choral Eucharist, 11 a.m.
- January 1 Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist single service at 10:15

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Quiet Christmas, Dec. 22, 7:30 pm
A "Quiet Christmas" is for those who want to listen, pray, and hear God's words of comfort. Allow the beauty of the season, with recorder, piano, and candlelight, to heal your wounds and fill your soul.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
Family Service: 5:00 pm
Candlelight Services: 7:30, 9:00, 11:30 pm

Christmas Day
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Holiday Fund 2011

axis NEEDS ARE GREATER THAN EVER

Numbers served continue to grow

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Axis Community Health is bursting at its seams.

The locally based health care provider is still seeing an increase in the numbers of people asking for assistance, despite official claims that the recession has ended.

"Last year we were enrolling 400 new patients a month, said Axis Chief Executive Officer Sue Compton. "Since July 1, we are now enrolling an average of 486 per month, which is a fairly significant increase over last year."

It's not just poor people either.

"The faces have changed dramatically. Twenty years ago the faces we'd see were predominantly low income," Compton said, adding that now, "it's more middle class or people looking for affordable medical care."

Axis opened its newly refurbished and expanded pediatric suite at its offices on Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton on July 29, giving the organization two new exam rooms, less than two years after a major renovation of its adult medical clinic and the opening of a new women's health clinic. Still, serving 14,000 people a year, it needs more space.

"Because of the growth, we've also pushed a lot of our administrative functions offsite to a separate administration building that we are renting so we can use every single spot at this site for medical care," Compton said. "Our Railroad Avenue site and our Livermore clinic both are far beyond capacity, so we are in the process of buying a building in Pleasanton, which will double our capacity."

She expects that building to open by 2014.



Axis is one of the five local organizations that will receive money from this year's Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund, and Compton said her group is grateful to be included again.

"This year we really need it for adults. We don't have the resources to meet the growing needs of the community," she said. "Adult medical care is growing very rapidly. ... A lot of people have lost jobs, and when you lose your job you typically lose your medical care."

Providing medical care is just part of what Axis does. It also offers mental health services and addiction counseling — two counselors were at the school district's recent forums on drug and alcohol use in schools, for example — along with court-mandated alcohol and anger management classes and community health education.

Axis has an annual budget of \$10 million. It's supported by local, state and federal funding, foundation grants, patient and clinic fees from those able to pay, and the help of individuals, families, foundations and the business community.

Among these, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is a regular contributor, with donations from our readers and matching funds from the Tri-Valley Community Foundation now totaling more than a quarter-million-dollars since the annual giving program was launched in 2002 with Axis as a charter beneficiary.

Despite its overcrowding, Axis serves every newcomer. It never turns anyone away, although the lines you see on weekday mornings show that there's usually a bit of a wait. ■



COURTESY AXIS

Dr. Rei Masui examines a baby in the pediatric unit at Axis Community Health on Railroad Avenue. Axis, which will benefit from the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, is struggling to meet the growing needs of more and more people seeking affordable health care.

Holiday Fund donors

Since the launch of the 2011 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 339 donors have contributed \$104,405.40 to the fund, which includes \$50,000 that was matched by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. 41 anonymous donors have given \$7,450 of that total.

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How to give

Your gift helps seniors, children and others in need

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.

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.

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

The following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

- Axis Community Health
- Hope Hospice
- Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center at ValleyCare
- Open Heart Kitchen
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Sports



Winning Earthquake

The U12 Boys White Plus Mustang Earthquakes completed a successful season by winning the Dick King Tournament by a score of 5-1 over the Mustang Landslide. Leading 1-0 at halftime after a back and forth first half, the Earthquakes were able to pull ahead in the second half with some strong offense and defensive play. Earlier in the season, the Earthquakes also won the Saddleback Tournament.

Team members are (front, l-r) John Logan Tatum, Clayton Jeha, Patrick Ball, Jack Fitzsimmons, Blake Lindberg, Stefano Guariento, Ryan Tam, Jacob Varelas, Zack Romrell, (back) Coach Chris Bessa, Matt Bessa, James Kim, Jeremy Randall, Andrew Logue, Eric Chen, Rasmus Back, Dante Treccase and Coach Sean Chen.



Gamers at bat

The 13U Head First Gamers baseball team came in second place in the USSSA Die Hards Only Christmas Tournament in Fremont last weekend, outscoring their opponents, 47-13, only losing in the championship game, 2-1. This was the sixth tournament that the Gamers had won (3) or came in second place (3). The team improved its overall record this fall to 30-6.

Team members are (front, l-r) Tanner Wright, Michael Kuidal, Coach Dave Ott, Manager George Athan, Bradley Norton, Matt Barazza, Blake Staniford, (back) Justin Seever, Russell Stevenson, Joshua Ott, Lucas Botto, James Cowick and Dante Albanese. Not pictured: Coach Todd Norton.



Outstanding swimmers

Seven Pleasanton Seahawks were voted Most Outstanding in Pacific Swimming recently and Head Coach Steve Morsilli received the George Haines Pacific Swimming Senior Coach of the Year Award. Honorees pictured are (l-r) Nick Silverthorn, Rachel Knowles, Coach Steve Morsilli, Celina Li, Allison Brown and Maxime Rooney. Not pictured: Catherine Breed and Andrew Seitz.



Gymnasts compete at Level 4

The West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy compulsory gymnasts enjoy their results after the NorCal South Level 4 State Championships at Central California Gymnastics Institute: (back, l-r) Mariah Murphy, Claire Volkman, Amelia Liao, Audrey Ong, Mia Reeve, (middle) McKenzie Meyn, Naomi Evans, Phoenix Cabuay, Rachel Shaw, (front) Juliette Gosselin.

Results were as follows: Claire Volkman, fourth place vault, fifth place beam, seventh all around; Audrey Ong, fourth place beam, seventh place vault, seventh all around; Mariah Murphy, sixth place bars, 12th all around; Phoenix Cabuay, ninth place beam, seventh all around; Juliette Gosselin, sixth place beam, eighth all around; Amelia Liao, second place vault, fourth place beam, seventh all around; McKenzie Meyn, fourth place vault, seventh all around; Naomi Evans, fourth place beam, 11th all around; Rachel Shaw, seventh place vault, 10th place floor.

PREP LINE-UP

Dec. 17

■ Boys Soccer: 1 p.m., Foothill vs. Alameda, home

■ Girls Soccer: 11 a.m., Foothill vs. Clayton Valley, away

■ Wrestling: 9 a.m., Foothill at Bill Martell Tournament, away

Dec. 20

■ Girls Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Irvington, home

■ Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. College Park, home

■ SPORT: time, team vs. team, home/away

Dec. 21

■ Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. Arroyo, away

■ Wrestling: 11 a.m., Foothill at Lou Bronzan Tournament, away

Dec. 23

■ Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Alhambra, home

■ Girls Basketball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Lehigh, home

Dec. 28

■ Boys Soccer: 5 p.m., AVHS vs. Pittsburg, away

Dec. 29

■ Girls Soccer: 5 p.m., Foothill vs. Washington, home

Dec. 31

■ Boys Soccer: 1 p.m., AVHS vs. San Lorenzo, home



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