

Pleasanton Weekly

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS
Special events add zest to the season » 18

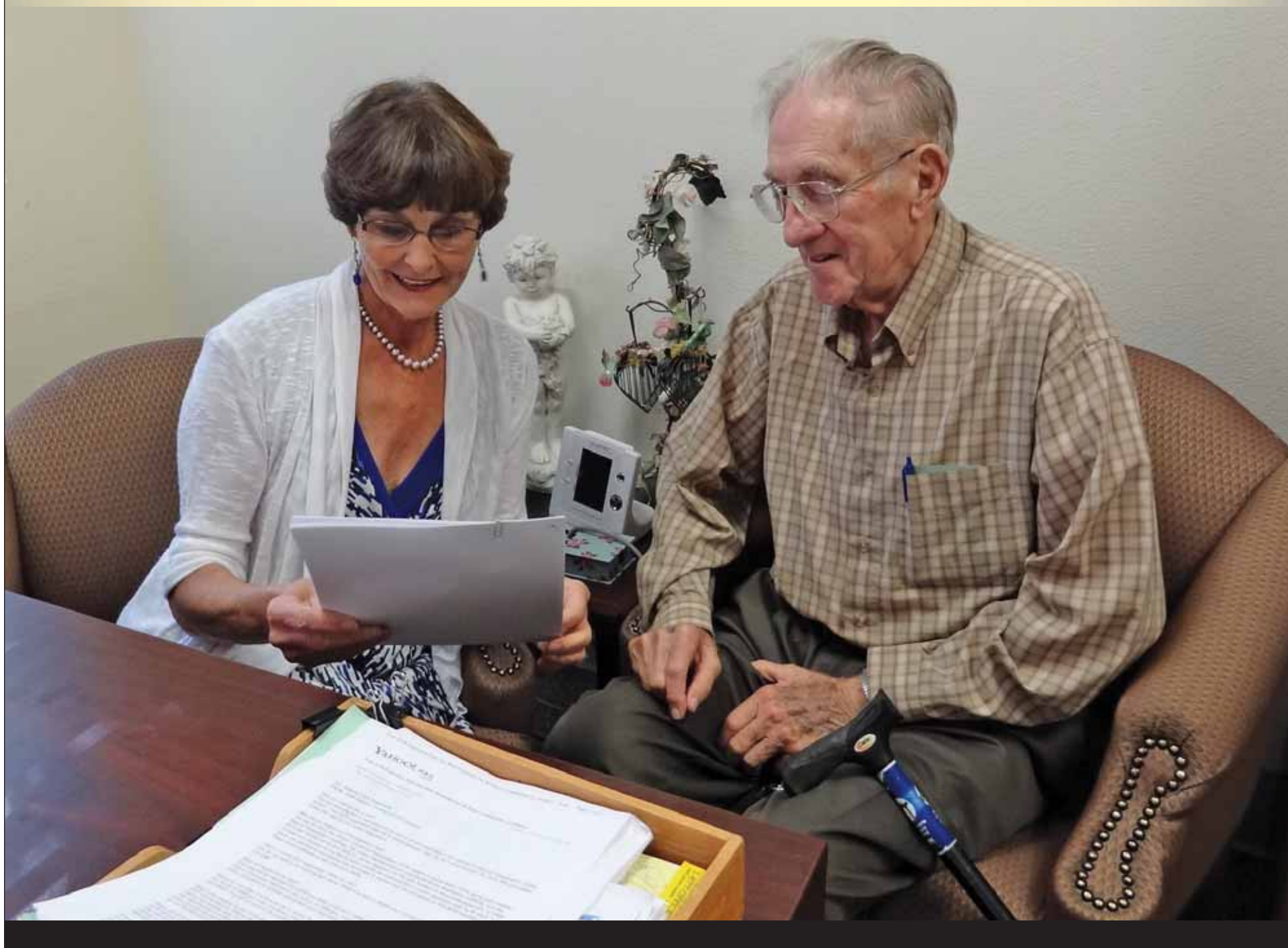


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SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE

Pleasanton is a good place to grow old, thanks to Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley >>14



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MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$4,000,000
193+/- Acres privately owned known as Blessing Ranch. All utilities run to edge of property offering numerous buildable pad options. Perfect for escaping city life while being only minutes from town. 9480 BLESSING DRIVE

MOXLEY TEAM SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$1,950,000
4BD + 1 Office, 4.5BA + .5 in Pool House, 4,496sf. on a 38,194sf. lot. This exquisite custom home will take your breath away, offering vaulted open beam ceilings, private setting. Call for a showing. 7755 COUNTRY LANE

LINDA GOVEIA & PAT GELLMAN BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,657,000
Mohr Park Estates! Executive home, 4100+/-sf situate on large pvt corner lot. 5bd+bonus, upstairs loft,4ba,pool, arbor, outdoor kitchen, lighted sport court and more! 3715 NICOLE AVE

DANIEL GAMACHE BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$1,499,950
Immaculate and rare property!3332+/-sf single story home, excellent condition, 1800+/-sf basement,1800+/-sf shop/garage/ apt., endless views! 5800 EAGLES RUN RD

STASIA POIESZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,495,000
If you like privacy, this home is for you! Tucked away on a quiet court in Greg Eagle Estates, 4200+ sf of living space, huge yard and more. Must See! 5 RED FEATHER CT

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,479,000
THIS IS IT! Gorgeous 4bd plus office plus bonus room in Castlewood, extensively remodeled, private yard, pebble tech pool, views of valley and more! 20 1/2 CASTLEWOOD DRIVE

GINA HUGGINS SUN 1:00-4:00



LIVERMORE \$949,000
Entertainers paradise located in desirable S. Livermore. 3,126 sq. feet, gourmet kitchen, 4 bdr/3bath. Beautiful backyard, sparkling pool & spa. 1485 CHIANTI CT

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$839,950
Absolutely Gorgeous!!! Features include granite counter tops, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances, rod iron staircase, beautiful landscaping with outdoor fireplace, three car garage, & more. 2772 SAN MINETE DR

JO ANN LUISI SUN 1:00-4:00



LIVERMORE \$679,950
Beautiful 4bd home with views and wonderful backyard. Pool w/ waterfall, fruit trees, in-ground trampoline, and side yard access. Bd/full bath downstairs. 3116 SALISBURY CT.

STASIA POIESZ BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$629,950
Very nice triplex close to downtown, shopping and freeway. Units are in good shape. Units are cash flowing, seller is looking for an as-is sale. 375 N M ST

Congratulations!

Alain Pinel Realtors salutes Don Faught on being elected President of the California Association of Realtors for 2013. All of our agents and leaders in the company also receive honor and recognition by having one of our own hold this high office.



Don Faught
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AROUND PLEASANTON



BY JEB BING

Cheers for Julie Fox on adoption day

Courtrooms in Pleasanton's Superior Courts building on Stoneridge Drive aren't usually packed with celebrants and colorful balloons. But there was standing-room only space available last Saturday as Family Court Judge Steve Pulido signed the adoption papers making Julie Fox the legal mother of 2-year-old Zekiah (Zeke) Jude, who she's had as a foster parent since he was 4 days old.

Even Pulido, who lives near Julie and has gotten to know little Zeke, joined in the festivities, walking around the courtroom in shirt-sleeves and talking to the cheering group before donning the traditional judge's garments for the proceeding. During much of that time, Zeke, held by his new mother, pounded on the table and exchanged smiling facial glances with the judge. Behind Julie in the courtroom were friends and associates from Sunset Elementary School in Livermore, where she has taught for the last 19 years, and her parents, Realtor Tom Fox and his wife Sue, both active in community leadership efforts in the Tri-Valley.

Foster care is not for everybody, Julie said later. Those who choose to become a foster or adoptive parent embark on one of the most fulfilling relationships with a child, providing loving homes at a time in their lives when they most need unconditional love. It's also a risk. When you qualify as a foster parent and come home with a needy child, it may be for two days or you might have him forever. Julie agreed to that when she picked up Zeke at Highland Hospital, where county officials had taken him away from his unwed parents who were on drugs and into prostitution.

By law, a biological parent is given opportunities to straighten their lives out and seek to regain the child. Zeke's mother tried, but at county Social Services hearings scheduled six months apart, she failed to make the cut. Zeke's father never tried. In the end, the agency determined that Zeke would be in a better situation with Julie than his birth parents could provide, and allowed the adoption process to go forward.

Now Julie is hoping to adopt Zoey, 3, who she was assigned as a foster care parent when the baby was 17 months old. Zoey was in what the county's Child Protective Care agency called "a neglectful situation." She had been living mostly on the streets with her



JEB BING

Family Court Judge Steve Pulido joins Julie Fox and 2-year-old Zeke, who's been in her foster care since four days after he was born, in his Pleasanton courtroom last Saturday where he signed the adoption papers she has long been seeking.

homeless and unmarried parents since birth when county officials found her and placed her in foster care. At the time, Julie recalls, Zoey had skivvies, couldn't walk, talk or even crawl although she was 1-1/2 years old. Today, she's a well-fed, healthy 3-year-old. On Dec. 11, the county will hold another hearing to determine if Julie should also be awarded permanent custody of Zoey so that adoption proceedings can begin.

For Julie Fox, 42, who's not married, becoming the parent of two toddlers is quite a lifestyle, but welcome, change. Active in the Cornerstone Fellowship, a large Livermore church, she went on church missions to Africa in recent years, both to Kenya where Cornerstone has an orphanage, and then to Ghana, where it is building a hospital to house medical teams that will go into the bush country to find and treat ailing natives.

Although she's become attached to those missions, serving as a foster parent to two African-American babies had nothing to do with that background. When she applied for a foster care opportunity, she left it open as to who she might receive, leaving the ethnicity, gender, race and all other boxes of requirements unchecked. With a large percentage of the country's 400,000 children and youths in the foster care system, she was not surprised that the two African-Americans she's been called on to nurture are black. She renamed Zeke with Biblical names. Zekiah means "Strengthened by God;" his middle name Jude means "Things hoped for and finally realized." The name Zoey, who she'll hopefully be able to adopt early next year, stands for, well, just Zoey. ■

About the Cover

Marlene Peterson, executive director of Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, discusses an issue with community activist Jack Dove. He discovered the organization when a neighbor of his needed help to remain in her home. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli. Design by Kristin Herman.

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Help those in need with the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/HolidayFund to donate.

On behalf of those who ultimately benefit from your donation, thank you for your generosity and help.

In partnership with:
SILICON VALLEY Community Foundation

Around Back
Walk-thru Live Nativity
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Streetwise

AROUND TOWN

What should be the priorities of the new Pleasanton City Council being sworn in next week?



Susan Reid
Educator

Maybe our new mayor could support the same peace activities that (Mayor) Jennifer Hosterman did.

Alda Lawson
Children's ministry

Keeping within budget and also the new housing around Hacienda.



Bill Lawson
Retired

I'd like to see the City Council move forward on the little Walmart grocery store. I'd like to see that opened.

Catherine Ndungu-Case
CEO and founder of a nonprofit

I think the most important thing to me is diversity. There should be public space available (for nonprofit groups to meet).



Bill Blankenship
Retired

Pleasanton's a pretty nice city and everything seems to be going pretty well.

—Glenn Wohltmann

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

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 Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. 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. © 2012 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: Adopt resolution levying the Pleasanton Downtown Business Improvement District Assessment for 2013
- Public Hearing: Adopt a resolution making the finding that certain Development Impact Fees (AB1600 and SB1693) collected are unexpended after five years and are committed to particular projects
- Adopt a resolution calling Special Election for the purpose of electing a Member of the City Council to an unfulfilled short term ending November 2014
- Selection of Vice Mayor and confirm appointments of City Council Members to various Council Subcommittees and Local and Regional Boards and Commissions

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Selection of Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Assignments
- Discuss Commission Priorities for Fiscal Year(s) 2013/2014 and 2014/2015

East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force

Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Hart Middle School Multipurpose Room, 4433 Willow Road

- Information on existing environmental conditions
- Community Workshop Summary
- Further discussion of Planning Vision for the Specific Plan Area

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, December 3, 2012 - Cancelled

Commissions and Committees Recruitment

The City of Pleasanton invites applications for the following commissions and committees:

Civic Arts Commission – 3 Vacancies

Economic Vitality Committee – 1 Vacancy from each of the following categories:

- Commercial Services Firm
- Commercial Real Estate Developer
- Green Economy/Environmental Industry
- Financial Services
- Medical Technology
- Professional Services Firm

Energy & Environment Committee – 2 Vacancies

Human Services Commission – 1 Vacancy

Library Commission – 2 Vacancies

Planning Commission – 1 Vacancy

Youth Commission – 1 Vacancy from each of the following categories:

- Village High School Freshman/Sophomore
- Thomas Hart Middle School 6th or 7th Grade

Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee – 1 Middle School Parent Vacancy

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District – 1 Vacancy

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's web site at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov for additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027

Applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m., Monday, December 3, 2012.

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

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

DIGEST

Coat drive for needy children

Tri Valley Rotary is collecting coats for local students whose families may not be able to afford them. Club secretary Carol Vander Meulen said donations of new or gently used coats for children ages 2-16 will benefit those in need, as well as coats for adults and infants.

Collection locations in Pleasanton are:

- Bank of America's downtown Pleasanton branch on Main Street
- ClubSport Pleasanton, 7090 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton
- Coffee Co., 5424 Sunol Blvd., in the Raley's Shopping Center
- Hairlights Salon, 4307 Valley Ave., Suite F, Pleasanton

In Livermore, collection locations are:

- Casse Croute Bakery, 50 S. Livermore Ave., near First Street
- Pacific Coast Seed, 533 Hawthorne Place, Livermore

Donations must be made by Dec. 14 to be distributed the next day. For more information, email info@trivalleyrotary.org.

Giving tree returns to PPD

The Pleasanton Police Officers Association Christmas Fund is once again collecting gifts for local families in need of special care this upcoming holiday season. The association provides gifts both to families in need and to senior citizens who are often overlooked.

The association has received the names of needy families and seniors within the community and is now looking for people to provide Christmas gifts. Anyone interested in donating to a needy family or senior in Pleasanton can pick up a gift tag at the Pleasanton Police Department. The tags list the gifts requested.

For more information, contact Officer Ryan Dawson, Officer Michael Rossillon or Dispatcher Betsy Jones at 931-5100.

Send us your Santa photos

Are your kids planning to visit Santa? If you have a photo you'd like to share, send it to us at dciardelli@pleasantonweekly.com. Please write "Santa photo" in the subject line, and we ask that photos be at least 500K.

Also send the names of the children in the photo, the names of the parents, where you ran into Santa, where you live, where the children attend school, and anything else you think might be interesting in the caption.

We plan to use the photos in our Dec. 21 issue.

And, yes, we are also interested in photos of pets with Santa.

Council OKs splitting downtown into two districts

'Core' can stay open late; 'Transition' businesses can't

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council on Tuesday night approved a new plan to split downtown businesses into two districts to promote more late-night entertainment in the Main Street area but curb noise and operating hours for businesses closer to downtown homes and apartments.

The council's action wrapped up nearly three years of bickering among businesses and regulators over how much more sizzle bars and restaurants should be given to attract late night revelers to the downtown.

Up to now, businesses had to seek special use permits to stay open after 10 p.m., often with different decisions and time limits from the regulators. The new guidelines would move permitted operating uses to 11 p.m. with no permit required in what is now the "Core" district, but will keep the 10 p.m. closing time for the new "Transition" district.

Higher noise levels also will be allowed in the

Core district, with the capped level moving from 70 decibels (dBA) to 74 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and from 60 dBA to 70 at other times.

Businesses located in the Transition area would be restricted to 60 dBA at all times, as measured from their property lines.

The approval of a staff recommendation came despite grumblings by some council members who criticized the new plan for expanding the core district too much from what's currently viewed as the downtown's nightlife areas as well as questions by others over why limits are being imposed on the new Transition district.

"I think this plan is entirely arbitrary and will hurt the property values of those in that district," argued Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio.

She said she had heard from three property owners on Peters Avenue who believe their land values will be diminished under the new guide-

lines.

In the end, the council agreed that those in the Transition district could have an opportunity to petition city staff to have their properties moved into the Core district with staff approval. Once the new two-district plan is locked into place, however, those wanting to transfer will have to seek permits from both the city Planning Commission and City Council, a requirement that Councilman and Mayor-elect Jerry Thorne called "onerous."

Councilman Matt Sullivan objected to the city staff's recommendation to expand the Core district closer to Peters Avenue and residences across that street. He noted that a task force set up to consider making downtown Pleasanton more hospitable to nighttime entertainment voted 6-5 to hold the line farther away from Peters, a decision also backed by the Planning

See **COUNCIL** on Page 6



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Greg Giglio, principal at Village High School for the past seven years and with the district for 13, is leaving for a high school in the South Bay.

Village principal taking job in Cupertino

Parents and students asked to participate in replacement process

Principal Greg Giglio is leaving Village High, the district's alternative school, after seven years at the helm to take a position as principal at Homestead High in Cupertino.

"It became an opportunity I couldn't pass up," Giglio said.

He expects to begin at the 2,400-student school in January, but added, "I'm not going to go until everything is in place here."

It's Giglio's 13th year in the district and seventh at Village. He spent two years as an English teacher at Amador Valley high, then became assistant principal under Bill Coupe, who retired in 2010.

Giglio replaced Kale Alderson who was hired as principal of Village in 2005 but left after one year.

He's been a popular principal during his time at Village, navigating the school through some tough times that include three suicides in five years, and good times, too.

"I'll miss the Thanksgiving feast, that's always been the greatest," Giglio said. "Every graduation has been special, kids who weren't going to make it in one way or another, claw-

ing their way through."

In a letter to parents and students, Giglio said the process to find his replacement has already begun.

"As part of the process, the district would like to invite parents to participate by coming to a meeting on Thursday November 29 at 6 p.m. in the Village Multipurpose Room to discuss what qualities you would like to see in the next principal," Giglio's letter read. "Student feedback will be collected at a meeting on November 28."

The initial interview will be held Dec. 6, and will include district administrators, Village staff and parents.

"The final decision could possibly be made by mid-December, and I will begin working with the successful candidate to help make as smooth a transition as possible," Giglio said in his letter.

Those who were unable to attend the Nov. 29 meeting but would like to give input can contact Bill Faraghan, assistant superintendent of human resources, at 426-4348 or at bfargahan@pleasantonusd.net.

—Glenn Wohltmann

PUSD to consider new elementary school

Bond issue discussed, will be 'a decision for a later time'

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton School Board will have to decide whether to build a new elementary school at an estimated cost of \$34 million or spend an equal amount to expand other schools, according to a draft report from the consultant group doing a district-wide facilities master plan.

In a study session Tuesday night, the board heard that two schools are expected to receive an influx of students by 2016 as a result of transit-oriented housing projects. The district's goal is to keep elementary schools at about 600 students, although board members agreed with the consultants, LPA Inc., that a range of 600 to 700 would be acceptable.

The district will explore options, which include buying a site, which was not included in the \$34 million price tag, and building the new school or expanding existing schools. School Board Member Valerie Arkin also suggested expanding Hart Middle School to educate kindergarteners through eighth-graders.

"Whether we build that separate school, we still have to house these kids and that would cost the same amount," Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi told the board.

Ahmadi, who has been an elementary school principal, supports keeping elementaries at around 600 students.

Beyond the cost of building a new elementary school, it would run about \$600,000 a year to operate, which led to requests for more information from the board.

"I think we need to explore our options," said Board Member Jamie Hintzke.

Arkin was also uncertain about whether the district needs a new school. If the district decides not to build a school, boundaries would have to be adjusted for the new students.

Tuesday night was the first time the board discussed the possibility of a bond issue to cover costs of the school and other improvements.

"That would be a decision going forward, whether we're going out for a bond," said Board President Joan Laursen. "That would be a deci-

See **SCHOOLS** on Page 6

Stabbing suspect arrested in Manteca

Police received tip man was staying with sister

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Livermore man wanted in a Nov. 14 stabbing at Las Ventanas apartments in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton was arrested.

Jesse Serpa, 33, was taken into custody at about 6 p.m. Nov. 26 near his sister's home in Manteca.

Pleasanton police worked with Livermore police to determine Serpa was staying with his sister and he was arrested in the neighborhood where his sister lives.



Jesse Serpa

"It was just a tip that we got. We acted on the tip and it turned out to be reliable," said Pleasanton police Sgt. Kurt Schlehuber.

Serpa was booked into Santa Rita Jail on one count of attempted murder. Bail has not been set.

He was identified as the suspect by the victim, who was stabbed once in the chest during an altercation at the apartment complex.

Initial reports said the two men began arguing with each other and started fighting; during the course of the fight the suspect produced a knife and stabbed the victim one time and then fled on foot. Police arrived on the scene at about 9 p.m. after receiving several 911 calls about a stabbing at the complex.

Schlehuber said both the suspect and victim have differing accounts of what caused the conflict.

"There was a fight and they both have their own interpretation of what led to the fight and they both believe they were in the right," he said.

The victim, a 30-year-old Livermore resident, was taken to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley for treatment of his injury, which was not life threatening. ■

Hometown Holiday parade kicks off at 5 p.m. tomorrow downtown

Nearly 3,000 in parade as thousands watch from sidewalks

By JEB BING

Santa Claus is coming to town tomorrow, joining in both the city's annual holiday parade on Main Street and the tree lighting that follows in front of the Museum on Main.

The parade will start at 5 p.m., with bands, decorated cars and festive marchers stepping out from the parking lot at Amador Valley High School.

The Foothill High marching band will lead the parade, with the Amador Valley High marching band in the middle of the hour-long parade, both playing festive Christmas and other holiday music past three reviewing stands where announcers will describe the floats, organizations and walking groups passing by.

Scores of holiday inspired entries include the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund car, the Centerpointe Presbyterian Church's men's club Balloon Platoon, a horse-drawn wagon carrying the

Pleasanton City Council, hundreds of Cub Scouts and Brownies, local car clubs, dog clubs and, of course, Santa Claus.

Parade coordinator Michelle Stearns of the Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department said there are 82 entries signed up to participate Saturday with 2,875 individuals in all and 1,633 walkers. Also in the parade will be 42 cars, 13 floats, four bands and five animal entries, including dog groups and horses.

Each year, the high school bands take turns going first in the parade, with the other one strategically placed in the middle so both can help keep the tempo for the other entries, Stearns said.

The Foothill band will be followed by the VFW and American Legion Color Guard. Stearns said parade participants also will include the Pleasanton Rugby Club, Pleasanton Seahawks, Elvis, the Tri Valley Roller Girls, Fiona the

cow from the Adobe and Harvest Park Middle School's Cheer Squad and jazz band.

One of the highlights will be a real One Horse Open Sleigh restored by Brad Haupt, who lives on a 5-acre parcel about six miles north of the Pleasanton city limits. He said the sleigh was used by his ancestors from 1890-1910, but then packed away when they started using automobiles. Recently, he restored it using authentic extra thin-wood and fabric where needed.

The tree lighting will take place when the parade is over with Mayor Hosterman pulling the switch for the last time. Her eight-year term of office expires Tuesday evening and the city's newly elected mayor and Councilman Jerry Thorne will be sworn in.

In the event of rain, a parade cancellation telephone hotline, 931-5352, will be updated each hour after 2:30 p.m. on parade day. ■

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5

sion for a later time."

A bond measure would have to be approved by voters.

Nearly \$500 million in improvements were recommended after a yearlong facilities master plan study, which looked at schools and conducted surveys of principals, teachers and parents.

LPA Inc. came up with three levels of improvements at schools, which could be phased in and implemented over time. Level one would be of the lowest cost and highest impact and totals more than \$92 million, although board members asked that category be broken down to separate immediate needs — dubbed "squeaky and leaky" by Board Member Jeff Bowser. That first level would include district-wide technology improvements and building improvements at elementary, middle and high schools.

A second level of medium cost, short range priorities recommended by LPA, which includes new classrooms at the four oldest elementary schools and building a new elementary school, would run more than \$210 million, and a third level, high-cost and long range, would cost more than \$188 million and would include classrooms, landscape and field improvements.

Not all the improvements are likely to occur, at least within the 10-year time frame covered in the facilities plan.

"The master plan is not a line in the sand," said Jim Kisel, LPA's director of school planning.

In terms of funding, the district can expect to bring in a little more than \$21 million from developer fees over the next 10 years, according to the report, and could add nearly \$12 million by using funds

it has on hand, including liquidating the Sycamore fund, which was created by the sale of land. That money would have to be used to buy land for a new school.

The district could also bring in a potential of \$2.3 million for new construction and nearly \$13.5 million from the state, although that money is uncertain, according to Ann Feng-Gagne, who worked with LPA to come up with demographic and financing information.

Another option that could bring in some revenue would be to sell the land that houses the district offices, warehouses and Village High School and relocate them to the 13-acre Neal property on the east side of town, which is already owned by the district. How much it could earn from that sale is dependant on market conditions. Feng-Gagne estimated it would cost \$37.7 million to relocate, and the sale of property could bring in between \$18.5 million and nearly \$67.7 million.

Although the district could sell the Neal property, it would have to repay money contributed by the state for its purchase. It is not being considered as a location for a new school because it is outside the area where growth is expected to occur.

The district will also have to repay nearly \$12 million in outstanding debt during the 10-year time frame included in the LPA study, and about \$14.5 million between 2021 and 2030. That debt would have to be addressed — although not necessarily paid off — while dealing with the growth it expects.

Bowser noted that while the influx of students isn't happening yet.

"We have time to plan," he said. "The growth is going to happen over time." ■

Survey under way for new parks, recreation plan for Pleasanton

Outside firm making random calls to solicit public views

A survey group commissioned by the city of Pleasanton has started a telephone survey of residents to seek input on a new comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Susan Andrade-Wax, the city's director of Parks and Community Services, said the new plan "is intended to be a significant planning tool to help the city plan for the changing scope of recreational activities."

"It will summarize themes,

trends and community priorities, assess available resources, review existing and anticipated demographic conditions and provide strategies for parks, recreation programs and open space needs," she said.

The random telephone survey is being conducted by Network Ltd., a consumer research firm.

"The city is extremely interested in the community's opinions for future planning of park and recreational facilities as well as a variety

of programs and services over the next 15 years," Andrade-Wax said. "We hope that residents will assist by answering the brief survey."

Additional information regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be downloaded at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

For questions regarding the telephone survey, call Andrade-Wax at 931-5340 or contact by email at sandrade-wax@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

—Jeb Bing

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

Commission.

He said an initial plan excluded more businesses from the Core district, including Barone's Restaurant and Fernando's, which would have been fine with him.

With regard to concerns over noise during nighttime entertainment hours, Thorne pointed out that a noise expert said that the dBA would be no higher than 60 by the time it reached the closest residences no matter how loud the dBA measured at the businesses, themselves.

That prompted questions over the need to even establish a Transition district.

Although the council chambers was filled, mostly by downtown business representatives and a few living near the downtown district, all of the 15 speakers who addressed the council supported the

new plan, especially the rules that softened noise and operating hour restrictions.

"All restaurants and bars will benefit by these changes," said Mike Hughes, owner of Baci's on Main Street. "We have a conditional use permit to sell liquor until midnight, but it's been a struggle (to attract customers) because of the rule that has labeled this town as shutting down at 9 p.m."

Joe Barone agreed. He said Barone's has been open for 18 years and is now the oldest restaurant in downtown Pleasanton.

"As a business owner, it kills me when people come in and ask why the downtown is so quiet," he said. "They point out that it's not that way in Livermore. Let's get this downtown happy again where it was 18 years ago when we came here."

Businessman Gene Finch, who lives in a downtown residence, said he likes the new plan but has concerns over "nuisances" not ad-

ressed by the rule makers, including trash and maintenance noises that follow the restaurant and bar closings.

He said he's gone out to his front yard in the mornings and had to clean up what drunks have left behind.

Cook-Kallio said she has seen those "leftovers" in her early morning walks downtown. She joined with Councilwoman Cindy McGovern in urging police to increase their downtown patrols now so that new revelers coming to Pleasanton's late-night entertainment establishments get to know that they're being watched when they leave.

"We're just going to have to jump in and see how this works," outgoing Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said.

In approving the new plan, the council also asked city staff to report back in a year with an annual report on how well the two new districts have been functioning. ■

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Thu. 12/06 • 10:00 AM

Coco's
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Fri. 12/07 • 10:00 AM

CareMore Care Center
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1-877-211-6614 (TTY users should call: 711)

Reference Code: TPW_1130

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Se habla Español.

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Cut your holiday expenses

When time is short, it's usually your budget that suffers

By JASON ALDERMAN

The closer the holidays loom, the less time harried families have to buy gifts, plan seasonal events and make travel arrangements. Unfortunately, when time is at a premium and you're forced to make last-minute decisions, it's usually your budget that suffers.

As an occasional procrastinator myself, let me share a few tips I've picked up over the years that can help take the expense, and stress, out of holiday planning.

Before you start shopping, calculate how much you can afford to spend on the holidays as a portion of your overall budget. If your finances are in good shape, spend no more than 1.5 % of your annual income. But if you're deeply in debt, can't meet your regular monthly expenses or don't have an emergency fund, this isn't the time to rack up additional debt.

Once you determine an overall amount, tally up expected holiday-related expenses including gifts, decorations, new clothes and accessories, gift wrap, cards, postage, special meals and year-end gratuities. Don't forget travel-related expenses if you plan to leave town, and try to recall unan-

anticipated expenses from last year.

If you're looking for ways to cut back, consider:

- Arrange gift lotteries with family members and friends so everyone concentrates their time, effort and money on buying fewer, nicer gifts.

- Speak candidly with friends, coworkers and extended family about placing a moratorium on exchanging gifts. They're probably feeling the pinch too.

- If the gift-giving gesture is important to you, suggest pooling resources with others to make a sizeable contribution to a charity you all believe in.

Once you've determined your overall holiday spending budget -- and before you start shopping -- make a detailed list that includes:

- Everyone on your shopping list.

- Spending limits and several gift alternatives for each person.

- How much you actually spend on each gift. If you overspend on one present you'll need to make up for it elsewhere.

- What you gave each person -- to avoid giving them the same thing next year.

- What each person gave you to avoid "re-gifting" disasters later on.

- Other expenses (decorations, etc.).

Some people relish hunting for bargains; others loathe it. Either way, here are a few money-saving tips:

- Clip newspaper and online coupons.

Stores often match competitors' prices even if their own items aren't on sale. Plus, many consolidation websites post downloadable coupons and sale codes for online retailers.

- Mobile shopping apps let in-store Smartphone and tablet users scan product barcodes and make on-the-spot price comparisons, read reviews, download coupons, buy products and more.

- If you're traveling for the holidays, note that many airlines charge \$25 or more for each checked bag. Many stores and websites ship gifts for free, saving you hassle at the airport.

- Carefully read purchase-return policies for deadlines, exclusions (e.g., for sale or clearance items) and restocking charges.

- Keep receipts. Many retailers will refund the price difference if an item goes on sale within a few weeks after purchase.

- Check whether your credit card agreement provides free product warranty extensions and/or price protection.

And finally, consider the gift of time. Older relatives don't need more chocolates, but they probably could use help with chores, running errands or rides to doctor appointments. Plus, they would probably appreciate your company. Offer to babysit for harried parents so they can run a few errands or simply recharge their batteries.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.



Jason Alderman

Many online sellers don't have to collect sales tax

Only 'handful' of firms respond to notice of new California rules

Some media reports have suggested that all online sellers must now collect California sales tax but that's a gross overstatement that creates needless confusion for both taxpayers and consumers, according to the state Board of Equalization.

BOE member George Runner said California's new online sales tax law (AB 155), which became effective last September, requires out-of-state sellers to collect tax if they make more than \$1 million in annual sales to California consumers and at least \$10,000 of those sales come through referrals from California-based affiliates.

"Even under this new law most major out-of-state online retailers, like L.L. Bean and Overstock.com, are not required to collect sales tax as long as they don't have a presence in California," he said.

Earlier this year the Board of Equalization mailed letters to more than 200 out-of-state retailers notifying them of the new law. To date, only a handful have responded by beginning to collect sales tax, Runner said.

When out-of-state retailers do not collect tax, California consumers are still required to report and pay the equivalent of sales tax, known as "use tax," Runner added.

Consumers can pay directly to the BOE using eReg or pay on their California income tax returns with the option of using BOE's Use Tax Lookup Table. ■

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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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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Help those in need through the Holiday Fund

It's December and the Pleasanton Weekly's 2012 Holiday Fund campaign is now under way, a time when the public is asked to turn its thoughts to supporting local nonprofit agencies and services that care for those in need year round.

This year, the Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows donations to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Although there will be no matching funds as we have had at times before through the now-closed Tri-Valley Community Foundation, SVCF and the Pleasanton Weekly will handle all costs of the campaign. That means that every dollar will go directly to the 10 nonprofits we've chosen as this year's beneficiaries, with all administrative expenses being handled by the SVCF and the Pleasanton Weekly.

The Holiday Fund's goal in this 10th annual campaign is again \$100,000, with contributions to be disbursed in two tiers. A total of 75% of all dollars raised will go in equal amounts to Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PIE) Foundation, Valley Humane Society and ValleyCare Health System. Another 25% of the contributions will go to Hope Hospice, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, REACH, Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation and Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley.

It's our most ambitious campaign ever. Despite a modest economic recovery in the Tri-Valley, these are still-troubling times with unemployment in Alameda County, alone, at more than 8%. Further, the agencies we have targeted for assistance have found that they now have many more to serve and often fewer dollars from their regular donors who have found themselves at times facing financial, employment and health care challenges and uncertainties.

Last year, when the state of the economy was perhaps even more dire, Pleasanton Weekly readers rallied to the call and contributed \$104,000 in direct donations to the Holiday Fund. When the campaign ended, and with more organizations seeking financial assistance, the Weekly provided four more recipients with a share of the donations. This year, we've identified 10 organizations that are counting on your contributions to the Holiday Fund.

We know what the needs are locally because of our expertise in covering these nonprofits in the Weekly's news columns and through the community foundation's programs to help serve their financial needs. We can put money to work very quickly whereas it might take quite a long time for these organizations to partner up with donors themselves. Reports about two of the organizations that will benefit from Holiday Fund donations this year, Hope Hospice and Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, are in this edition with more stories to follow as the campaign continues.

About the only difference in this year's campaign from earlier ones is that as the Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, contributions should be directed to:

Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund
c/o Silicon Valley Community Foundation
2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300
Mountain View, California 94040

Checks should be made payable to Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

There is also an opportunity to donate through Pay Pal online at www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund.

All donations will be acknowledged shortly after being received. ■



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

Come Worship With Us

Fill your congregation this holiday season...

Let local families, newcomers to your community and your members know about your holiday worship by placing the times & dates on the "Come Worship With Us" page.



Publishing on

December 14 and 21st

For additional information

contact **Karen Klein**

at **(925) 600-0840 x122**

email: kklein@pleasantonweekly.com

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PRINT & ONLINE

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For as little as 17¢ a day (\$5 a month) you can become a subscribing member of the Pleasanton Weekly. We'll thank you in ads, invite you to special "members-only" events and send you a "Support Local Journalism" bumper sticker. But most important, we'll be able to keep providing Pleasanton with the award-winning local reporting that any vibrant community needs.

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POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Shoplifters out for the holidays

At least eight incidents of shoplifting were reported around the Thanksgiving holiday, including a pair of women who came back for a second round of thefts at the Stoneridge Shopping Center, according to police reports.

Security recognized the two from a Nov. 23 grab and run at JC Penney in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road. The next day, the pair returned to the store, where one woman took purses off a shelf and brought them to customer service where she used a false drivers license to return

them and received a gift card.

The other woman returned a purse that had been stolen in the grab-and-run the day before and also received a gift card. The two left the store by separate exits, but met up inside the mall, where they were caught by mall security.

Britney Antonia Hardy, 20 of Fairfield was arrested for having false identification, identity theft and burglary. Charrelle Toddneish Reed, 22 of Richmond, was arrested for burglary. The two were arrested at about 9:14 p.m.

In other police reports:

• The opening of the mall at

midnight of Thanksgiving also brought out some shoplifters with one reported at about 3:22 a.m., as well as a woman passing counterfeit bills. Tiffany Nicole Turner, 29 of San Francisco was arrested at 8 a.m. after a 6:31 a.m. incident at Hickory Farms in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road. Turner was arrested for burglary and forgery with five bogus \$100 bills. Another fake bill was recovered at Forever 21.

• The holiday season is also proving to be profitable for thieves stealing items delivered to homes and left outside, with at least two victims in recent days.

Two victims were located after cardboard boxes were found in a church parking lot at about 9 a.m. Nov. 25. An employee brought them home to recycle,

discovered they had two different addresses on the boxes, and contacted police.

An officer went to the 4200 block of Mirador Drive, where the homeowner confirmed he hadn't received an Amazon.com order for about \$65 that had been delivered at 1 p.m. Nov. 24.

On Del Sol, a woman told police she also hadn't received an order for four packages, delivered at 2:53 p.m. Nov. 24 with 23 miscellaneous Christmas presents worth \$583.

• A baseball card collection valued at \$20,000 was stolen in a Nov. 21 burglary at a home in the 1100 block of Hopkins Way, along with a \$400 soda fountain. The break-in occurred between 8:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., with entry through an unlocked door.

• One hundred unopened cases of Clorox valued at \$4,000 were stolen in a burglary at Acosta Sales and Marketing in the 6800 block of Koll Center Parkway. Also taken were 50 cases of soap worth \$2,250, 47 pack of soda worth \$400, two barbecue grills worth \$200 apiece, and a \$300 microwave. The break-in occurred between 3 p.m. Nov. 21 and 7:45 a.m. Nov. 26. A door lock was bypassed for entry.

• A kitchen hood, dishwasher and microwave valued at \$6,500 were stolen from a vehicle parked at Kitchen Experts in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle between 5 and 5:40 p.m. Nov. 25. A window was smashed to gain access.

Under the law, those arrested are considered innocent until convicted.

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Nov. 20

Shoplifting

- 2:37 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 5:29 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 9:43 a.m. in the 7500 block of Driftwood Way

Auto burglary

- 12:26 p.m. in the 7600 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:03 a.m. in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; possession of methamphetamine, paraphernalia possession, possession of more than an ounce of marijuana
- 12:18 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; DUI

Nov. 21

Shoplifting

- 4:13 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 6:24 p.m. in the 1100 block of Hopkins Way

Public drunkenness

- 9:51 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

Nov. 22

Theft

- 1:59 p.m. in the 1300 block of Hopyard Road; bicycle theft

Threats

- 9:07 p.m. in the 6000 block of Corte Encinas

Vandalism

- 11:27 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Alcohol violations

- 12:13 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 1:33 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; public drunkenness
- 2:00 a.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Greenwood Road; DUI
- 9:26 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; public drunkenness

Nov. 23

Theft

- 3:22 a.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 6:31 a.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road; fraud
- 2:38 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:40 p.m. in the 4900 block of Canary Drive; theft from structure

Nov. 24

Theft

- 8:24 a.m. in the 5200 block of Ridgevale Avenue; auto theft
- 1:19 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 2:23 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure
- 9:14 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Auto burglary

- 11:29 a.m. in the 3100 block of Paseo Robles
- 12:28 p.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane
- 3:52 p.m. in the 5500 block of Paseo Navarro

Vandalism

- 1:42 p.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane
- 7:19 p.m. in the 700 block of Main Street

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:04 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness
- 12:12 a.m. in the 2300 block of Crestline Road; DUI
- 1:25 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 10:22 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession, possession of a switchblade knife

Nov. 25

Theft

- 6:17 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 11:39 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; theft from structure

Auto burglary

- 10:19 a.m. in the 2700 block of Laramie Gate Circle

DUI

- 2:47 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue

Nov. 26

Theft

- 9:51 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; theft from structure
- 11:20 a.m. in the 4200 block of Mirador Drive
- 6:45 p.m. in the 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

Burglary

- 9:05 a.m. in the 6800 block of Koll Center Parkway
- 10:33 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Auto burglary

- 6:46 p.m. in the 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

Vandalism

- 3:02 p.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive

Drug violation

- 4:24 a.m. in the 3500 block of Yellowstone Court

Nov. 27

Theft

- 9:43 a.m. in the 4400 block of Comanche Way; auto theft
- 10:39 a.m. in the 600 block of Del Sol Avenue
- 11:11 a.m. in the 2800 block of Brezza Court; theft from structure
- 3:56 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

Auto burglary

- 10:53 a.m. in the 3100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

Vandalism

- 5:12 a.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue
- 9:23 a.m. on I-680 northbound

Drug/alcohol violations

- 11:29 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- 4:22 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Vineyard Avenue; possession of marijuana

OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

Robert Daniel Stoik July 30, 1959-Nov. 26, 2012

Robert Daniel Stoik, 53, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family following an 11 year battle with cancer. Bob was born and raised in Bloomer, Wis. and graduated from Bloomer High School. He earned a secondary education degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. His careers with Milton Bradley/Hasbro and Nintendo promoted his kid at heart attitude. He coached his daughters'



various sports teams and loved bicycling and running.

Bob is survived by his loving wife Catherine; devoted children Courtney, (Cal State Univ.-Chico) and Hannah, (Amador Valley High School). Bob is also survived by his mother, Audrey Stoik (Wis.); mother and father-in-law, Rose and Lee Cowan (Ill.); four sisters, four brothers and numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death are father, Frank Stoik and nephew, Cale Stoik. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Friends and family are invited to a memorial service on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at 3:30 pm at Valley Community Church on 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton, Calif. In lieu of flowers memorials can be sent to the American Cancer Society or Hope Hospice.

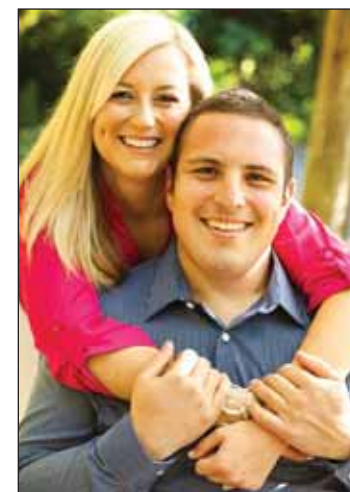
ENGAGEMENTS

Kristina Marie Schuett-Stephen Thomas Ricci

Kristina Marie Schuett and Stephen Thomas Ricci have announced their engagement and are planning a March 23 wedding at the Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento.

Kristina is the daughter of Kathleen and Dale Schuett of Pleasanton and is a 2005 graduate of Amador Valley High School. She graduated from California State University-Sacramento in 2009 and works in resource development for a local nonprofit in Sacramento.

Stephen is the son of Nina Ricci and the late Lino Ricci of Chico and is a 2001 graduate of Durham High School in Chico. He graduated from California State



University-Chico in 2006 and works in retail management in Sacramento.

The couple will live in Sacramento.

Auditions

'FOREVER PLAID' - TRI-VALLEY REPERTORY THEATRE Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is hosting auditions for "Forever Plaid" at 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, at 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 101, Pleasanton. Shows will be presented at the Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville, March 22-30. Prepare 32 bars up tempo '50s pop (accompanist provided, no tapes or a cappella); all roles open, no pay, no AEA. Call-backs by invitation. To sign up for an audition, email kbreedveld@trivalleyrep.com. For questions, call 899-3451.

SUNOL REPERTORY THEATRE AUDITIONS Auditions for the 2013 Season "Murder in the House of Horrors," a who-done-it murder mystery, are at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6, at Sunol Glen School Auditorium, 11601 Main St., Sunol. The theater is in its 31st year, but this is the first time for a current day mystery. Email Sandi Bohner at lwinery@gmail.com for details.

Events

GNON IS HAVING A HOLIDAY PARTY! New unwrapped toys will be collected for the Toys for Tots program. The event is from 5-8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6 at Girasole Grill Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Rd. Cost \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. RSVP: To gnoners@gmail.com by Dec. 4. Visit www.gnontrivalley.com.

Lectures

'TEL AVIV, THEN AND NOW' The East Bay Community Trip to Israel presents "Tel Aviv, Then and Now" at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5, at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada St. Ken Cohen takes us on a journey from the city's birth at the turn of the 20th century to its emergence as the business and cultural capital of Israel. Cost is \$10; trip registrants are free. Visit [www.jfed.org/\\$rael2013](http://www.jfed.org/$rael2013).

HANDLING THE HOLIDAYS Hope Hospice invites those who've recently experienced the death of a loved one to this free workshop to explore practical ideas for handling the holidays while grieving. The workshop will be offered four times: at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Nov. 13 and Dec. 4, at 6377 Clark Avenue, Suite 100, Dublin. Call 829-8770 to register. For more information, visit www.hopehospice.com/home.html.

Live Music

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY 'CELEBRATING 50 SEASONS' Dr. Arthur Barnes and the Livermore-Amador Symphony opens its Golden Season - the 50th - with music from Darter and Brahms that powerfully celebrates the orchestra's half-century of musical achievement. The music begins at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$10-\$29.

Call 373-6800 or visit www.mylvpac.com.

Miscellaneous

FREE TOUR: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER RECYCLING PLANT Learn how 10 million gallons of Tri-Valley wastewater is treated every day - either purified and recycled to irrigate green spaces or safely cleaned and pumped into the San Francisco Bay. The tour is from 3-4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9, at DRSRD Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, 7399 Johnson Dr. Free and open to the public (adults, teens, children 7 and older). Call 875-2282. Reservations required: Complete form on website www.drsrd.com/Education/tourrequest.html.

On Stage

CREATURES OF IMPULSE TEEN IMPROV TROUPE Creatures of Impulse is presenting its fourth season of "Holiday Shorts: A Long Winter's Tale" in three performances, all at 7:30 p.m.: Tuesday, Nov. 27 (free preview show); Thursday, Nov. 29; and Friday, Nov. 30, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$5-\$15; call 931-4848, visit www.firehousearts.org, or go to the box office.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION The American Red Cross Northern California Blood

Services Region will hold a volunteer orientation at 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7, at the Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave. Learn about ways to greet, inform and thank our community's blood donors. Advance sign-up required. Contact Tami at 408-577-2006.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, 1987 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, needs volunteers on weekends and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. It is an interesting and fun environment, and a great cause. We are all touched by cancer and you can make a difference. Call Monda Wiseman, Mgr. at 462-7374 or email Monda.wiseman@cancer.org.

For more events, go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com

ON THE TOWN

AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food," "Best Meal under \$20" and "Best Kid Friendly Restaurant," 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.

TAKE US ALONG



Dog defends stadium: Gerry and David Gire packed their Weekly when they traveled to Iowa in June to watch their son Rob (Foothill class of 2006; University of Arizona class of 2011) participate in shot put at the NCAA Division I Track and Field Championships.

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2012



SUSTAINABLE DANVILLE AREA

Environmental Stewardship



A collage of Sustainable Danville Area activities is posted on its Facebook page.



COURTESY CYNTHIA RUZZI

Darlene Gayler (left) and Cynthia Ruzzi are co-founders of Sustainable Danville Area.

Hero FYI

▲ Sustainable Danville Area supported a local clean water program at various events, including a screening of "Blue Gold" at San Ramon Valley High to educate residents on conservation of the limited resource. The group also hosted hydrologist Leslie Dumas, of RMC Water & Environment, who spoke about local water resources and future vulnerabilities.

▲ SDA supports the Bounty Garden, a nonprofit community garden that operates out of Hap Magee Ranch Park in Alamo. The Bounty Garden will kick off its winter season in January and donate food from its nine garden beds to food banks.

▲ The average American uses between 330 and 500 plastic bags a year for an average of 12 minutes before throwing them out. Bring a reusable bag to the store and cut down on the approximately 150 billion bags used each year in the U.S.

▲ Food consumed in the U.S. typically travels 1,500-2,500 miles to reach our plates and accounts for about 20% of all fossil fuel consumption. Eat locally sourced food and reduce carbon emissions while supporting the local economy.

by Jessica Lipsky

While doing a "green" remodel of her kitchen, Cynthia Ruzzi fielded many questions from curious neighbors eager to learn what made the job sustainable. Finding that people generally want to learn from friends, despite a plethora of sustainability-focused publications, Ruzzi co-founded Sustainable Danville Area as a local resource to connect and share information about sustainable practices.

Inspired by Sustainable Lafayette, Ruzzi and co-founders Darlene Gayler and Tracy Bauer first kicked off Sustainable Danville on Earth Day in 2010 and held an opening meeting to hear resident concerns. More than 40 people came to the gathering, which is now a monthly topical event dedicated to discussion, networking and learning about alternative practices for home and business. Topics run the gamut from dwindling water resources to organic wines, and occasionally include a field trip to get hands-on experience picking organic produce for canning.

Shortly thereafter, SDA launched its Green Your Schools program as an opportunity for high school students, teachers, parents and administrators to connect and brainstorm sustainable campus programs. In addition to hosting discussions on waste reduction and recycling, SDA spearheaded a school supply drive that gathered 675 pounds of gently used materials for schools in east Contra Costa County. Trash collected at San Ramon Valley High during the drive was reduced by half, Ruzzi added.

Sustainable Danville hopes to work with San Ramon Valley Unified School District to create a composting program to help power East Bay Municipal Utility District facilities through methane trapping.

The group also partnered with The Urban Farmers to collect unwanted backyard fruit for donation to local food pantries and has collected over 2,000 pounds of fruit since August. SDA collects food at the Danville farmers market at 822 Hartz Way.

"What we find is people start to adopt one measure and they kind of decide, 'Wow this is taking care of our neighborhood, our community,' then they start to adopt

more and more measures," Ruzzi said. "I think what we teach is we can be sustainable without sacrifice."

After working to certify the Town of Danville with the Bay Area Green Business Program, Ruzzi decided to encourage local businesses to become certified as green. Certified businesses must adopt 25 sustainable practices to be certified in what Ruzzi called a very stringent program.

"I felt that many of our businesses weren't being recognized for what they were doing right and perhaps they needed a stepping stone to get to that Bay Area Green Business Program," Ruzzi said.

Over 40 local businesses — from Heritage Bank of Commerce to Cottage Jewel in downtown Danville — have been certified since 2011 and, to Ruzzi's surprise, many had already gone green. The average participating business uses around 50 reduce, reuse or recycle measures.

In addition to working with an Eagle Scout to build portable bike racks for use at San Ramon Valley High and town events, Sustainable Danville was instrumental in instituting a bicycle parking study. As a result of the study, the town installed 39 new racks — a change SDA members can really see.

"I'm very proud of work we've done among different organizations. Our programs might be working with schools and with the town and the Chamber and it would be impossible for a county organization to really bring that kind of depth to community activities," Ruzzi said. "It's really important to support individual communities as they enact local ordinances and practices and enforce those practices."

Although Sustainable Danville focuses specifically on its namesake town, Ruzzi said SDA is happy to be a resource or mentor for individuals looking to create similar communities throughout the Tri-Valley.

"When you really get down to it, the reason we do this is because we really love Danville and our community and we want to make sure we preserve what we have for future generations," Ruzzi said. "The biggest way we can give back to the rest of the Tri-Valley area is to share our story, share our resources, meet and talk." ■

Heroes Sponsors





Your Hero of the Tri-Valley

SANDRA J. WING

Courage

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The language of cancer is grim: chemotherapy, radiation, lumpectomy, mastectomy, bone marrow transplant.

But cancer survivor Sandra J. Wing, 53, has introduced a different vocabulary for cancer patients in the Tri-Valley: acupuncture, acupressure, meditation, guided imagery, therapeutic massage.

She found these therapies extremely helpful as she underwent a hysterectomy then chemotherapy after she was diagnosed at age 47 with uterine and ovarian cancer.

"Fortunately I had a friend who was also an oncology nurse and she was the first person I reached out to," Wing said. "I didn't know what to do or where to go."

Her friend told her she should try healing therapies to reduce anxiety and stay positive, and Gracie Santos, her partner of 18 years, insisted on it.

"Gracie was determined to keep my mind positive," Wing recalled. "I have to credit her with having the strength and passion to keep me focused on forward movement."

Chemotherapy left Sandra unable to perform the simplest of tasks, she recalled, with her body feeling battered, beaten and achy.

She started with acupressure, guided imagery and deep breathing, which distracted her from the anxiety she was feeling. She found that even at her sickest and weakest she was receptive to these healing therapies.

At one point she almost had to suspend her chemotherapy when the tips of her fingers and toes were impacted by neuropathy. But acupuncture sessions reduced the symptoms and she was able to complete the chemo treatments.

Wing received her acupressure massage and guided meditation at UCSF's Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, feeling fortunate that she could pay for them because complementary treatments are not covered by insurance.

"Medical bills are one of many worries for cancer patients," she noted.

And so she began to form the idea of a foundation to help other patients pay for the healing therapies.

"I had my last chemotherapy treatment in April 2007, and in August 2008 I started working on the foundation," she said. "I got the initial board members in place by January 2009 and applied for being a corporation. We started issuing money in July 2009."

The website, www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org, has a simple application form, which needs to be signed by a patient's oncologist. Grants are typically \$500, and recipients can reapply.

"The first year we gave out 12, the second year it was 24," Wing recalled. "The word was getting out, by word-of-mouth referrals and doctors."

This year the foundation is on track to give out 100.

"There's a big shift in recent years, in our local area," Wing said, "with oncology folks seeing the benefits of complementary therapies. We do want patients to focus on their cancer treatments, and we focus on the mind, body and spirit."

Oncologist Ricardo Da Roza talks in a video on the website about how important this holistic approach is in caring for his patients.

"There's science, there's medicine, and there's a sense of well-being that's so essential to the healing process in the recovery of patients," he says.

Other patients note that healing therapies also give them something to look forward to, a bright spot in their week.

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation is run 100% by volunteers. They put together a string of fundraisers that run throughout the fall under the name Party Palooza, then host the annual Ragin' Cajun at Mardi Gras time. This year it takes place March 8 at the Palm Event Center.

"Gracie is the passionate uber volunteer," Wing said. "She is the flag bearer and spokeswomen and not only encourages me but also all the volunteers. She's going to be volunteer chair in January."

Wing, who works fulltime as a project manager for Xerox, said her favorite part of Ragin' Cajun is hearing testimonials from patients.

"It's one of the rare moments that I get to interact with the patients and the volunteers, as well," she said.

She receives calls from around the United States asking if she knows of such an organization in their areas but says she knows of no others besides hers.

"As a board it's our desire is to grow," she said, "to Walnut Creek, Castro Valley, Fremont. We like to say we're in the Bay Area, then California then nationwide."

"I started this thinking if could just help one person," Wing said. Now she is gratified "to see it grow and see the need out there, and to know I'm making a difference." ■

Hero FYI

▲ Sandra J. Wing has lived and worked in Pleasanton for over 25 years in executive leadership positions and as an entrepreneur.

▲ She has a BS and MBA in business management.

▲ For 10 years, she taught undergraduate and graduate business students at the University of Phoenix.

▲ She is a U.S. Army veteran. She received an Army Commendation medal and an Expert Marksman medal.

▲ She is on the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Foundation Board of Directors.

▲ She and her pooch Dori have done dog therapy at the VA center in Livermore and Villa San Ramon.

▲ She's from Milwaukee but after visiting California she hopped in her car, put whatever fit into the back seat, and moved out here.


▲ She became a football fan when she fell in love with Joe Montana and the 49ers.

▲ She stops drinking caffeine a month before Ragin' Cajun because the fundraiser is such a high for her.

▲ She and Gracie are movie buffs; as of Nov. 26 they had already seen "Argo," "Lincoln," "Skyfall" and "Life of Pi."

▲ On Nov. 16 she passed her sixth anniversary of being cancer-free. On her fifth anniversary, she went to Universal Studios to go on the Harry Potter ride and "be a child again."





SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE

Frances Dowdy, 88, was independent when she moved to Vineyard Villa 15 years ago. She has had trouble accepting the decline in her eyesight and mobility but is enthusiastic about the help she gets from Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley.

"They're a lifesaver," she exclaimed. "One lady in particular, she was like a lawyer, she did all of my paperwork with a traumatic case with mail fraud. She was so giving."

"Therapy, exercise — they come to your house," she continued.

Dowdy has made a 26-year-old volunteer her honorary grandson for the work he does in her yard and taking her shopping.

"He has a good job and he wanted to give back," she said.

Senior Support helps the aging population in a multitude of ways, including dealing with problems of nutrition, exercise, drug and alcohol addictions, loneliness, isolation, loss of a loved one.

Its primary mission, said Executive Director Marlene Peterson, is to help older people stay in their homes.

"We want to keep people living in their homes as long as possible, safely, independently," she said. "When they are really shut-ins, we like to get them back into the community."

Counselors go into homes to talk to clients, often after firefighters or police alert Senior Support that someone might be in need. Sometimes solutions are simple once a problem is recognized.

"If you see someone shuffling it could be their toenails," Peterson said as an example.

But often they are afraid to ask for help or admit anything is wrong because family members might think they can no longer live alone safely.

"Everything threatens them," Peterson said.

Women whose role has always been to take care of others and their home may not be so good about caring for themselves, she pointed out.

The low-income population receives help from MediCal, Peterson noted; Senior Support Program works with the near-poor.

"Some have lost their investments," she said.

She told of a man who'd lost his job and was living with his elderly dad in Tracy. He talked to something at the Senior Support booth at a 1st Wednesday Street Fair, and the organization began to help them.

"Their lives have changed," Peterson said. "They told us everyone said Pleasanton people were snobs, but he said, 'I see a community of loving, caring people.'"

"I've been in this business a long time — what keeps you going is people who care," Peterson added.

30 years for Senior Support Program

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley celebrated its 30th anniversary in September. It began in 1981 with a Friendly Visitor volunteer program serving 35 seniors, working out of the Axis facility on Railroad Avenue, and now has 19 employees and more than 100 volunteers. They serve about 1,600 clients per month plus make approximately 5,000 information and referral calls and visits a year.

Senior Support is located at the Pleasanton Senior Center on Sunol Boulevard with its own entrance toward the front of the building, where it moved when an adult day care closed in 2000.

"Partnering with the Pleasanton Senior Center is a marriage made in heaven," Peterson said. "We are able to help people right away. If they need to get out, we just walk them over there."



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Luz Seldana (above) and Carol Bush (right) are case managers at Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, part of a team whose primary mission is to help older people stay in their homes. Right, a bulletin board at Senior Support Services explains how its programs are all pieces of a puzzle. Top right, Executive Director Marlene Peterson talks over issues with community activist Jack Dove.

"Part of problem is that people don't know how to access help," she added.

Jack Dove, 88, who is retired from the paint and chemical industry, discovered Senior Support when he moved from Alamo to Vineyard Villa in Pleasanton 25 years ago and realized some of his neighbors needed help. Now he lives at Ridge View Commons, a senior complex on Case Avenue that backs up to the Senior Center with an attractive walkway in between. Dove continues to serve as a liaison.

"My neighbor is probably around 85, and is in a doctor's care with a problem, and needed a heart procedure," Dove said to cite an example. "They have to give her tests in order to do the procedure, and they had to do the tests in Redwood City."

He contacted Senior Support, which arranged transportation with a volunteer driver.

"So many people in the Valley here have trouble getting to the doctor in Walnut Creek, in Antioch, at Stanford," Peterson said. "It's an impossible journey by municipal transportation."

Funding always a challenge

Funding has been a problem from the beginning, Peterson said, with agencies preferring to fund programs that serve younger clients with a future. Also money has been directed to other parts of Alameda County due to Pleasanton's reputation for affluence.

But Senior Support has gained a reputation over the years, and recent grant applications have been successful.

Dove recalled standing on his balcony at Ridge View Commons looking over at the Pleasanton Senior Center with Quincy Campbell, past chairman of the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging.



"He said, 'Over there we get more value for our buck than anywhere in the county,'" Dove remembered.

"People are amazed at what we do with so little money," Peterson agreed, adding, "We couldn't do it without the community."

The program received \$50,000 from Measure A

funds, Peterson said, which is a selling program. A recent Alameda County Behavioral Health Commission is allowing Senior Support to expand its drug programs.

"Twenty years ago we found

Pleasanton is a good place to grow old, thanks to Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



with a friend. Her mother is living with her, she looks after her grandchildren two days a week, and her sister is ill, living in another area."

After the group was finished, Bush met one-on-one with the woman.

"Let your sister look after herself," she advised, then made a date to go with her to look at respite opportunities for her mother later that week.

"Generally they don't know of any resources when they bring mom in to live with them," Bush said. "They think they are trapped, they can't get out of the house."

"Many are in the sandwich generation — still caring for young children, working and trying to deal the best they can with mom and dad," she added. "I not only tell them about different resources but take them out and show them; hopefully I can refer them to ones that have an opening for them."

She said there are about 40 residential care homes in the Tri-Valley with 24-hour staff, and some, when they have an opening, will take people in for a short-term stay as a respite for their regular caregivers.

The Caregiver Support Group, which Bush started about eight years ago, has some oldtimers who give practical advice and tips they've learned from their own experiences.

"We call them 'the varsity,'" Bush said. "When someone new comes in, they don't know what to do — maybe their husband is not sleeping. And there is resentment. They feel, 'He, or she, is ruining my life.' We try to help them realize, you don't have to do it alone. We try to come up with a variety of ideas and solutions."

When the spouse dies, the caregiver can join another group called Move on.

"Move On started out being grief support but then we realized there were other grief support groups so it developed into activities where they might meet for lunch, to play bocce ball, or go to dinner and a movie, to be with people who have been through a similar experience," Bush said.

The Friendly Visitor Program, headed by Lorie Rohloff, has about 250 clients, Peterson said.

Volunteers always needed

Volunteers are always needed for the program, which matches volunteers with clients to help them with shopping and correspondence. Three times a year they have a luncheon to make sure the home-bound seniors are able to socialize.

This program also makes phone calls to the house-bound. This is not a quick check, Peterson said; they have long, friendly chats and get to know each other.

Senior Support also offers a registry to help people find in-home workers. Its coordinator visits clients at their homes to assess their needs, then supplies a list of possible workers after checking their references.

The various help given to clients is coordinated by a case manager, and services include transportation, setting up Meals on Wheels, helping with medical appointments and other in-home services and support. Detailed descriptions of all the programs can be found at the website www.ssptv.org. Or for more information, call 931-5379 or drop in at 5353 Sunol Blvd.

All the pieces fit together like a puzzle, Peterson explained, with every part being complementary and part of the whole.

"We're a one-stop shop for seniors: transportation, exercise, fitness — and what we don't have here, we will find them," she said. ■

started in June, focuses on mind and body fitness, and talks about alcohol, drugs and their abuse.

"It's a five-week series," said manager Lindsey Passmore. "First we meet and introduce the team and talk about what Senior Support does for the community and how to use us as a resource. We bring in goodies, it's very easygoing."

They move on to a half hour of exercise, seated or standing, and a 20- to 30-minute discussion of nutrition; a dietician teaches them how to read a nutrition label.

"There was a need, that's why this has been developed," Passmore said. "People were reporting more and more alcohol abuse and reporting depression."

She limits the classes to 10 to keep them intimate. "I talk about how to make things healthier in our everyday diet, a generic overview," Passmore said. "I go into a discussion of alcohol and medication misuse, making it very casual and non-judgmental."

"Hydration is huge with seniors," she continued. "I recently learned that sensitivity to thirst decreases as we age. They might ask, 'Why am I getting a headache?' Or have dizziness or fatigue or blurred vision. One of the ladies said she was super dehydrated, and she almost blacked out."

They offer tips such as drinking 8 ounces of water with every meal plus another glass in between meals. They also share simple, healthy cost-effective recipes.

Health program a success

"One lady told me she took one of our recipes and cooked it for herself for her birthday and her best friend came over," Passmore said. "She said, 'I can't thank you enough.'"

They are grateful that someone is paying attention, she said.

"We do care," she said. "We want to provide them with whatever they need."

The Caregiver Support Group gathers each month at Senior Support to share stories and ideas about dependent spouses, or sometimes parents.

"Yesterday we had a tale of woe I couldn't believe," said facilitator Carol Bush recently. "A woman came in

and our program has been really successful," Peterson said. "We've made it fun and educational."

"We don't try to teach abstinence," she explained. "One elderly man said to me, 'Honey, when you're my age, you can tell me what to do.'"

The revised Behavioral Health Program, which

ch goes toward its count-
nt \$250,000 grant from
ral Health Services is al-
o expand its alcohol and
rst recognized a problem,



Hope Hospice — guiding people through their final days

Coming events, plus Holiday Fund support Tri-Valley agency

By JEB BING

Can someone experience a beautiful end of life?

Hope Hospice believes so. With the help and support of the Hope Hospice care team, families and their loved ones can better understand what is meant by a beautiful end of life.

While death is not a popular topic, the Hope Hospice team is trained to help people talk about it, prepare for it, and live the end-of-life experience in a meaningful way.

A team of more than 160 staff and volunteers support hospice patients and families in the community, according to Hope Hospice CEO Victoria Emmons, who admits that the need for more services continues.

“With our aging population, the need for quality, community-based hospice care continues to grow,” Emmons said. “This year, we served over 500 hospice patients and supported over 1,500 community members in our Grief Support Center. Our individual and group



Victoria Emmons

grief support is open to everyone in the community, not just family members of our hospice patients.”

Emmons said hospice care focuses on quality of life until the final moments.

“Our mission is to provide the highest quality, community-based care for patients and family members managing an end-of-life situation,” she explained.

While hospice is designed for people in their final days, generally those with six months or less to live, Emmons said people in hospice programs often live longer than those pursuing curative treatment.

“Hospice care is unique because it addresses the emotional and spiritual needs in addition to the physical needs of patients,” she said. “That means that patients often thrive. Family members receive emotional support and practical help, as well.”

“Hope Hospice provides care regardless of insurance status or the ability to pay, so relies on contributions such as those raised by the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund,” Emmons said. “Donations received through the Holiday Fund help us support primarily our grief programs, without which many families would struggle needlessly.”

Hospice care is provided in a pa-



Hope Hospice makes sure patient's pet (left) stays with him while under care. At right, Hospice nurse (left) gives comfort to another patient.

tient's home so that the individual can live life as fully as possible, with dignity, and surrounded by loved ones. The patient and family receive support and education from a Hope Hospice team, including a physician, nurse, home health aide, social worker, chaplain and home-care volunteer.

Working with the physician, the team develops a personal care plan that allows the patient to remain in control of his or her health care decisions. As death nears, advice and medical care is available 24 hours a day.

Volunteers are key members of

the patient care team, including a videographer who interviews patients to record their life stories. Other volunteers provide special support services such as hair styling, pet therapy, vigil support, and singing with the Voices of Hope choir.

Hope Hospice also supports families with funeral planning and, for up to 18 months after the patient's death, bereavement support. The organization, one of the oldest in the country, provides opportunities throughout the year for people to remember their loved ones, including the annual Hike for Hope in May and Lights of the Valley: A Cel-

ebration of Light that will be held in Dublin this Sunday, Dec. 2.

“Lights of the Valley offers people a time to remember and honor loved ones amidst an ambience of beautiful music,” Emmons said. “It promises to be a very special event.”

On Tuesday, Dec 4, Hope Hospice is hosting workshops on handling the holidays for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For more information about Lights of the Valley, the grief workshop, Hike for Hope, hospice care or grief support, call (925) 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com. ■

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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 ninth 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.

We are pleased to announce that this year we will partner with Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which will provide all the administrative support for the campaign at no cost. As before, the Pleasanton Weekly will donate marketing services, as well as advertising space. This means that all money raised can support the people in our community.

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

Holiday Fund donors

At the launch of the 2012 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 86 donors have contributed \$13,221 to the fund.

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The following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund.

Scheduled to receive 75% are:

- Axis Community Health
- Open Heart Kitchen
- Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation
- Valley Humane Society
- ValleyCare Health System
- Hope Hospice

Receiving the other 25% are:

- Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council
- REACH (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing) for special adults of the Tri-Valley
- Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation
- Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley



Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund Donor Remittance Form

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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

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Credit card gifts may be made at:
www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund



How to give: Process has changed

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Holiday Happenings

Special events add zest to the season

From tree lighting to 'Messiah' to local productions, it's great to be out and about

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The best thing about the holidays is that its traditions are rich and varied, from visiting with family and friends, to decorating, to enjoying a pumpkin latte, to gift-giving, to special events of the season.

Pleasanton's Hometown Holiday Celebration kicks off the season tomorrow with its parade and tree-lighting. The parade down Main Street, led by the Amador Valley High Marching Band, begins at 5 p.m. Also this weekend are "Holiday Songs of Joy" by the Valley Concert Chorale and the Cantabella Children's Chorus, and a Holiday Teddy Bear Tea.

The Valley Concert Chorale once again will host its annual "Sing-it-Yourself Messiah" where the community is invited to sing Handel's choral masterpiece, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton.

This Tri-Valley holiday tradition is open to all singers in the community who will join in singing Part I of Handel's great choral masterpiece, also known as the Christmas portion of "Messiah" It will conclude with a powerful rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus."

"This is our seventh year of hosting the event for



Sean McGregor plays Theophilus and Riley Greenough is Princess Sweetiepie in the Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company's "Puss in Boots" panto.

the community," said Valley Concert Chorale President Dave Brunswick. "Each year the number of singers increases with well over 100 singers from around the Tri-Valley and beyond.

"It's great being able to offer this musical experience to the area, complete with professional soloists and accompaniment by our internationally known concert pianist Daniel Glover."

Singers are encouraged to bring their own copy of "Messiah," though extra copies will be available to borrow. The event is also open to those who just wish to listen to the performance. Tickets are \$10; call 866-4003 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Pleasanton's own Civic Arts Stage Company is presenting its popular annual Holiday Panto for two weekends, Dec. 7-16, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. This year's fractured fairy-tale musical-comedy production is "Puss in Boots."

Based on the beloved French fairytale by Charles Perrault, the musical by local playwright Kate Hawley features a sassy cat who promises to solve the problems of a poor miller's son. Dressed in her trademark red leather boots, Puss charms the Queen, befuddles the Prime Minister, defeats the powerful wizard Kazaam, and helps her shy master and Princess Sweetiepie fall

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Holiday Happenings



Morgan Werder as Puss in Boots, with KJ Brown as Theophilus.

madly in love.

"I am so excited to see another fun classic brought to life at the Amador Theater this season," says Mark Duncan, Civic Arts Stage Company coordinator with the city of Pleasanton. "I get energized when I see and hear the rehearsal process; new songs being sung, new dance routines being worked out, and an enthusiastic production staff that loves what they do."

Panto, short for "pantomime" is not to be confused with the silent "mime" performance genre. Rather Panto is a lively irreverent musical-comedy production beloved for centuries in Great Britain, and most often performed during the Christmas and New Year season. "Puss in Boots" follows the panto tradition of being based on traditional children's stories. In this version, the role of the Queen was written especial-

ly for returning guest actor Paula Wujek. Guest artist David Moore has dual roles as the snooty Prime Minister Pratt and the evil wizard Kazaam, which makes him a villain doubly worth booing.

"It's exciting to work with a cast of over 70 local actors, mostly kids aged 6 and up," said Director Rebecca Ennals. "We're always thrilled to see our young actors grow into really seasoned performers."

Tickets are \$10, \$15, \$18 general; child or senior: \$6, \$9, \$12. Call 931-4848, visit www.firehousearts.org, or go to the box office at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

A listing of Pleasanton holiday events is on the following pages — add to this the tradition of driving around to enjoy the bright lights and other decorations and you have an exciting season of Holiday Happenings. ■



David Moore as the evil Wizard Kazaam, a villain worth booing.

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Holiday Happenings

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS A traditional service of Advent Lessons & Carols will include selections by the Parish Choir, Angel Voices and congregational hymns. The event is from 5-6:15 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. Readers will include leaders from in and around the Pleasanton community. People of all faiths welcome. Officiant, Father Ronald D. Culmer. Organ, Michael Secour. Free-will offering; no one turned away. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org/index.html.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Join Santa for a pancake breakfast at the Tri-Valley Y from 9-11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, at Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane #F, Dublin. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee. Reservations required. Tickets are \$10 adult, \$7 child. Contact Vicky Mazzanti-Noard at 263-4444 or visit www.trivalleyymca.org



CANTABELLA CHILDREN'S CHORUS Enjoy the music of the Tri-Valley's Cantabella Children's Chorus winter concert, "Counting the Joys of Christmas," at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15, at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. This musical celebration features children from kindergarten through high school age. Tickets are \$8-\$20. For more information and ticket purchase, visit

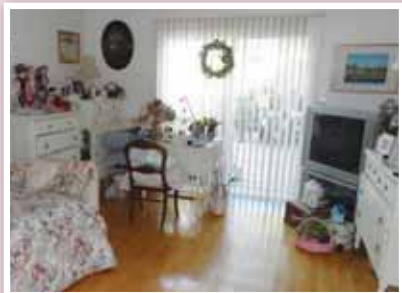
Cantabella.org/tickets.

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will be hosting its annual Chanukah celebration at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16. There will be latkas, dreidals, Menorah lighting and fun for the whole family. Bring a potato to contribute to the latkas. Bring gift cards for local stores or new household items for the adopted family in need. For details, call Kevin Coren at 240-5612 or visit www.trivalleyculturaljews.org. Free to members/\$15 donation non-members.

CHRISTMAS OPERA: 'AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS' Livermore Valley Opera will present "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a one-act opera performed in English about a crippled boy and his mother who are visited by the three kings on their way to Bethlehem. The performance is 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets are \$12-\$25. Visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY 'POSADA' CELEBRATION The Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association is sponsoring a traditional Christmas celebration "Posada" from 7-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. The Posada is celebrated in Mexico through music, carols and everyone's participation. This fun family event with local school students and the Pleasanton community will include desserts and refreshments. For more information contact Sylvia or Jorge at 462-6723 or email jvictoria45@comcast.net.

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS The combined choirs at Centerpointe Church will present their annual Festival of Carols and The Joy of



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Holiday Happenings

Christmas at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, and at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, at Centerpointe Church, Worship Center, 3410 Cornerstone Ct. They welcome all to join them as they celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. A reception will follow the Saturday evening performance. Free to all. Call 846-4436 or visit www.centerpointechurch.org.

HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH' Handel's "Messiah" will be presented from 8-10 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore, with soloists and the Pacific Chamber Symphony Chorus directed by Robert Lappa and conducted by Lawrence Kohl. There will be a grand finale Hallelujah audience sing-a-long. Tickets are \$30, \$36, \$45; students \$7. Call 373-6800 or visit www.mylpac.org.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE Friends of the Dublin Library present its Holiday Book Sale, noon-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. You'll find a selection of hardcover books in excellent condition, ideal for gift-giving. Choose from children's, holiday, gift and gourmet cook books. For details, call the library at 828-1315. Free.

'HOLIDAY SONGS OF JOY' Valley Concert Chorale will present "Holiday Songs of Joy" at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, and at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15, at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Joining the Chorale is the Tri-Valley's Cantabella Children's Chorus. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door; high school and college students, \$10; free for children under 12. For tickets, call 866-4003 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

HOLIDAY TEDDY BEAR TEA FEATURING THE SNOW FAERIE Soroptimist International of Pleasanton Dublin is hosting a Holiday Teddy Bear Tea Party from 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Highland Oaks



Clubhouse, 4530 Sandalwood Dr. Girls should bring their favorite teddy bear to enjoy a lovely tea party with holiday treats. And all the way from the North Pole, The Snow Faerie is planning a special visit to delight you with her special magic and sing along. Cost: age 10 to adult, \$20; and 5-9 years, \$15. Visit www.si-pleasantondublin.org.

JEFF BORDES & FRIENDS This year Jeff Bordes & Friends are offering a "Jazzy-Funky Christmas" at the Firehouse Arts Center from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, featuring a host of special guests plus local favorites organist/vocalist Don Lewis and the CoolTones Big Band. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors, and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.com or the box office at 4444 Railroad Ave.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON The Winemaker's Pour House invites you to its "Make A Difference This Holiday Season" party, from 5-7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, when

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Holiday Happenings

it teams with the Livermore Homeless Refuge to bring warmth to those in need. Come in to choose one of 28 ornaments that will contain the name and size of someone in need of thermal underwear. Return the ornament and thermals by Sunday, Dec. 18. A donation jar will also be available and live music will be provided by the McCoustic Duo. For details, call 215-2656 or visit www.winemakerspou-house.com or www.livermorehomelessrefuge.org.

MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR The Moscow Boys Choir will be at the Bankhead Theater on its "Christmas Around the World" tour at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 22, with traditional melodies, folk songs and Christmas classics from many countries. Tickets range from \$43 to \$63; \$14 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org. The theater is located at 2400 First St., Livermore.

ONE-MAN 'CHRISTMAS CAROL' AT THE FIREHOUSE Visit the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future in "A Christmas Carol" at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7, when Broadway actor Duffy Hudson comes to the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., in this unique one-man adaption of the classic Dickens tale. Tickets are \$16 adults, \$12 youths 12 and under, and can be purchased by calling 931-4848 or visiting www.firehousearts.org. Sponsored by the Museum on Main.



PLEASANTON'S ANNUAL HOMETOWN HOLIDAY PARADE The annual Hometown Holiday Celebration will be held from 5-7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, along Main Street in down-



town Pleasanton. The parade will be followed by the lighting of a holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main. Parade viewers are encouraged to shop and dine in historic Downtown Pleasanton. Visit www.hometownholiday.com.

PUSS IN BOOTS HOLIDAY PANTO The Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company will present "Puss In Boots" Holiday Panto at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7, 8, 14 and 15; and at 2 p.m. Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 16. This popular annual fractured fairy tale/musical comedy production will be held at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are available online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Ave. Cost is \$10, \$15, \$18 for general admission; \$6, \$9 and \$12 for children or seniors.

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Holiday Happenings

warm and fuzzy critter to snuggle with and enjoy discounted adoption fees. "Home for the Holidays" runs through the month of December, during normal adoption hours. Closed Tuesday, Dec. 25. For details, call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH Valley Concert Chorale will host its annual "Sing-it-Yourself Messiah" where the community is invited to sing Handel's choral masterpiece at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Singers are encouraged to bring their own copy of "Messiah," though extra copies will be available. The event is also open to those who wish to just listen. Tickets are \$10. To order advance tickets, call 866-4003 or go to www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

SLEEP TRAIN'S TOY DRIVE FOR FOSTER KIDS Help Sleep Train ensure every foster child has a magical holiday this year by donating new, unwrapped gifts to its annual toy drive. Individuals and businesses are encouraged to contribute all-age appropriate gifts such as DVDs, sporting equipment or gift cards at a Sleep Train near you, from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (6050 Johnson Dr. Ste C) For details, call 800-378-BEDS (800-378-2337) or visit www.sleeptrain.com.

ST. BART'S DICKENS FAIRE Victorian London atmosphere with craft vendors, tea, food and costumed players performing scenes from "A Christmas Carol." Proceeds to benefit St. Bart's. The event is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 1 and from 1-5 p.m., Dec. 2 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Call 447-3289 or visit www.SaintBartsLivermore.com.

TAPESTRY IN CONCERT Tapestry, the Bay Area's only combined vocal and handbell ensemble, presents, "Dear Santa - A Musical Potpourri of Yuletide Wishes" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Tapestry will be singing and ringing music for listeners of all ages. The concert is free; however, donations will be accepted to benefit The Alzheimer's Association of the East Bay. For more details, call Susana Taylor at 768-8025 or visit www.TapestryRingersandSingers.org.

TINGSTAD AND RUMBEL HOLIDAY SHOW Grammy Award winners Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel will be performing at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., a special holiday mix of original and cover tunes with Tex-Mex

stylings, Caribbean rhythms and Americana finger-picking. Cost \$15-\$25 for adults, \$12 for children, and \$22 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

TRADE AS ONE HOLIDAY MARKET This is a great opportunity to shop with a cause. Every item is a fair trade product, which means that products are obtained with a clear conscience so you can buy with confidence knowing that the products have been produced in ways that treat both people and planet fairly. This event will be held from 3-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1; and from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, at Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 N. Canyons Parkway, Livermore. Contact Kim Kennedy at 579-5439 or kimk@cornerstoneweb.org

VALLEY DANCE THEATRE'S 'THE NUTCRACKER' Valley Dance Theatre presents its 33rd annual classical production of "The Nutcracker," Saturday, Dec. 8 - Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. This holiday classic will be accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Eight public performances will take place with evening shows and matinees, in addition to two spe-



cial performances for local school children. Details on show times and tickets (\$18-\$34) are available at www.bankheadtheater.org, by phone at 373-6800, or at the theater's box office. For teachers interested in tickets for the school performances (Tuesday, Dec. 11), a ticket order form is available at www.valleydancetheatre.com.

YULETIDE, A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS Yuletide, A Victorian Christmas at Ravenswood Historic Site will feature Victorian Christmas decorations, gift shop, entertainment all afternoon, a visit with St. Nicholas and buggy rides. The event is from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Free admission. Call 443-0238 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Bring Home the Holidays

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday issues will feature articles dedicated to helping you make the holidays a sweet and joyous time full of fun, family and friends.



- December 7 - *All that Glitters* - Light up your holidays
- December 14 - *Holiday Magic* - Young eyes sparkle with excitement
- December 21 - *Peace and Joy* - Special holiday memories
- December 28 - *Ring in 2013*

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Phantom ends season with a tourney first

The Pleasanton Phantom 14B fall travel softball team ended its fall season with a first place in the "Outwit, Outplay, Outlast" tournament in Hayward on Nov. 10-11. Team members are (back row, l-r) Mark Sanchez, Emily Trinidad, Taylor Smith, Kristen HoTseung, Lauren HoTseung, Dave Bianco, Emily Crimi, Rick Congdon, (middle) Arabelle Franco, Kelsey Congdon, Madie Bianco, Taylor Congdon, (front) Alex Sanchez and Lauren Jepson.

Alumni soccer game scheduled

Four decades of soccer players from Pleasanton schools will be playing in the 10th Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Games on Saturday, Jan. 5. A game at noon will feature women, and another at 2 p.m. is for men, all soccer players from the '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s.

The games have become an annual event that benefits the soccer programs at Foothill and Amador. Tickets are \$8 adults and \$5 students, and all gate receipts and snack bar proceeds go directly to the programs.

Ryan Gordon was a 2003 graduate of Foothill High School who was killed in a boating accident shortly after graduating. He played soccer at Foothill for four years and was planning on attending Santa Barbara City College where he planned to continue playing soccer.

The original Alumni Games were organized to fund a scholarship that benefits a graduating member of the Foothill women's or men's soccer team who aspire to play soccer in college. Since the first year all proceeds now go directly to the men's and women's



soccer programs at the two high schools.

To register to play, send \$20 (checks payable to RGSF) along with name, email address, high school team, year of graduation, and whether male or female to Curt Gordon, 205 Heritage Lane, Pleasanton 94566. Registration is also accepted at All Star Sports, 3037A Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.

After the games a party will be held at the Hop Yard Alehouse at 4:30 p.m. ■



AV JV girls take first in Thanksgiving soccer tournament

Team off to great start on new season

Amador Valley's junior varsity soccer girls opened their season with a first place in the annual Thanksgiving Tournament hosted by Cal High, notching four straight wins over the weekend and scoring 36 points.

Play on Friday was highlighted by a strong defense and goal keeping, and just enough scoring to post 1-0 wins over Livermore and Dublin. The first match started with fairly even play on both sides, but midway through the first half, freshman midfielder Brookey Villanueva found the net on a shot from 20 yards out, putting Amador ahead, 1-0. Working various different lineups and positions, Coach Steve Boehm was able to keep the defense tight, and Amador closed it out.

In the second game the Dons were challenged early but settled in when sophomore forward Sarah Pease beat

the keeper on a breakaway run, finishing off a beautiful through-ball from the midfield. The defense again closed down Dublin's offense and completed its second shutout.

On Saturday the team heated up on offense, scoring two goals within the first two minutes during their first game against an over-matched Antioch squad. Anna Copenhagen, a sophomore midfielder, directed a nice cross into the back of the net on the opening kick-off, followed 90 seconds later by an excellent 12-yard finish from freshman midfielder Eilis "Irish" Hagerty. The team added three more goals during the game — two from freshman offensive midfielder Nicole Tsuno, who, along with Eilis Hagerty in the middle, looks to be a catalyst for the Dons this year. Sarah Pease also connected on a score, and the

team coasted to a 5-0 win.

The Dons were more challenged in their second match vs. a fast and well-coached Northgate team, but the defense held firm once again, lead by Katelyn Kramer, Ally Nickel, Bridget Beck, Kate Chase, Rachel Barta and Sara Gibbons. The Dons scored two more goals in the final match, the first an impressive run by Sarah Pease between defenders and an in-stride shot past a diving keeper in the final seconds of the first half. The second came on a glancing, re-direct header combination from Copenhagen to Pease just before time ran out on the 2-0 victory.

The Dons staunch defense completed the weekend with an impressive zero goals allowed, allowing only a few quality shots along the way, which were handled easily by GK Janelle Richmond. ■

Michelle Lemus — Mom of the Match

Earthquakes honor Ballistic United mom

Pleasanton Ballistic United mom Michelle Lemus was awarded the Wells Fargo Soccer Mom of the Match during the San Jose Earthquakes game Oct. 21 against the LA Galaxy. Her family received four VIP tickets to the game, including VIP Parking, access to the VIP Tent (free food and beverages), and field access during warm-ups. The Mom of the Match announcement was made before the match started.

Lemus was nominated by the Ballistic United community for her tireless effort and time in the soccer club. She first became involved with Ballistic United in 2007 when her son, Joseph, then 5 years old, enrolled in the Kick Start program led by Tony Chavarria. In 2009, she became an Age Group Coordinator. In 2010, she took on the role as Academy Manager.

She first volunteered with Ballistic United because of Joseph's love of soccer. Lemus says about staying



Michelle, Joe, Joseph and Kaitlyn Lemus on the pitch during warm-ups before the Oct. 21 Earthquakes match.

involved in the club: "I have become passionate about soccer and care about helping make BUSC the best soccer club in Northern California."

At the game, Lemus thanked the BUSC community for the nomination.

"Once again, thank you for being such a great group of parents and club members to work with," she said. "I have made several lifelong friendships and cherish every one of them. BUSC is a part of our family and always will be for many years to come." ■

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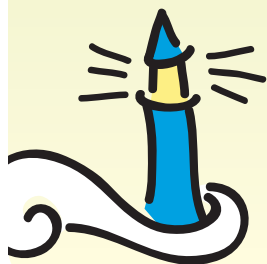
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995 Fictitious Name Statement

FOUNDATION REPAIR OF CA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 471427
The following person(s) doing business as: Foundation Repair of CA, 2174 Rheem Dr., Ste. A, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SMP Construction & Maintenance, Inc., 2174 Rheem Dr., Ste. A, Pleasanton, CA 94588.
This business is conducted by a Corporation.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on June 1, 2012. Signature of Registrant(s): Mark Phelps. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Oct. 31, 2012.
Pleasanton Weekly. Published Nov. 16, 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 2012.

997 All Other Legals

CLAIM FOR ADVERSE POSSESSION
File BR12E0058QC; A.C. 112b
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Bristol, SS. Probate Court

To all heirs of Charles M. Sherman, Morton T. Sherman, Charles A. Sherman, Glen C. Sherman, Howard R. Sherman, Elizabeth P. Sherman, Thomas R. Zeller, Howard R. Sherman, Elizabeth F. Sherman, Charline Weir, Mary C. Sherman, Rodolphus H. Sherman, Mary A. Sherman, Etta Madsen Simonsen, Ishamael Hernandez, Andrew Lee Campbell, Mabel Smith, Mary Mae Campbell Hernandez, Ishamael Hernandez, to Douglas Crane, David Crane, Eileen Zeller Gina L. Hernandez, Linee Mae Marie Hernandez and to all person interested.

A complaint in equity has been presented to said Court by Bakerville Road, LLC.

This is a claim for adverse possession in which the Plaintiff alleges that it, and its predecessors in title, have been in the open, continuous, exclusive, adverse and notorious possession of the remaining land which Elinu Sherman inherited from Lloyd Sherman, without interruption or interference from anyone since 1920, and for at least the twenty (20) years next preceding the filing of this action. Said land is located in the rear of 99 Bakerville Road, Dartmouth, MA, and is more particularly described in the Complaint. The record owners at the time that the Plaintiff's ancestors in title commenced the adverse use of the land were Rodolphus H. Sherman, Howard R. Sherman, Morton T. Sherman, and Charline S. Ellinwood [Weir]. Your interest in this matter is as an heir of (Rodolphus H. Sherman, Howard R. Sherman, Morton T. Sherman, Charline S. Ellinwood [Weir]).
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file in said Court at Taunton a written appearance and answer or other legal pleading, within twenty-one days after the 14th day of December, 2012, the return day of this citation.
Witness, Anthony R. Nesi, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 26th day of October, 2012.
Published: The Pleasanton Weekly. Nov. 30, 2012.



115 Announcements

Did You Know that Ten Million adults tweeted in the past month, while 164 million read a newspaper in print or online in the past week? Advertise in 240 California newspapers for one low cost. Your 25 word classified ad will reach over 6 million+ Californians. For brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN) **HAVE A \$1000**

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Suffer from Arthritis?
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560 Employment Information

\$\$\$HELP WANTED\$\$\$
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Corner Bakery Caf© - NOW HIRING!

NOW HIRING FOR A CORNER BAKERY CAF©? DECEMBER GRAND OPENING! Buon Hospitality is opening its first Corner Bakery Caf© new location in Pleasanton, CA! We are hiring for all positions, including Cashiers, Kitchen Staff, Line Cooks, Catering Drivers, and more! Corner Bakery Caf© opened its first location in 1991 and now operates 124 locations across the country. Known for its innovative menu featuring a wide variety of egg scramblers and oatmeal for breakfast, flavorful sandwiches and signature panini, homemade soups, signature salads, fresh baked goods and an extensive catering menu, CORNER BAKERY CAF© has been delighting guests nationwide with fresh, made-to-order meals in a welcoming and cozy atmosphere for 20 years. We are looking for people who have a passion for food, retail and customer service! Our ideal candidate will be a self-starter, motivated, dependable, and have the ability to work in a fast-paced environment. To be successful in this position, you must have strong communication, interpersonal, and customer service skills. Restaurant/food service experience preferred. Under the supervision of a focused and driven management team, you will have many opportunities for career advancement! Buon Hospitality employees receive outstanding benefits, training and development! To apply, go to our website www.Work4PCandF.com or call 1-855-4-PC-Jobs! If you have a love for the restaurant industry and customer service, this could be the career for you! *Resumes submitted through this ad will not be considered* Buon Hospitality is an EOE (Equal Opportunity Employer).



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At least 62 years old? Stay in your home and increase cash flow! Safe & Effective! Call Now for your FREE DVD! Call Now 888-698-3165. (Cal-SCAN)

645 Office/Home Business Services

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The business that considers itself immune to advertising, finds itself immune to business. Reach Californians with a Classified in almost every county! Over 270 newspapers! Combo - California

PET OF THE WEEK

Mason asking Santa for a home

Mason, a big tabby sweetheart who's been at the shelter since September, is the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's feline Pick of the Litter for the East County Animal Shelter. Mason is a volunteer favorite because he's a calm guy, and very much a gentleman, and at the top of his letter to Santa is his wish for his very own place to call home. Mason's got wonderful manners, and likes to take things at a very leisurely pace; this is a guy who appreciates the opportunity to stop and smell the flowers. He enjoys being petted, and will give you a gentle tap on the arm with his paw to remind you that he's there by your side. Meet Mason and all of the other cats and kittens at 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. The shelter is open every day except major holidays between 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Daily and Weekly Networks. Free Brochures. elizabeth@cnpa.com or (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

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Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising. Mark Twain. Advertise your business card sized ad in 140 California newspapers for one low cost. Reach over 3 million+ Californians. Free brochure elizabeth@cnpa.com (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)



751 General Contracting

NOTICE TO READERS >It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board



809 Shared Housing/Rooms

ALL AREAS - ROOMMATES.COM
Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Roommates.com>. (AAN CAN) 825

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Danville

3 BEDROOMS		
404 Old Orchard Ct	\$465,000	
Sun 2-4	Alain Pinel Realtors	314-1111
415 Triomphe Ct	\$689,000	
Sat/Sun 1-4:30	Alain Pinel Realtors	314-1111
4 BEDROOMS		
911 Matadera Way	\$1,250,000	
Sun	Coldwell Banker	837-4100
5 BEDROOMS		
1052 Hill Meadow	\$959,950	
Sun 1-3	Keller Williams Realty	855-8333

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS		
1485 Chianti Ct	\$949,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel Realtors	251-1111
3116 Salisbury Ct	\$679,950	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel Realtors	251-1111

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS		
991 Clinton Place	\$690,000	
Sun 2-4	Keller Williams Tri-valley	397-4200
3127 Cassia Court	\$624,950	
Sun 1-4	The Williams Team	918-2045
4 BEDROOMS		
7755 Country Lane	\$1,950,000	
Sun 1-4	Moxley Team	600-0990
5 BEDROOMS		
1817 Spumante Pl	\$2,600,000	
Sun 1-4	Melissa Pederson	397-4326
1473 Via di Salerno	\$2,995,000	
Sun 1-4	Randall Davidson	699-3263

San Ramon

4 BEDROOMS		
8 Westside Pl	\$1,399,000	
Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker	837-4100
3056 Bernard Ave	\$545,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel Realtors	251-1111

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$182,000
Highest sale reported: \$910,000
Average sales reported: \$478,295

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$172,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,300,000
Average sales reported: \$983,735

Source: California REsource

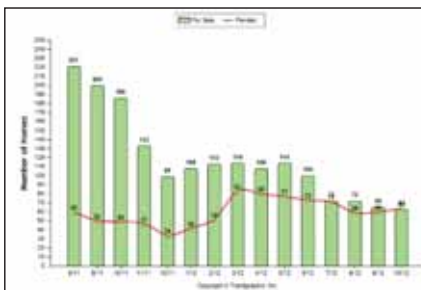
The latest from The 680 Blog

Pleasanton Market Update - Defying Gravity

Pended sales of single family homes in Pleasanton actually rose during October, in spite of the fact that inventory remains at very low levels. Fewer than 70 homes were on the market at the end of October, for the second consecutive month. Pended sales, meanwhile, ticked up for the third consecutive month. We have to go back to March of 2005 to find a month when inventory was lower and pended sales higher. Inventory began to rise sharply the following months back then. Of course, that was in the spring and summer, which is not the case now, so it seems unlikely that inventory will go up any time soon. Sales were up across market segments in October, while inventory fell only in the \$1 million to \$2 million price range. Overall, pended sales increased by four to 64 during October, a 7% rise. Inventory fell by two units in October, from 65 at the end of September to 63 at the end of October. There was just under one month of inventory here relative to pended sales at the end of October, down slightly from the end of September, when there was just over one month's supply.

Inventory was unchanged in the market for homes priced under \$1 million at 33 units. Pended sales increased to 48 during October from 47 during September. There was .7 months of inventory in this segment at the end of October, unchanged from September. 75% of Pleasanton's inventory and 52% of pended sales were in this price range for October.

Homes priced between \$1 million and \$2 million saw inventory fell from >> [Go to www.680homes.com](http://www.680homes.com) to read the rest of this article.



Doug Buenz

Office
925.251.1111
Direct
925.463.2000
680Homes.com

CA DRE# 00843458

High Performance Real Estate



Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these homes and other properties.



CASTLEWOOD

Gorgeous Castlewood home with upgrade finishes throughout! 4 Bedrooms plus bonus room, 4 full baths, pool, gated entrance, sweeping views, 3 car garage, hardwood floors, and more! **\$1,479,000**



PENDING SALE!

Fabulous remodeled one story with 4 BR plus huge bonus room, luxurious stone master bath, walk-in closet, hardwood floors, skylights, granite & stainless kitchen, and large end of cul-de-sac lot!! **\$939,000**



PENDING SALE!

Walk to Downtown! Newer home with 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTHs, new carpeting, new designer paint, gourmet maple kitchen and private yard with stamped concrete patio! **\$619,000**



JUST SOLD!

Stunning luxury home with 4 BR plus office & bonus room, 4 1/2 baths, exquisite granite & stainless kitchen. Luxurious master suite, and private 1/3 Acre lot backing to vineyards with views! **\$1,444,000**



JUST SOLD!

Pristine Custom home with 4 bedrooms plus office & loft, 5 baths, state of the art granite & stainless kitchen, travertine flooring, designer finishes and touches throughout, and private .46 Acre flat lot on a quiet private road! **\$1,630,000**



JUST SOLD!

Fabulous luxury home in pristine country setting! 5 BR plus bonus room, loft, & office, 7 baths, 1 acre flat lot with outdoor kitchen, granite, hardwood floors, and designer features inside & out **\$1,795,000**



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Just Sold

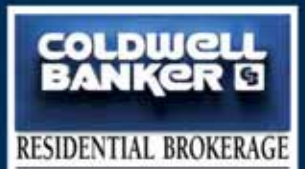
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305 Kami Court, San Ramon

"Tiffany, you are AMAZING at what you do. You are awesome. We were lucky to have found you."

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DISCOVERY BAY COUNTRY CLUB! \$379,900
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