

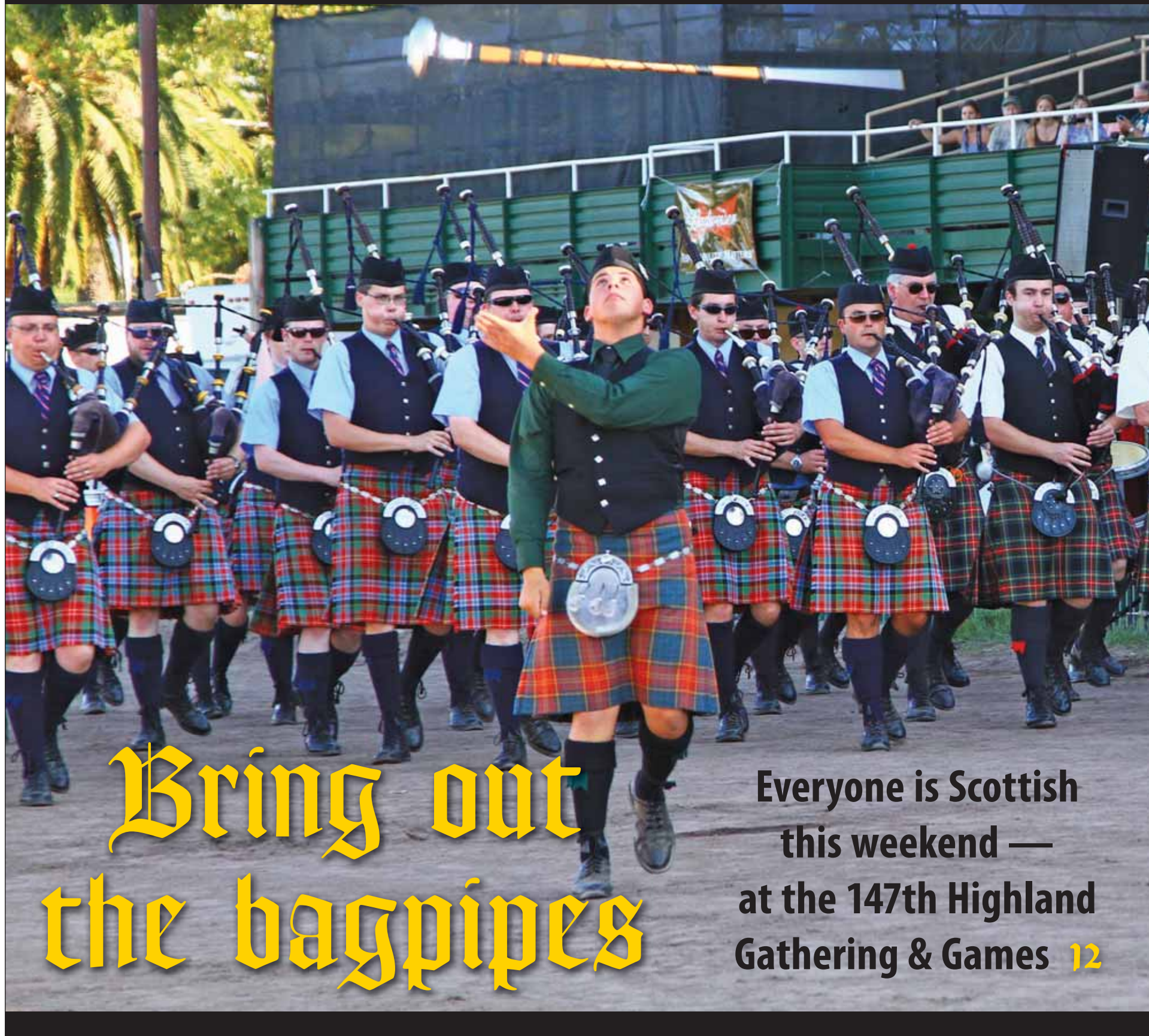
Pleasanton Weekly

Pleasanton teams play in national tournaments as seasons end » 15



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Bring out the bagpipes

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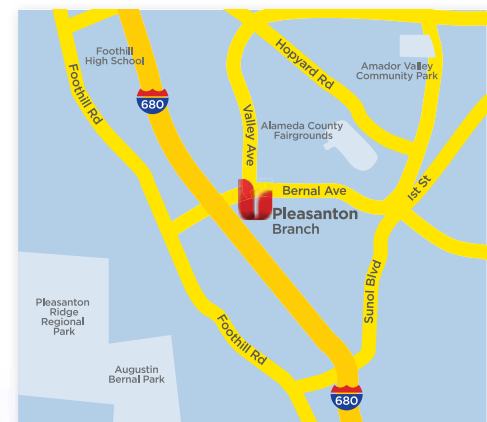


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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

'New' Gene's Foods celebrates re-opening Wednesday

Casey Rodacker, who just turned 26, is described by some of his customers as that dashing young bachelor who runs Gene's. It's true that Rodacker is not married, but as the manager of Gene's Fine Foods that will have its grand "re-opening" next Wednesday, there's little on his mind other than making sure that the store prospers. The Rodacker and Kidd families, who own Mar-Val Food Stores in the Central Valley, bought Gene's last April. Casey and his father Steve Rodacker have been busy ever since, working 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. shifts seven days a week to refurbish, modernize and expand Gene's, a household name for grocery shoppers in Pleasanton for many years.



JEB BING

Casey Rodacker, manager of Gene's Fine Foods, shows fresh produce just received at the large Pleasanton supermarket which his family's company, Mar-Val Food Stores, recently acquired. The Gene's name will stay as the store celebrates its grand re-opening next Wednesday.

who opened the first Mar-Val grocery in 1952. It's always been a family-owned business, which sets it apart from corporate-owned supermarkets and their store-brand products. Rodacker, who earned a degree in business management in 2009 at the University of Nevada at Reno, also completed studies at the University of Southern California's prestigious Food Industry Management program, which also focused on quality foods and customer service.

Mar-Val also has long been active in the communities it serves and Rodacker will continue that effort in Pleasanton. Starting Wednesday and continuing for the next three weeks, Gene's will match up to \$5,000 customer contributions to local nonprofits. For the seven-day period starting Sept. 5, customer contributions along with the store's match will go to the Discovery Shop in Pleasanton; the following week starting Sept. 12 to Shepherd's Gate in Livermore; and starting Sept. 19, to the Valley Humane Society. Customers can add their contributions to their grocery bill, which allows them to have a cash register receipt to use for charitable tax deduction purposes if they choose.

Also starting on opening day next Wednesday and continuing for the next 28 days, the new Gene's will have drawings for prizes, including trips to Hawaii, Las Vegas and Carmel, a 50-inch flat screen television set, 28 iPods and miscellaneous prizes.

Rodacker will be taking the next two days off to attend a wedding in Lodi. Not his, but his sister Courtney, who's marrying Doug Gnas Sunday before heading back to Arizona where they'll live. On Monday, Labor Day, it's back to Pleasanton and a long day's work for Casey Rodacker to get Gene's ready for the grand opening. ■

I've been a frequent shopper at the supermarket since 1990 when Saratoga-based Gene's, with Don Smejdir as manager, took over the old grocery that had been at the Valley Avenue-Hopyard Road location since 1971. Earlier this year, Don retired and Gene's owners decided to pull back across the Bay, a decision that gave Mar-Val a chance to expand west with its first store in the Bay Area. Casey Rodacker, who had managed one of Mar-Val six stores was picked as the new Pleasanton store manager and has been commuting from his Lodi home since the April 16 closing date.

Produce, meat and fine sushi have always been a Gene's specialty and will continue to be the focus of Rodacker's store, which will continue to use the Gene's name. He's using the same wholesalers, including staying with Nor-Cal that searches for and delivers fresh produce to Gene's. All the display and refrigerated cases are new with improved lighting that makes the produce sparkle. Farmers Market no doubt has some produce that's just as fresh, but at Gene's I was able to buy the same freshness and quality with a shopping cart to pack it all in and a chance to roam the store for every thing else on my shopping list. With 25,000 square feet of floor space, about the only items missing that other markets offer are lawn chairs and a pharmacy. But with Rite Aid next door, it's a short walk to find those needs anyhow.

Rodacker says customer service is another prime focus of the store. It's part of the quality foods and super service credo that started with Rodacker's grandfather Marty Kidd,

About the Cover

Bagpipe bands led by energetic drum majors are just one of dozens of exciting things to enjoy this weekend at the 147th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games being held at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Photo courtesy Caledonian Club of San Francisco. Design by Kristin Herman.

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ASKED AROUND TOWN

Are you Facebook friends with your children?



Ann O'Neal
Principal's secretary

Yes, I'm friends with all of them. My son, Don, is serving in Afghanistan, and Facebook is our way of staying in communication with him. I read their posts and look at their pictures, but I rarely comment or post anything myself. I just enjoy visiting their pages.

Gaiane Khachatryan

Recruitment and public relations manager

My daughter is in fourth grade, so she is not on Facebook yet. I will be friends with her when she is allowed to have her own account, which will probably be in high school. It will allow me to observe what is happening in her life, and see what her peers are doing. I'll be able to stop certain things if necessary.



Edward Harper
Truck driver

I certainly am. My 24-year-old daughter is the one that turned me on to Facebook. I have an account, but she would like me to be more active than I am.

Delsole Cedrick

Visiting from France

I don't use Facebook. Perhaps I am too old. We have children, and I'll probably have to join to be able to monitor them, but I will wait as long as I can.



Nancy Riccomini
Homemaker

I am not on Facebook. I don't have time; I have so many emails every day to get through that I'm not interested in adding Facebook. My husband has an account and is friends with our children, so I get all of my updates from him.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Parade to kick off soccer season

About 1,200 young soccer players will walk down Main Street in costume next Saturday for the 44th annual BUSC/RAGE Opening Day Parade.

The athletes, ages 5-12, are encouraged to be creative and bring a little Mardi Gras to the downtown. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume in each age group, U5-U10, with one overall prize for the best team costume.

The parade has been a Pleasanton tradition since 1969 to kick off the youth soccer season. This year's event begins at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8. People are asked to arrive early and be prepared for heavy traffic. For more information, including a map, visit <http://busc.org/p/parade.php>.

Students ride free

Wheels is offering middle and high school students free unlimited rides from Sept. 4-17, including weekends, to encourage them to take a bus to school, work, the mall and anywhere they want to go.

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) is offering the Wheels Try Transit to School promotion on all of its regularly scheduled bus routes so students can see the convenience of riding the buses around town, which helps to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion.

"And it also helps to develop future transit users," said LAVTA Chairman Don Biddle.

New schedules and maps are available online and in the new Wheels Bus Book. Call 455-7500 or visit www.wheelsbus.com.

Website for families

The city of Pleasanton has unveiled a new website, Ptownlife.org, for teens and families with children of all ages, to let them know about activities, services and resources, jobs and volunteer opportunities. Teens guided the site's design and content, and now students report on new and interesting things happening in the community, take photos, and write articles to post.

Ptownlife.org partners are featured with a profile page with contacts, a website link, program details, services and products offered. Organizations can also add special events to the calendar, and post job opportunities for teens. For more information, visit www.Ptownlife.org or call Nicole Thomas at 931-3474.

Ptownlife.org is a direct outcome of the Pleasanton Youth Master Plan.

City ratifies new contract with firefighters' union

All city employees now contributing to their pension, health benefit plans

By JEB BING

Firefighters in the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department whose pension and benefit plans have long been fully paid by both cities will start contributing 6% of their wages toward those plans Saturday with their share rising to 9% next July 1.

The new plan was ratified by the Pleasanton City Council on Tuesday night at the end of a second public hearing on the new contract signed with Local 1974 of the International Association of Firefighters union, which covers LFPD's unionized employees.

The new contract will eventually cut the costs to the cities by \$2.13 million, a savings to be shared equally by Pleasanton and Livermore, which operate the LFPD under a joint powers agreement.

Although other parts of the union's pension and retirement program will remain in place, including the option of retiring starting at age 50 with a pension equal to 3% of wages earned for

every year of employment as well as full health insurance benefits, the new contract puts in place a two-tier benefit program for firefighters hired after Jan. 1, 2013.

Their pension plan will be substantially less, with health benefits restricted to a retired employee only, not a spouse as was currently provided. Also, once the retired employee becomes eligible for Medicare, that individual would go off the CalPERS health benefit program altogether.

Further changes for new hires after Jan. 1 that are being proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown could also reduce the retirement formula to 2.7% of wages at age 57, instead of 3% at age 55 as it is today.

The council voted 5-0 to accept the new contract agreement although Councilman Jerry Thorne said he opposes a two-tier program.

"I just don't like a two-tier system," Thorne said. "First, it takes a long time to have an impact."

He said firefighters, like everyone else, are liv-

ing longer so their CalPERS benefits and retirement costs to the city will continue longer.

"But also, having two tiers (of employment benefits) in the fire department will create situations where there could be moral issues as well as issues among employees," Thorne said.

Outside consultant John Bartel, president and chief actuary of Bartel and Associates, who has reviewed and helped draft union contracts for Pleasanton for years, agreed that the savings from the new contract will take a long time to help reduce the city's pension liabilities, but said it's a start.

He said Gov. Brown's plan, which will be presented in detail Friday, could help restore fiscal sustainability in all state, county and municipal pension plans where generosity in earlier administrations created the costly pension system in place today.

See **FIREFIGHTERS** on Page 6



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Families flock to first day of school

Crossing guard Melodie Soe has a busy morning at Highland Oaks Drive and Drywood Street on Tuesday as parents accompany their children to Lydiksen Elementary for the first day of school. "I like the kids because they are so genuine," Soe said. Pleasanton police were also a presence, making sure that people didn't park illegally for better access to the school or drive unsafely.

Regional leaders back Cook-Kallio

Councilwoman running for Pleasanton mayor

Supporters of City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio joined her for a festive 58th birthday celebration and a campaign fundraiser in her bid for election as mayor of Pleasanton.

The backyard and indoor reception included a virtual "who's who" of regional politics, including Congressman Pete Stark (D-13th), Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, Fremont Mayor Gus Morrison, Union City Mayor Elect Carol Vernaci-Dutra, former Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena and representatives of State Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett, State Sen. Mark DeSaulnier and state Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan. Also there was Jeff Bowser of Pleasanton, a school board member, and Erlene deMarcus, a candidate for Pleasanton City Council.

A keynote speaker at the event was Delaine Eastin, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction and at one time a state assemblywoman who represented Pleasanton.

"I am humbled by the level of support I enjoy from these elected and former officials," Cook-

Kallio said. "These are the people with whom we need substantive relationships so that we can make decisions that benefit the Tri-Valley and especially Pleasanton."

She said that leadership ability is crucial to the well being of Pleasanton, that we need to make sure our community is financially healthy and financially sustainable and "this means that we all work together to make sure that we maintain needed city services and continue to maintain a safe community."

"I understand economics and what is important to all of us," she said. "As mayor, I will take steps to ensure that we make sound fiscal decisions and maintain a healthy reserve while continuing those things that make Pleasanton a wonderful place to live and do business."

She added: "We need to be proactive in encouraging companies to locate here. We want to encourage a diversity of businesses here because we want people to live, work and shop in Pleasanton."

See **COOK-KALLIO** on Page 8

PUSD revises plan for special education students

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton school district is looking to provide better services for special needs children — and save itself some money in the bargain.

The district hired Total School Solutions to create an action plan for special education, and the plan, including both short- and long-term goals, was unveiled at the board meeting Aug. 21.

"Our desire is to further improve the overall quality of special education services to effectively address the learning needs of our students with disabilities," said Odie Douglas, assistant superintendent of educational services.

The cost of special education programs rose by nearly \$2 million from the 2010-11 to 2011-12.

That included more than \$200,000 in legal bills and settlements and more than \$288,000 for room and board for students who received services outside the district. The district also spent \$325,000 in occupational therapy contract expenses for 154 students in the 2011-12 school year.

By offering compliance training and professional development for teachers and administrators as recommended by the consultants, the district hopes to cut down on settlements and legal bills, and keep more students home instead of sending them elsewhere.

Total School Solutions also recommended rehiring a school psychologist and program specialist, which, Douglas said, could save the district money in the long run.

"Hopefully, we will increase our program efficiency and reduce the number of students requiring special education services by providing more support for students in the regular education program," he said.

The ultimate aim is to mainstream as many students as possible, according to Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi.

"Let's be clear that our goal is to exit students from special education services," Ahmadi said. "It's best for students to be in general education. Sometimes when they go into special education they have special needs, but our goal is to exit them."

At its first meeting since the summer break, the school board also heard a report on the 45-day revision to the state budget. For the most part, little has changed, although the district did learn that transitional kindergarten will be fully funded,

See **PUSD** on Page 8

Federal funds restore Arroyo de la Laguna

\$1.2 million project reduces erosion, flood risk

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

A federal project to restore Pleasanton's Arroyo de la Laguna was completed recently, after its lower five miles were affected by rapid development upstream.

"The completion of this project is a great moment for our community, and I was proud to work with folks in our region to make it a reality," said Congressman Jerry McNerney at a gathering of officials last week to acknowledge the project's completion.

Both the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in California and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District were involved with other partners in the restoration efforts. Approximately \$1.2 million went toward construction, design work and contracting, permitting fees, monitoring and maintenance.

"Bringing back federal resources to better our neighborhood has always been a priority of mine, and now we see the wonderful result that will not only protect natural resources, but reduce flood risk in our region," McNerney said.

The work included planting native vegetation and returning 600 feet of the arroyo to its proper function,



COURTESY NRCS

Streambank restoration features along Arroyo de la Laguna are visible near the Verona Road bridge.

according to Jonathan Groveman, a spokesman for Natural Resources Conservation Service. Now the waterway and its banks will serve as a protected habitat for threatened species, with reduced erosion of the stream's bank and reduced flood risks.

Arroyo de la Laguna runs underneath the Verona Road bridge, a popular pedestrian and bicycle

bridge south of Castlewood. The project included installing permanent informational panels to educate visitors on the importance and environmental benefits of the work.

Restoration features can be seen near the bridge, including native plants such as willows and cottonwood to prevent soil erosion and to expand habitat for local wildlife. Rock and log structures that help stabilize the slope are also visible.

Arroyo de la Laguna is the main tributary to Alameda Creek, which is the second largest drainage to the San Francisco Bay, with a watershed that covers about 700 square miles. Within the watershed are protected parks, wildlife and water supply areas, rangeland, and urban and suburban development.

Local agencies collaborating on the Arroyo de la Laguna project were the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Alameda County Public Works Department, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Zone Seven Water Agency.

"I congratulate everyone who made this day happen," McNerney said at the gathering last week. ■

FIREFIIGHTERS

Continued from Page 5

As Gov. Brown outlined his plan, state pension reform would include caps on benefits, increasing the retirement age, making employees pay at least 50% of their pension costs, and stopping what it calls "abusive practices."

Although Bartel expressed support for the governor's proposed pension reforms, he said he would wait until he reads the plan in detail on Friday and sees what the state Legislature will do with it.

With the council's action Tuesday night, all city employees, including unionized municipal workers, police and now firefighters are contributing to their pension plans. Since September 2010, the firefighters' union members have been contributing 2% of their pension costs.

Management employees also are contributing, with City Manager Nelson Fialho voluntarily agreeing to pay 8% of his pay toward the CalPERS benefit plan two years ago, and other managers who are not unionized now doing the same.

Council members praised both the firefighters' union for agreeing to the new contract and city staff, including Fialho and Assistant City Manager Julie Yuan-Miu, who handled contract negotiations on behalf of both Pleasanton and Livermore.

Addressing the ongoing concerns over unfunded pension liabilities in Pleasanton, Councilman Matt Sullivan said, "We're not done yet, but we've made significant progress. I think our employees understand the issues, too."

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern agreed.

"I feel like we've been in negotiations for the last two years, first with the employee union contract, then the police and the firefighters

tonight," she said.

"What's happened has been meaningful," she added. "All of the unions have made changes and everyone is contributing more."

"Unfortunately," she continued, "even with the council's decision to pay down a part of the unfunded liability, I understand that it will continue to grow and we have to work to figure out how to stop that."

Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio said that while all city employees have taken on more work during the two-year hiring and wage increase freeze, continuing that could lead to a decrease in the level of community services, which she doesn't think the public wants.

"Most people value the services our city provides," she said. "Some people say we don't have fires here very often and when they happen, they're usually small. But the fire chief tells me firefighters are called out daily. If someone has a stroke or heart attack or there's a suicide, it's the firefighters who respond."

"The fire department has an operating budget of under \$14 million," she added. "That about \$203 a year in per capita costs for Pleas-

anton residents. We have to think about that anytime we talk about decreasing services."

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said the negotiation process between the city and its union representatives is "a balancing act."

"We really need to negotiate changes in a methodical, sensible way that makes sense for our city and public as well, and that's what we've done," she said.

At Tuesday night's council meeting, three speakers commented on the firefighters' contract.

Former Councilwoman Kay Ayala, citing Gov. Brown's plan to provide details of proposed statewide pension reforms on Friday, urged the council to delay its ratification.

Bart Hughes called the firefighters' contract "an intergenerational transfer of wealth," explaining that employees and Pleasanton taxpayers yet to come will have to pay for the generous benefits currently being awarded.

City Council candidate Karla Brown asked why the firefighters' contract that expired a year ago was just now being approved. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Eye on London: Jena Corda enjoys the view as she rides the London Eye last September. She took along the Weekly that had her hairstylist Mary Quesada of A Salon Above on the cover, so she said she felt like she also took her along. Jena was in Europe to celebrate her father's 70th birthday in Munich, and she and her husband Scott also spent some time in London and Paris.

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Continued from Page 5

despite Gov. Jerry Brown's effort to eliminate support. That means an extra \$78,000 in state revenue.

"As a reminder, the governor's budget assumed that his initiative would pass in November," said Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services. "Flat funding is what that buys us, so not more money, the same money."

Cazares said the district will probably not know much more about its financial situation until November. By that time, it will know if the governor's tax increase will pass and will get additional information from the state Legislative Analyst Office about revenues.

The district may also have to do some short-term borrowing because the state is expected to withhold payouts. That will likely cost the district money to pay interest for short-term borrowing of up to \$30 million to cover its bills.

Brown's tax increase, Proposition 30, is one of two competing measures that would provide addition-

al funding for the district. Board Member Jamie Hintzke noted the other, Proposition 38, also known as Our Children, Our Future, would provide more local control of money, since funds would be sent directly to the district.

However, Board President Joan Laursen pointed out that ballot measure would not give the district as much in its first year as it would get through Brown's initiative.

"The loss for us in 2013 would be \$400,000," Laursen said. "Each initiative would affect us in different ways."

The board opted not to vote on either, deferring action until its next meeting so it could vote on supporting one or both, since the two initiatives were bundled into a single resolution. The California School Board Association decided to support both, fearing that one or the other could lose.

"I think the biggest risk to the November election is that there's confusion up and down the state and people would say, 'I'm just not going to vote,'" said Board Member Chris Grant.

Should both initiatives pass, the one with more votes would take effect, Ahmadi said

With the start of the school year came staggered reading for first-, second- and third-graders. While the initial flak — largely over scheduling — has died down, one parent, Janel Sloan, asked the board to measure the differences in test scores as class sizes went from 20 to 25, and now, to 30.

Sloan also asked the board to track the progress of those in the program as they move up in grade levels, asking, "Is it really needed for third grade?"

The board also approved a revenue-neutral plan to upgrade lighting and some heating and ventilation systems. Under a PG&E program, the upgrades will be paid for by the amount the bill is lowered; bills will remain the same with the savings applied to the cost of the newly installed improvements. School officials expect that will be done in less than seven years, and that the district could save about \$130,000 a year after that. ■



JEB BING

Congressman Pete Stark (D-13th) and his son Andrew join City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio at her 58th birthday party and fundraiser in Pleasanton. She is seeking election as the city's next mayor.

COOK-KALLIO

Continued from Page 5

"As mayor I will actively seek out businesses that help achieve those goals, small businesses throughout the city in addition to encouraging larger businesses to locate in Hacienda Business Park. These businesses help us pay our bills."

With regard to the state's affordable housing mandate, Cook-Kallio said it's critical that we plan well and within the law.

"We can be smart about this," she said. "As mayor I will make sure that all stakeholders are educated in what this means and are involved in the decision-making process. As a public school teacher for more than 35 years, I truly understand the impact this housing will have on our schools and on our community."

Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Eastin urged those at the fundraising rally to get out the votes for Cook-Kallio, citing the councilwoman's years of teaching experience and devotion to her school's "We the People" civics teams as providing solid government experience.

"She does an incredible job, she's a great teacher," Eastin said. "She has the courage to stand up and get the job done. She has the courage to speak the truth in this state and city and country. She'll make a great mayor for the city of Pleasanton."

The birthday party and fundraiser were held in the home of former Councilwoman Becky Dennis and her husband Murray Dennis in the Foxborough neighborhood, just above Vintage Hills.

—Jeb Bing

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Opportunity to consider new amenities for Pleasanton

People move to Pleasanton for a variety of reasons: excellent schools, good housing, abundant shopping and a quality of life that community leaders are determined to make even better. Just as important are the city's 43 municipal parks, 50 miles of hiking and biking trails, sports fields, an award-winning golf course and public services for all age groups. Today, some of those amenities are getting old and need to be upgraded. New sports, such as cricket and rugby, require new fields and staff advisors. For these reasons, Susan Andrade-Wax, the city's director of Parks and Community Services, is preparing a master plan that will assess the city's parks and recreation amenities and suggest changes, improvements and additions.

After all, it's been three years since we last dedicated a major park and sports complex — the city's \$8 million lighted baseball fields in the Bernal Community Park. The fields were to be part of a 50-acre sports complex to be developed in phases on Bernal, along with the remainder of the full 318-acre central park to come later. Except for the nearby Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail, which was built mostly with private funds, and work on the Iron Horse Trail that is now under way, Pleasanton's much the same in terms of park and recreation amenities as it was three years ago.

With the economy improving and municipal tax revenues once again growing, Andrade's master plan has a chance of breathing new life into outdoor places and activities Pleasanton enjoys.

Applications are currently being accepted to serve on the Master Plan Steering Committee. The document is intended to be a significant planning tool to help the city plan for the changing scope of recreational activities. As such 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.

To serve on the steering committee and assist with the master planning process, the City Council is seeking two Parents-At-Large representatives from the community who currently have a child or children attending preschool, elementary school, middle school and/or high school. All applicants must be residents here and willing to attend at least one or two meetings per month for a period of six to nine months. Committee members will have to do background reading and research, work collaboratively, and strive for clear communication, a balanced perspective and inclusion of a wide range of viewpoints.

Interested parties should submit completed applications to the City Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13. The City Council will confirm the members of the committee at its Tuesday, Oct. 2, meeting. ■



Susan Andrade-Wax

GUEST OPINION

BY FRED NORMAN

Imagine Pleasanton as a City of Peace

I propose the creation of a new commission for the city of Pleasanton. I refer to it here as the Pleasanton Peace Commission. Volunteers representing a cross-section of Pleasanton's population will staff it. Its purpose is to nurture the concepts of peace and non-violence.

Examples of its duties might include sponsoring lectures and writing contests in the community, especially in the schools, working with peace groups and veterans to promote peace and veterans' well-being, working with police departments and schools to promote non-violence and tolerance among students, and even something as simple as marching in a parade under the banners of peace.

Its exact duties, of course, will be determined by its membership and city guidelines, but its mission is to make Pleasanton into the premier City of Peace and Non-Violence in America, a city to which other cities and governments look for advice and guidance on these subjects, a city of which we can all be proud.

The Pleasanton Peace Commission is not meant to be an anti-war commission. I have strong anti-war beliefs, and I detest the illegal and immoral wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that have killed so many American military and innocent civilians, and continue to do so, and I detest drones, and I detest our armies fighting in Africa and the Philippines and Colombia, and I cringe when I think of the legacy I'm leaving for my grandchildren,



Fred Norman

but the Pleasanton Peace Commission is not Fred Norman. Instead, it is Pleasanton. The only criterion for being on the commission is the desire to promote peace and non-violence, and there are many people in Pleasanton who have that desire. Because of my radical views, I may not be asked to serve on such a commission, but I will proudly support those who do.

Imagine what an effective Peace Commission might do. Pleasanton is a city that strongly supports the troops, but I see little sign of Pleasanton opposing the wars. Imagine a city that supports the troops and at the same time, and as loudly, opposes the wars that kill and maim the troops, and the loudness comes about as a result of Peace Commission activities. Imagine schools in which the Peace Commission roams the halls as freely as military recruiters do now, its commissioners offering and explaining options to students who feel the military is their only path to success. Imagine constructive opposition to violent video games. Imagine the elimination of bullying. Imagine a city led by the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Jesus Christ. This is the city that I see in my imagination.

Pleasanton has historically formed and used commissions and committees to make it the wonderful place in which to live that it is today. For instance, think of the Civic Arts Commission when you're enjoying an event at the Firehouse Arts Center. Think of the Library Commission when you visit the library. And now, think of peace and non-violence. What might a Peace Commission do for Pleasanton and for our country? The choice is ours. Please contact the Pleasanton City Council to express your views.

Fred Norman, a 22-year Pleasanton resident, is a U.S. military veteran with 10 years service in the Marines and Air Force and a published author who now writes only on peace and anti-war themes.

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

LETTERS

Night Out success

Dear Editor,

In early August, we celebrated National Night Out. This was the first one that I attended, and I'm glad I did. It was held at the corner of Hopyard and South Valley Trails.

There were lots of folks from the homeowners association and the local church working hard to

make sure it was a success. There was lots of food, games for the kids, drawing prizes for lots of winners, and music.

We were lucky enough to have representatives from the Dublin Highway Patrol Office, Pleasanton Police Department (including a K9 team and Animal Control), Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, and City Councilman Jerry Thorne. I am sure all of these folks had a very busy night trying to cover all of the National Night Out events and stay on top of whatever emergencies there were.

Thank you to them for attending our event and for all they do throughout the year.

Susan Thomas

Play money for rich kids

Dear Editor,

I'm outraged to learn that Pete Stark's children are allowed to collect Social Security payments just because their father is eligible. Social Security is not meant to be "play money" for rich kids.

As you probably know, city

and state employees who pay into Social Security are not allowed to collect 100% of the benefits they have paid and earned through their employment. It's considered double dipping. A retiree who is fortunate to get \$3,000/month on city retirement is only permitted to collect 50% of Social Security benefits earned — the rest is considered "windfall tax." Why can so many millionaires like Stark and his family fleece the public? Shame on him.

Cathleen Cordova

Pleasanton Weekly

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'Sneak Peek' shows Paragon Outlets nearing completion

Developer plans four-day celebration on opening day Nov. 8

The developers of Paragon Outlets led the media and selected guests on an hour-long "sneak peek" of the 120-store shopping complex scheduled to open Thursday, Nov. 8, at the southeast corner of I-580 and El Charro Road.

The \$162 million outlet mall is on a 42-acre site, with another 17 acres suitable for further development, developers said.

Unlike most outlet malls, all of the stores and shopping corridors at Paragon are under a roof, with large openings at the ends and skylights overhead to give the center an outdoor feeling, yet one safe

from the elements.

Also, the Paragon complex is unique in having a large food court in its center with a wide choice of offerings, including Villa Italian Kitchen, Japan Cafe, Auntie Anne's, Subway and many more.

The eight-building retail center is owned by Paragon Outlet Partners, a retail real estate development firm headquartered in Baltimore. It also owns outlet, retail and entertainment centers in Texas and Florida.

Robert A. Brvenik and Nicholas C. King, Paragon Outlet partners, told those attending the preview that the Livermore location is with-

in easy driving reach of hundreds of thousands of shoppers and has a far greater range of upscale stores to attract the more discriminating customers in the Tri-Valley.

He said the center plans a four-day customer celebration starting on opening day Nov. 8 with gifts, prizes and discounts available throughout the center.

Paragon's stores include Bloomingdale's The Outlet Store, Banana Republic Factory Store, Barney's New York Outlet, Cole Haan Company Store, J. Crew, Michael Kors, Neiman Marcus Last Call, Nike Factory Store, Off 5th Saks and Tommy Hilfger.



JEB BING

News media and selected guests don hard hats as they tour the new 120-store Paragon Outlets, where construction continues at I-580 and El Charro Road. The complex, which includes a large food court shown directly ahead in the center of the photo, will open Nov. 8.

Brvenik said more than 2,000 jobs will be available at Paragon Outlets. Hiring fairs are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday,

Sept. 11, and Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. in Livermore. ■

No discounts at Pleasanton Safeway's new gas station

Supermarket ends its Club Card program on move to Just for U loyalty plan

Safeway shoppers looking to save at the pump next year when the grocer opens its gasoline station next to its new Pleasanton store may be disappointed.

Drug Store News, an industry trade publication, reports that the company is discontinuing its 3-cents-per-gallon gas discount for customers who carry the supermarket chain's club cards.

The news followed a preliminary injunction filed in May against the chain, which said one of Safeway's stores, located in Dixon, "shall not set its fuel prices and related Club Card discount at levels that result in the sale of fuel below fully allocated costs unless the discounted

Club Card price is at or above the documented price at which a surveyed fuel competitor is selling fuel within the 24-hour period to the Safeway sale of fuel below fully allocated cost."

Drug Store News said that Safeway's decision to end its gas discount program had nothing to do with the lawsuit.

Safeway officially discontinued the Club Card program nationwide last month and recently launched its Just for U loyalty card program, which bolstered the chain's quarterly earnings and is expected to drive sales for the future. ■

Raley's closes 2 more stores as union talks continue over wages, benefits

Lucky, Safeway also pushing for concessions as competition heats up against non-union markets

West Sacramento-based Raley's has announced that it will close its stores in Pittsburg and Woodland, adding to the four stores the struggling supermarket chain has closed so far this year.

At the same time, the grocer said it is resuming negotiations with the United Food and Commercial Workers, where both sides have been locked in a lengthy stalemate over a new contract.

The Sacramento Bee reported Tuesday that this will be the first bargaining session since June 8 and follows several more weeks

of turmoil in Northern California's unionized supermarket industry. Two weeks ago, UFCW members rejected a tentative contract with Save Mart/Lucky supermarkets by a wide margin but stopped short of authorizing a strike against the Modesto grocer, Dale Kasler reported.

Kasler reported that negotiations at Raley's have been particularly acrimonious and that UFCW members have voted to authorize a strike.

Raley's spokesman John Segale told the Sacramento Bee

that the Woodland or Pittsburg stores could have been saved if the union had agreed to concessions.

Even if union leaders can strike a deal with the company, there's no guarantee it will be approved by rank-and-file members. A proposed contract with Save Mart, which owns the Lucky supermarket in Pleasanton, called for an end to bonus pay for Sunday and night work and employee contributions for the first time to their company health insurance premiums. The proposal was defeated by a 60-40% vote. ■

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Bring out the bagpipes

Don your plaid — if not a kilt — and head to the Fairgrounds this weekend for an adventure in everything Scottish, from bagpipes to whisky.

It's the 147th year for the Scottish Highland Gathering & Games, which was presented by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco for the first time in 1866.

"We've never missed a year, even during the wars or after the earthquake," said media chairman Floyd Busby. "It was held in San Francisco for the first two years, then the third year it was on the beach in Sausalito."

The event moved to the Alameda County Fairgrounds in 1994, and through the years it has added one feature after another until it fills every nook and cranny of the spacious grounds.

"It's basically reached its capacity," Busby said. "There's not much else we can throw in. It's gotten so big, probably there's only one other games bigger in North America, in Canada — it has the North American Pipe Band Championships."

The bagpipe bands also compete in Pleasanton and are a big draw. The local Gathering & Games also hosts the world championships for two of the eight athletic disciplines: the weight-for-height throw, and the caber toss.

In the weight-for-height throw, the weight has a ring attached to it, which the athlete swings then heaves over a bar that keeps getting raised.

The caber toss is a crowd favorite as the large wooden pole (typically 19 feet 6 inches and weighing 175 pounds for the men) is balanced in the athlete's hands as he or she runs and then hurls it, with the goal being for the caber to land with the "top" end nearest to the thrower.

"Several years from now, when we have the 150th Games, we will hold the world championships for everything," Busby said.

The Scottish Highland Gathering & Games has something for everyone so it can be hard for first-timers to decide what to explore first.

"It would depend on their interest," Busby said. "A lot of people love the bagpipe so I would suggest they watch the bagpipe competition. I would roam around, watch the athletics — six of the eight disciplines are held on the soccer field, where they have the children's carnival during the Fair, near the Pleasanton Avenue entrance.

"Then go and sit down and watch any entertainment, from easy music like folk music, to Celtic rock and roll, to Albannach from Scotland, which is more tribal," he added.

Seven stages will have continuous entertainment, with two hosting the Celtic Heritage performances of the Scottish Fiddlers Rally, Celtic Harpers, Scottish Country Dancing, balladeer John Kelly and Kirsty Fitch entertaining with Gaelic singing.

"There's also living history," Busby said, "with Mary, Queen of Scots. There are Romans and Vikings, which of course invaded Scotland, reenactments of battles and different events that take place, ceremonies and knightings."

He also recommended seeing the sheep dog trials and the birds of prey on display.

"The handlers will get up with their bird and explain about them," Busby said. "It's really quite fascinating."

He also suggested a visit to the Gathering of the Clans, with almost 100 different clan tents, to see if you might have some Scottish blood. Clans have "septs" within them whose names are lesser known.

"A lot don't sound Scottish and a lot of people are fascinated to find they have connections to a clan," Busby said. "They find they have a tartan and a crest that, if they wish, belongs to them."

The Caledonian Club's special website, www.thescottishgames.com, lists everything that will be happening this



Scottish preview at Concert in the Park

The U.S. Marines 11-member brass band, part of the full marching band that will take part in the Scottish Gathering & Games this weekend, will perform from 6:30-6:55 p.m. at tonight's weekly Concert in the Park at Lion Wayside Park on the corner of First and Neal streets. This musical interlude replaces the March Under the Arch that was presented prior to the Scottish Games in past years.

After their stint in downtown Pleasanton, the Marine musicians will return to the Marriott San Ramon to take part in the Friday Night Concert along with the L.A. Scots Grade I Pipe Band and New Zealand's top solo performer, Steve McDonald.

COURTESY CALEDONIAN CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

At last year's Scottish Gathering & Games (clockwise from above) kilt-clad pipers compete; Mike Pockoski does a run before tossing the caber; Irish step dancing demonstrations take place daily; top female heavy event athlete Mindy Pockoski throws the 28-pound weight-for-height in the spinning method, with her feet off the ground. She holds the Pleasanton record at 19 feet.



ES

Everyone is Scottish this weekend — at the 147th Highland Gathering & Games

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli



weekend at the Gathering & Games and has a map of where activities are taking place.

"Plus there will be two information booths," Busby said. "They have maps, and if you buy a program, the center spread is a map."

Busby strongly advised visitors not to miss the closing ceremonies, which are held both Saturday and Sunday.

Beginning at 4:15 p.m., the 30 competing pipe bands from the United States and Canada march onto the field in front of the grandstand, each led by a drum major, and go into formation. They include the U.S. Marine Band San Diego and the L.A. Scots Grade I Pipe Band, performing together.

"We are the only Games in the world that has a U.S. military band and a Grade 1 Military Pipe Band that march together and play together," Busby said.

"The lone piper comes up on stage and starts playing Amazing Grace, then the drum major raises the big staff and 650-700 pipes and drums come into it," Busby said.

"It's very stirring," he added, recalling that he's seen a tear rolling down the cheeks of a friend that isn't even Scottish at more than one closing ceremony.

Seats for the closing ceremonies cost \$5 but a standing area in front is free. A trackside terrace on the first landing offers a ringside seat with tables and chairs, in addition to a catered lunch, for \$39.50.

"We only started doing this three to four years ago," Busby said.

The 36 organizing committees of the Caledonian Club meet throughout the year to brainstorm ways to improve and plan this annual extravaganza, which is put on completely by volunteers.

"There are people that plan their vacation around this," Busby said. "Some come from out of state, and Southern California. Our operations crew starts on Tuesday, assembling the stages, then more and more come through the week. They put everything together, then they've got to stay when games are over and tear everything down.

"A lot are not members of the club and are not Scottish," he continued. "One couple comes from Virginia, one from Colorado, others from other distances, and then there are those that are local. This is their vacation but they love doing it, this is an adventure to them.

"They are all volunteer but they get lodging; we put them in different hotels."

This weekend at the Scottish festival, kids can also access their inner Scot in the Children's Glen, which has games and prizes. And there is an abundance of British foods such as steak pies, bangers, shepherd's pie, scotch eggs, haggis, pasties and Celtic rolls and, of course, ales.

Whisky Live at the Games is returning by popular demand, where, for an additional fee, one can sample the better single malts from Scotland and learn the finer points of the art of fine distilling from a Master. ■

147th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games

WHERE: Alameda County Fairgrounds

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 1 and Sunday, Sept. 2 from 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

COST: \$20 per adult for one day and \$27 for both days; youths 12-17 and seniors are \$12. Ages 11 and under and military with ID are free.

INFORMATION: www.thescottishgames.com

TriValley Life

PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLES
IN OUR COMMUNITY

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE VALLEY — MUSIC, THEATER, ART, MOVIES AND MORE

This weekend is a great time to explore the wine country right in our own back yard. Twenty-nine wineries are hosting festivities at their tasting rooms as part of the 2012 Livermore Valley Harvest Wine Celebration with wine tasting, food vendors, local artisans and live music.

"It's a good event. It exposes a lot of people to the Livermore Valley," said Mitchell Katz; the winery bearing his name is located on Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton.

This is the 31st year that people have gathered over Labor Day weekend to enjoy the fruit of the vines of the Livermore Valley. Besides the 29 wineries opening their doors, an additional 12 will be pouring at either Concannon Vineyard or Wente Vineyards on Tesla Road.

The festivities take place between noon and 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday, and the ticket price includes shuttle bus transportation between the wineries on Sunday. The buses will travel on three different routes, each serving six to 11 wineries. Free parking will be available at Robertson Park in Livermore, where guests can board buses and transfer between routes during the day.

During the celebration, wineries are open only to ticket holders with event wristbands and no outside food is allowed.

On Monday, 38 Livermore Valley wineries will present a more intimate affair for guests at their tasting rooms. Some of these Monday-only special events include:

■ Bottle your own wine at Cedar Mountain Winery, el Sol Winery and Eckert Estate Winery

■ Big White House & John Evan Cellars: Aroma bar and sensory education to discover the aromas of different wine varietals

■ Mitchell Katz Winery releasing a micro-brew

"You'd be surprised, there's nothing like a cold beer after a long day of wine drinking," Katz said. "My palate just wants a nice cold beer."

Mitchell Katz Winery will have live music both days and different types of snacks, such as little tacos for about \$1.

"When I pour an event I try to do my best wine," Katz said. "I won't get them to the tasting room if don't give them my best."

He figures that although people may not buy this weekend, they will remember the quality of the wine and the friendly pourers.

"I love my staff — that is what has put me on the map," Katz said, noting that the San Francisco Chronicle named it as one of the Top 40 tasting rooms in Northern California.

Tickets for the two-day celebration are \$55



COURTESY LIVERMORE VALLEY WINEGROWERS ASSOCIATION

Folks enjoy themselves a few years ago during the Livermore Valley Harvest Wine Celebration at the Mitchell Katz Winery.

TOAST THE *wine harvest*

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Labor Day tradition
celebrates the fruit of the
Livermore Valley vines



in advance; \$49.50 each if buying 10; and \$65 the day of the event. Designated driver tickets are also available on the day of the event for \$10.

Admission price includes a commemorative Livermore Valley wine glass, tastings of at least two wine varietals from each participating winery, an event program and discounts on wine purchases. Food at all winery locations will be locally prepared and moderately priced (under \$8).

Tickets are available online at www.LVwine.org and at all participating Livermore Valley wineries, the Wine Steward in Pleasanton and at Bay Area Safeway stores.

The Harvest Wine Celebration is a fundraiser for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. ■

COURTESY LWVA

Toasting the blessing of the grapes Tuesday morning are (l-r) Chris Chandler, executive director of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association; the Rev. Stephen Wilde; Rabbi David Katz of Temple Beth Emek; and fourth generation winegrower Carolyn Wente.

Sports



Pleasanton Piranhas 12U baseball team displays its hometown flag in Cooperstown, N.Y.: (l-r) Mitch Benson, AJ Warford, Coach Kevin Lawrence, Justin Lavell, Joseph Murphy, Mitchell Lawrence, Coach Joel Warford, Justin Clark, Max Heverly, Coach Bob Kaufman, Jimmy Kaufman, Nick Orecchia, Anthony Steller Harter, Jeremy Lea, Coach Ken Harter and Carson Quintana.

Piranhas make final round in Cooperstown

12U baseball team competes against 25 others

By JOEL WARFORD

The Pleasanton Piranhas 12U baseball team returned home after a successful week in Cooperstown, N.Y., competing against 25 teams from across the country.

The Piranhas started strong in pool play with two convincing wins against the Hudson Valley Bulls of New York and the Louyaa Lightning of Maryland featuring homers by Mitchell Lawrence, Mitch Benson, Max Heverly, key RBI hits by Jeremy Lea, and great pitching by Justin Clark, Jimmy Kaufman, Carson Quintana and Nick Orecchia. Game 3 was a nail-biting 4-3 win over the Vipers from Oxnard on a strong five innings pitched by Mitch Benson and another homer by Max Heverly. Game 4 was another tight game as Piranhas fell to the Franklin Square Ravens of New York despite

back to back homers by AJ Warford and Justin Clark in the first inning.

The Piranhas battled through two more pool play games against the Hamilton As of New Jersey and Nomads from SoCal. Mitch Lawrence hit a grand slam against the As. Piranhas finished pool play with the 12th seed out of 25 teams going into the single elimination playoffs.

The first playoff game featured a rematch with the Ravens and delivered some incredible drama. Early in the game Anthony Steller Harter and Justin Lavell hit back-to-back homers to ignite the offense. After tying the game in the fifth, the Ravens took the lead in the top of the sixth on a two-run homer. In the bottom of the sixth, AJ Warford hit a two-run homer, scoring Max Heverly to tie the game. Then, following a double by Justin Clark,

Mitch Benson crushed a walk off homerun. Joseph Murphy pitched a complete game gem in the 9-7 win.

In the next playoff round, Piranhas faced the No. 5 seed Oxnard Vipers and this time won convincingly, 8-3, with homers by Max Heverly, Justin Clark and Justin Lavell to advance to the semi-final round of eight teams.

The Piranhas fell short of the final four with a narrow loss to the No. 4 seed Brookfield Bandits, 7-5. Overall for the tournament, the Piranhas displayed outstanding pitching and defense combined with their power bats hitting a total of 17 homeruns by seven different players, scoring 70 runs in nine games, and compiling a .387 team batting average to highlight their Cooperstown experience. ■

Seahawks end season well

The Pleasanton Seahawks finished the season with fantastic performances at the 2012 U.S. Open Swimming Championships and the Junior National Championships both held in Indianapolis. The women's team took third at the U.S. Open, Aug. 7-11, with Catherine Breed, Allison Brown, Marissa Brown and Celina Li contributing to the scoring.

The following week the Seahawks finished second in combined team scoring at the Junior Nationals. Nick Silverthorn, Jason Chen, Maxime Rooney and Nick Johnston contributed for the men, while Allison Brown, Marissa Brown, Iris Brand, Kirsten Brand, Moriah Simonds and Celina Li contributed for the women. Notable swims were by Jason Chen (Pacific Record in the 100 back) and Maxime Rooney (Pacific Records in the 200 fly and 100 free). During the two weeks in Indianapolis, Seahawks swimmers achieved five new times under the 2012 Olympic Trials cuts: Nick Silverthorn (200 IM), Jason Chen (100/200 back) and Iris Brand (50/100 free).

Happy with their wins are (back row, l-r) Head Coach Steve Morsilli, Nick Silverthorn, (front) Celina Li, Catherine Breed, Allison Brown and Marissa Brown.



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Phantom U12 team 4th in Western Nationals

2012 softball season best in 10 years

BY RENEE CABRAL

The Pleasanton Phantom U12 team traveled to Salem, Ore., July 30-Aug. 5 for the Western Nationals, its final tournament for the 2012 summer. Under the coaching of Mike Williams, Jenny Williams, Kristin Ho Tseung, the team prevailed into Sunday and finished fourth out of 49 teams, the highest for a Phantom team of any age at the Western Nationals in 10 years.

Game 1 on Tuesday was against the Portland Rip City; Phantom won, 5-1. The second pool play game was against the Corona Gold, which had finished third in the SoCal State Championships, and Phantom shut them down, 6-0, earning a No. 1 seed entering bracket play.

Now in bracket play, the next game was against the Orcutt Xplosion. Danielle Williams led the team to a win, 5-1. Next Phantom battled to get a 5-2 win against the PICO Fastpitch AllStars, who had finished second in SoCal.

Going into Saturday with four wins was invigorating, starting at noon, again against Corona Gold, but it did not come easy. Corona was ahead, 3-1, all the way into

the fifth inning. Phantom's bats finally fired up and it came back to win, 4-3. The next game was at 2 p.m. in 100-degree heat, a close battle against the eventual champions, Simi Valley. Phantom lost, 0-1, in the no hitter.

On Sunday, with only six teams remaining in the tournament, Phantom started against East County of San Diego. Both teams looked alive and ready to play. At the end of the first inning the score was 2-1 with Phantom ahead; the game ended in a Phantom 4-1 win.

With the tournament now down to four teams, Phantom faced the Alameda Blaze. The Blaze scored four runs in the first two innings, but in the third inning four singles from Nicole Riordan, Danielle Williams, Shelby Cabral and Courtney Dinelli put Phantom on the board to cut the Blaze lead to two. The Blaze held strong and scored one more run in the bottom of the third.

In the fourth inning, big hits from Mary Rockwood, Emily Trinidad and Nicole Riordan were not enough to get Phantom a run but they were able to hold the Blaze. In the fifth inning, Phan-



Pleasanton Phantom U12 team members are (back row, l-r) Coach Jenny Williams, Shelby Cabral, Sofia Molina, Coach Mike Williams, Michaela Cabral, Coach Kristen Ho Tseung, (middle) Courtney Dinelli, Emily Trinidad, Jenna O'Neal, Nicole Riordan, Mary Rockwood, Jessica O'Neal, (front) Danielle Williams and Lauren Ho Tseung.

tom continued its hitting streak with a double from Shelby Cabral followed by a single from Courtney Dinelli. Sofia Molina then hit a sacrifice fly to score a run.

Now at 3-5, Phantom was feeling positive and strong. Phantom was able to hold the Blaze to five runs; however, Blaze held the

Phantom to three runs for a 3-5 win for the Alameda Blaze, which went on to defeat El Rio (Oxnard) and ultimately lose in the championship game to the still undefeated Simi Valley.

Pleasanton Phantom 12B played great throughout the tournament, which was a continuation of a

successful softball season that wrapped up with a record of 38-7-1. The girls played in eight tournaments during the summer, won three titles, finished second twice, and culminated the season with this fourth place in Western Nationals. ■

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Two women assaulted during early morning

Suspect poses as policeman as he handcuffs woman, sexually assaults her

By JESSICA LIPSKY

The Pleasanton Police Department and allied agencies are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspects in two sexual assaults that occurred earlier this month. The incidents seem to be unrelated, though both occurred during the wee hours of the morning.

The most recently reported case involved the impersonation of a police officer at around 3 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 5. Police said a woman was driving on Valley Avenue at Bernal Avenue when she heard what sounded like the chirp of a police siren. After seeing a flash of light coming from the vehicle behind her, the driver believed she was being stopped by a law enforcement officer and pulled over to the side of the road in a secluded area.

The male suspect approached the driver's side door and showed the victim a star shaped badge in his hand, then ordered the victim out of her vehicle and handcuffed her, according to police reports. She was then placed in the back seat of the suspect's vehicle and driven to an unknown secluded road where she was sexually assaulted by the suspect in his vehicle. The suspect

left the victim at the scene of the crime and drove away.

The victim walked back to her vehicle and drove home, police said. She did not sustain any life threatening injuries and did not report the incident to police until Aug. 28. It is not known why the incident wasn't reported earlier.

"Sexual assault, being a very traumatic experience, victims respond in a variety of ways. There is no standardized way of reporting," said Sgt. Maria Munayer. "I don't want to speculate on why she waited, I'm just glad she came forward."

The suspect is described as a white male in his late 20s or early 30s with dark brown or black hair. He is 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall, approximately 185 pounds and of medium or muscular build. The suspect wore a dark colored button-down shirt with no police insignia and a dark,



A sketch of the suspect in the Aug. 5 assault.

police-style hat with patent leather brim and no police insignia.

The victim described the suspect's vehicle as a dark four-door sedan of unknown make and model.

In a more recent incident, a woman in her 20s was sexually assaulted and robbed Sunday, Aug. 19, while walking home alone from downtown at about 2:30 a.m., according to a news release from the Pleasanton Police Department.

"While walking in the area of First Street and Spring Avenue, she noticed a male adult was following her. When she reached Kottinger Park, the male had closed the distance between them. He made a comment to her that caused her to fear for her safety," the release stated.

The woman ran into Kottinger Park to get away from the suspect; he chased her into the park, then sexually assaulted her and robbed her of an undisclosed amount of cash before running off.

The victim was transported to a local hospital where she was treated and released.

"It's not life threatening, she just received bruises and cuts all over her body," said Munayer, who confirmed that sexual assaults by

strangers are a rarity in Pleasanton.

This suspect is described as white or Hispanic with dark, short hair, in his early 20s, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing 185 pounds and with a muscular build. He also had distinguishing tattoos, according to the news release: "old English" style writing across his collarbones and one tattoo on each upper arm.



A sketch of the suspect in the Aug. 19 assault.

His hat, a Los Angeles Dodgers baseball cap, was recovered by police.

"Physical evidence recovered has been submitted to the Alameda County Crime Lab for forensic examination," the press release said.

The Police Department has increased patrols, including uni-

POLICE BULLETIN

\$15,000 jewelry haul from home

Residents on the 6700 block of Paseo Catalina reported to police that \$15,000 worth of jewelry as stolen from their home Aug. 26.

Police are investigating the incident as a residential burglary; there were no signs of forced entry and a housekeeper is considered to be a suspect.

In another theft, several hundred dollars of copper wire was stolen from a home in the 3400 block of Arbor Drive on Aug. 22. Piping valued at \$750 was stored in the back yard of the home, which was under construction.

formed bicycle officers, around Kottinger Village Park. Anyone with information about these incidents or the identity of either suspect is urged to contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100. ■

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Aug 22

Theft

- 10:37 a.m. in the 5900 block of Gibraltar Drive
- 11:26 a.m. in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive
- 11:30 a.m. in the 3400 block of Arbor Drive
- 2:59 p.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road; fraud
- 3:12 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 3:25 p.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive; shoplifting
- 10:44 p.m. in the 3500 block of Yellowstone Court; fraud

Auto burglary

- 11:33 a.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road
- 9:14 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:22 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Mall Road and Springdale Avenue; DUI

Aug 23

Theft

- 8:48 a.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; recovered stolen vehicle
- 2:39 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Drug/alcohol violations

- 9:30 p.m. in the 6300 block of Dublin Blvd.; DUI

Domestic battery

- 4:33 p.m. in the 3500 block of Yellowstone Court

Aug. 24

Burglary

- 4:45 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; commercial burglary

Theft

- 10:25 a.m. in the 600 block of Varese Court; fraud

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:08 a.m. at the intersection of Spring Street and First Street, DUI
- 1:57 a.m. at the intersection of St. Mary Street and Pleasanton Avenue; DUI
- 12:27 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; possession of a controlled substance
- 12:33 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; paraphernalia possession and possession of a controlled substance

Auto burglary

- 2:21 p.m. in the 4400 block of Payne Road
- 7:20 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 5:48 p.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive
- 12:19 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road at Stoneridge Drive; graffiti
- 11:35 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Aug. 25

Theft

- 2:32 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; stolen cell phone

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:14 a.m. at the intersection of Pleasanton and Rose avenues; DUI
- 9:10 p.m. in the 2700 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- 11:34 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession

Aug. 26

Theft

- 10:30 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting
- 11:10 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; larceny
- 11:46 a.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive; bicycle theft

Weapons violation

- 12:44 a.m. in the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road; possession of a billy club

Burglary

- 10:44 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; commercial burglary
- 4:06 p.m. in the 6700 block of Paseo Catalina; residential burglary

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:35 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession
- 3:21 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; marijuana possession
- 3:40 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; marijuana possession
- 5:54 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; drunk in public

Aug. 27

Theft

- Between 7:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; stolen vehicle
- Between 10:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Blvd.; stolen cell phone
- 8:32 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Court; vehicle theft
- 11:29 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Burglary

- 9:09 a.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; commercial burglary

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:35 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; marijuana possession
- 2:26 p.m. at the intersection of Bevilacqua Court at Del Sol Avenue; marijuana possession

Aug. 28

Theft

- 9:21 a.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive; fraud

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:41 a.m. at the intersection of Sunol Blvd. and Bernal Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession and possession of a controlled substance

Vandalism

- 12:01 p.m. in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Introduction and demonstration of Pulse Point Community CPR-Automatic Defibrillator Smartphone Application.
- Public Hearing: PUD 02 09M, P12 0637, and P12 0638, Safeway, Inc. - PUD 02 09M, P12 0637, and P12 0638, Safeway, Inc. - Consider applications for (1) Major Modification of the PUD Development Plan for the Pleasanton Gateway commercial center located at 6782 Bernal Avenue to replace a 4,379-square-foot bank/restaurant building with a drive-through, a self-serve gasoline station with nine fuel dispensers and a monument sign facing Bernal Avenue; (2) Conditional Use Permit for a service station with 24-hour operation; and (3) Sign Design Review for the service station's building and monument sign. Zoning for the property is PUD - C (Commercial) District

East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force

Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Drive

- Task Force will take a field trip of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan area.

City of Pleasanton Seeks Members for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee

Applications are currently being accepted for Pleasanton's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to be a significant planning tool to help the city plan for the changing scope of recreational activities. As such 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.

To serve on the Steering Committee and assist with the master planning process, the City Council is seeking two (2) Parents-At-Large representatives from the community who currently have a child or children attending preschool, elementary school, middle school and/or high school. All applicants shall be residents of the city of Pleasanton and willing to attend at least one or two meetings per month for a period of six to nine months. The City seeks committee members who are able to do background reading and research, work collaboratively, and strive for clear communication, a balanced perspective and inclusion of a wide range of viewpoints.

Interested parties should submit completed applications to the City Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2012. The Pleasanton City Council will confirm the members of the committee at the Tuesday, October 2, 2012 City Council meeting (tentative date).

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, located at 123 Main Street in Pleasanton, or can be downloaded at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/prmpcommittee.pdf> For more information, please contact Susan Andrade-Wax, Community Services Director, at (925) 931-5340 or sandrade-wax@cityofpleasantonca.gov

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

Transitions

Submit a memorial (including photos and video), search recent obituaries and write a remembrance through Pleasanton Weekly's obituary directory at PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

Lily Ann Dowall Joberg

Lily Ann Dowall Joberg died on August 23, 2012 at the home of her daughter, June Kowallis of Providence, Utah. She was 89 years old.

She was born in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, the only child of William and Pauline Reynolds Dowdall. She spent her childhood in Morrison, Illinois and much of her adulthood in the Bay Area of California. She met Elgin A Joberg and was married on February 14, 1945 in San Francisco. They were blessed with three children, June Joberg Kowallis (Rodney) of Providence, Utah, Jeanne Joberg Brown (Doyle) of Moses Lake, Washington and David Joberg of Walnut Creek, California.

She lived in Pleasanton, California for 49 years, where she raised her children and attended the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Elgin, a granddaughter, Ann Marie Kowallis and a grandson, Kelsey G Brown. She leaves behind her 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be conducted on August 31, 2012 at 12:30 PM at the Grove Hill Cemetery in Morrison, Illinois. Prior to the graveside service a viewing will take place at the Bosma-Renkes Funeral Home from 11:00AM until noon, for all those who wish to pay their respects.

Donations in memory of Lily Ann can be made to the Las Trampas School, Inc. for the handicapped, 3460 Lana Lane, Lafayette, CA 94649.



Linda Louise Ansell

Linda Louise Ansell passed peacefully on August 22, 2012 at her home in Pleasanton, California. Linda (née Massey) was born on January 20, 1941 in Cannelton, West Virginia. She was the 6th of 13 children and the 3rd of four girls. Her father, James Morris Massey, known as Maurice, was orphaned at a young age and worked in the coal mines of Kanawha County, West Virginia from the age of 11. Linda loved living in the countryside and said as a child she never considered herself poor. They had fresh vegetables from a huge garden the family kept and collected wild berries with her sisters. They canned everything and never went hungry. After graduating from Parkersburg High School, Linda worked for the government processing punch cards before she decided to move to California when she was 21 to live with her oldest brother, Jim, his wife Joan, and their young children. She was looking for a new life and found it in Santa Maria, CA. She loved working with numbers and soon found a job working as a teller at the Bank of America in Santa Maria. There she met Kathleen Silva who was soon to be Kathy Jones and her best friend. The two of them were still known for giggling and long talks even after 50 years friendship. One day a young man, recently home from serving in the US Army in Germany, came to her window at the bank and asked her out. Despite having a balance of just over \$4 in the bank, Linda agreed. The young man, Gary Ansell, took her to Los Angeles to see a Cinemascope showing of "It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World." They married three months later in November 1964. In 1969, they gave birth to their first son, Michael Albert Ansell. In 1971, they had a second son, Christopher Lee Ansell. Linda was completely focused on raising her two boys. She read to them constantly and took them to the park or to the swimming pool whenever she could. Gary worked for the post office and in 1974 he was transferred with the family to San Luis Obispo and then in 1977 to Carpinteria. She loved books and spent hours every day reading. She took her sons to the Carpinteria Library so often that between them they read practically every book in the tiny library and the librarians became like family. When both boys started school she volunteered in their classrooms, with PTO activities and worked as a yard duty at Canalino School in Carpinteria, making close friends along the way. She was greatly loved by all the kids who followed her around the playground. After a few years, she became teacher's aide for a second grade classroom. She was like a second mom for many who was greatly loved for her warmth, support, sense of humor, and love for all. In the 1980's and 1990's she worked as an office manager in two different real estate offices and enjoyed bookkeeping and working with people, especially those new in town who wanted to know what Carpinteria was like. In the late 1980's, she met with a series of tragedies including the loss of her younger son, her husband, and emergency brain surgery that she barely survived. She showed her amazing strength during this time and dedicated herself to making sure her older son, Mike, graduated from college. College was a dream of hers and she made it possible for her son with her strength, hard work, and endless support. Mike graduated with a degree in chemistry from CSU, Chico and later a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon thanks to her. Linda had always been close with her sister, Julie, as a girl in West Virginia. Despite moving to California, they remained very close. As time passed, they talked almost every day. Linda was also close with many friends including her sister, Ginger. All of the sisters were great conversationalists. In 2004, Linda moved to Pleasanton, California to be closer to her grandchildren, two beautiful little girls. She dedicated herself to reading to them and to spoiling them in every way she could. Linda was happy to make friends at her gym in Pleasanton, the senior center, and among her neighbors. Linda is survived by her son, Mike, her daughter in law, Sonia, and her granddaughters, Sarah and Lucie, her sisters Julie and Ginger, and her brothers Eddie, David, Johnny and Robert.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, August 31st at 11am at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave, Livermore, CA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Ansell Family Scholarship c/o Las Positas College Foundation, 3000 Campus Hill Road, Livermore CA 94551.



ANNIVERSARIES

Mike and Sharon Fuller

Mike and Sharon Fuller are celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They met Aug. 25, 1960, at Fishers Hamburgers in Pleasanton, and two years later to the day they were married in Reno, Nev. For the next 10 years, Sharon worked as a beautician at Normandy's in Livermore and Bobbies High Style in Pleasanton. Mike worked with McGuire and Hester in Oakland until 1975 when he started building Mountain Cascade Inc.

They have a son, Duke, and a daughter, Schelly, and now have many grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Family and friends have all shared in Mike's love of dragster racing, which he still enjoys. Mike and Sharon often travel to the home they built in Mexico.



Peggy and Bernie Monahan

Peggy and Bernie Monahan were married Sept. 1, 1962, at St. Clare Church in Essex, Md.

Their honeymoon was driving across the country to make their home in California to settle in Pleasanton more than 49 years ago.

Bernie worked for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, retiring in 1990. Peggy worked for Community First National Bank, its holding company California Bancshares, and retired in 1997, although she continued to do consulting until 2000.

They will spend their 50th anniversary at the Aptos beach home of their son Chuck and his wife, Amy Adams, and their two sons, and their daughter and her husband, Joey and Toby Anderson, and their three children.



ENGAGEMENTS

McNerney-Broadway

Congressman Jerry and Mary McNerney of Pleasanton announced the engagement of their son Michael Christopher to Jillian Marie Broadway, the daughter of Noah III and Pam Broadway of Oregon, Ohio.

Michael and Jillian, both U.S. Air Force veterans, met while they were stationed together on active duty. Michael graduated from UC Davis and American University, Washington School of Law. He is currently a cyber policy advisor in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Jillian is a graduate of Bowling Green University in Ohio and does research and development for the



Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Michael and Jillian will be married at Port Clinton, Ohio, on Sept. 7.

PLEASANTON CONCERT IN THE PARK

JUNE 1 – AUGUST 31
FRIDAYS 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
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August 31 – Public Eye
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TRI-VALLEY HEROES

Know a hero?
 We are calling for nominations. Individuals who live or work in Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, Alamo or Blackhawk are eligible, as are organizations and businesses headquartered in these communities. If you know a person, organization or group deserving of recognition, complete the form at <http://tinyurl.com/Tri-ValleyHeroes>.

Clubs

LEAGUE TOUR AND LUNCH The Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters invites interested people to attend a tour of the Pleasanton Museum on Main exhibit "Wherever There's a Fight" at 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 5, at Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Lunch at Handles Restaurant will follow. Cost is \$15. For information about League activities and for lunch reservations, call 846-9739.

Concerts

CONCERTS IN THE PARK Pleasanton Downtown Association presents live concerts throughout the summer from 7-8:30 p.m. Fridays at Lions Wayside Park at the corner of First and Neal streets. High Energy Rock & Roll by Public Eye on Aug. 31. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

CROOKED JADES Enjoy a free one-hour concert at 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., by one of the Bay Area's pre-eminent bluegrass bands, the Crooked Jades, which keeps true to its old-time string band heart, yet exaggerates the aura of rural pre-radio era music. The concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasanton Library. Call 931-3405.

Events

BACK TO SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RUN Enjoy a run or walk at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park at the 17th annual Back to School Scholarship Run, sponsored by the Northern California Association of Sales & Marketing Companies, on Sunday, Sept. 9, to raise money for college scholarships for children of parents in the California food industry. It features a 10K Run, 5K Run & Walk, and a Children's Mile. The first 300 registered entrants will receive the Scholarship Run's Monster Goodie Bag. Entry fees are \$30 for preregistered and \$35 on race day. Call On Your Mark Race Events at 209-795-7832 or visit www.active.com.

Fundraisers

BROTHERS, BAR ROOMS AND BANDITS The Museum on Main is holding its annual fundraiser, Brothels, Bar Rooms and Bandits, from 6-10:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Return to Pleasanton of 1890s and enjoy gambling with friends and eating great food. Western attire encouraged. Cost of \$45 includes barbecue dinner, gambling chips and entertainment. Tickets available at Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton, or call 462-2766.

Live Music

RUCKATAN LATIN TRIBE The popular Alameda-based world music group, Ruckatan Latin Tribe, will be performing at 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 1, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. The seven band members, from three different continents, infuse their cultures and love of their roots into their music, a blend of Latin, reggae and rock sounds. Ticket are \$15-\$20. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Seniors

DMV SENIOR OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM Hear from one of four Ombudsmen with the DMV assigned to the state, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The program addresses the concerns of senior drivers. Ombudsmen can assist as a "go-between" to ensure that senior drivers are treated fairly & consistent with laws and regulations and with the dignity they deserve. There is no charge for this event. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

SENIOR CLIPPER CARDS A representative from BART will be at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from 9 a.m.-noon, Monday, Sept. 17, and can issue Senior Clipper Cards to those 65 years of age and older. Bring a driver's license, passport or identifica-

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tion card. Clipper Cards offer seniors a discounted rate for BART. For more information, call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

Support Groups

'STEPPING STONES ON YOUR GRIEF JOURNEY' Although there is no right or wrong path for each individual grief journey, there are stepping stones that are part of each, which will be explored in an eight-week series of workshops. The class is eight Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 6-Oct. 25, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Preregistration is requested. Space is limited. A one time donation of \$15 is requested.

The sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Call Mary Hagerty at 846-5377.

Volunteering

EAST BAY STAND DOWN Volunteers are needed to give a "hand up" to men and women who have served honorably in military service and are now homeless. More than 1,000 volunteers with various skills and abilities are needed to support the operation of an East Bay Stand Down "tent city" at the Alameda County Fairgrounds from Thursday, Sept. 13, through noon, Sunday, Sept. 16. Volunteers must register by Aug. 31 at www.eastbaystand-down.org. Financial assistance is

also greatly needed. Checks may be sent to Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation EBSD, P.O. Box 2133, Danville, CA 94526.

Workshops

KEEPING THE GARDEN HEALTHY Enjoy working in your garden more! Make the work easier on your body in order to keep it fun throughout your life. Alameda County Master Gardeners are on hand from 9:30-11:30 a.m. the second Saturday of every month to give advice and guided tours of their Demonstration Garden. Free Livermore Earth Friendly Demonstration Garden, 3575 Greenville Rd., Livermore. 510-639-1371. www.acmg.ucdavis.edu

CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE 10th ANNUAL

Report to the Public



Alameda CTC • 1333 Broadway, Suites 220 & 300 • Oakland, CA 94612 • (510) 208-7400 • AlamedaCTC.org

Measure B Sales Tax Activities

CWC members performed a number of activities to ensure appropriate use of transportation sales tax funds, improve reporting processes and update funding agreements between Alameda CTC and fund recipients.

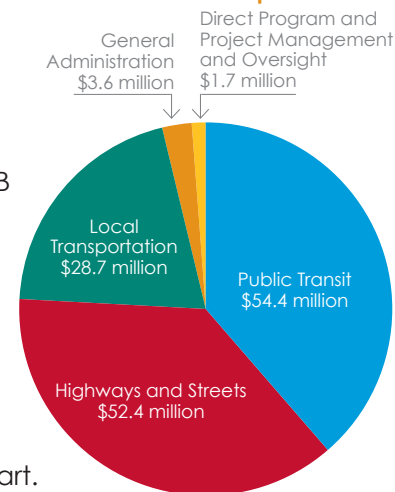
In November 2000, Alameda County voters approved Measure B, which extended the county's half-cent transportation sales tax to 2022 and set forth a 20-year Expenditure Plan. Measure B also established a Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) to review all Measure B expenditures

on projects, programs and administration for compliance with the Expenditure Plan, and timely project delivery. The CWC reports its findings annually to the public. This 10th annual report covers expenditures during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 (FY10-11), and CWC activities since July 1, 2010. The CWC report states that audited income and expenditures were in compliance with specific caps, and the auditors did not identify any accounting concerns.

Summary of Expenditures

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is responsible for administering the Measure B half-cent transportation sales tax measure as well as congestion management agency functions. In fiscal year 2010-2011 (FY10-11), Measure B revenues totaled \$105.4 million. Alameda CTC audited expenditures of \$140.8 million in FY10-11 were distributed as shown on this chart.

FY10-11 Audited Expenditures



Citizens Watchdog Committee Activities

- **Ongoing Programs and Capital Projects Watch (On-going):** The CWC continued to watch specific programs and capital projects and to review any issues of concern.
- **Independent Audits (November 2010, January 2012):** The CWC met with and received presentations from independent auditors on expenditures and administrative caps. The auditors did not identify any accounting concerns.
- **Review of Local Agency Expenditures (November 2010, March 2012):** The CWC formed subcommittees to address fund balances of the cities of Fremont and Oakland, and Alameda County. Each agency provided explanations and plans for spending down fund balances, which the CWC will continue to monitor.
- **Audit and Compliance Report Review (January 2011, January 2012):** CWC members reviewed audits and compliance reports and requested more information from agencies and jurisdictions to help clarify expenditures. The CWC found no indication that funds were spent improperly.
- **Master Programs Funding Agreement Review (November 2011):** A subcommittee reviewed and provided input on the Alameda CTC's new Master Programs Funding Agreement for Alameda County, local jurisdictions and transit agencies, which receive Measure B and Vehicle Registration Fee funds.
- **Information Received by CWC (On-going):** The CWC received updates on a new \$7.8 billion Transportation Expenditure Plan that will go to voters in November 2012 and requires an Independent Watchdog Committee, similar to the CWC, as well as on local business contract goal achievement success.



Measure B funds local streets and roads and mass transit services, improves bicycle and pedestrian safety, provides better transit access for seniors and people with disabilities, and improves highway efficiencies.

How to Get Involved

In addition to the CWC, the public serves on the **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**, the **Citizens Advisory Committee** and the **Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee**. To learn more, visit www.AlamedaCTC.org and follow us on:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlamedaCTC
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AlamedaCTC>



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115 Announcements

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245 Miscellaneous

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Principal Software Engineer
Principal Software Engineer wanted in Pleasanton. Involves developing architecture and design specifications for new GPS and tracking products and initiatives. Requires a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science or equivalent field and five (5) years experience in GPS / Tracking Software Development along with specific skills. Send resume and salary requirements and/or inquiries about additional details to Human Resources, NAVMAN Wireless North America, 2701 Patriot Blvd., Ste. 125, Glenview, IL 60026 or Tiffany.Bolden@NavmanWireless.com. No calls.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet White Toes

White Toes, a 3-month-old gray domestic longhair cross, is a polite kitten who likes to check things out before diving in, paws first. Once he gets to know you, he will shower you with purrs, head butts and plenty of lap time. Meet White Toes at East Bay SPCA's Dublin Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Dr. East Bay SPCA is hosting a Kitten Item Donation Drive through Sept. 21; check out its Amazon.com wish list or read more at www.eastbayspca.org/kittens. To see other animals available for adoption, visit www.eastbayspca.org or call 479-9670.



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1194 Blanc Ct, Pleasanton
4 bedrooms, 2 baths with large family room. Gorgeous hardwood floors and updated kitchen with new appliances. Huge detached studio/game room. Large pie shaped park-like backyard. Lot approx 14,837 sqft. A must see! Offered at 879,950

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OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Empty homes need additional insurance

Unoccupied, vacant homes considered higher risk, insurance agent says

By JASON ALDERMAN

There are many reasons why someone might leave their home unoccupied for months at a time. Maybe you moved to another state and your old house is languishing on the market; or you can no longer afford your mortgage so you're working out a short sale and couch-surfing at your sister's house; or you struck it rich and are taking a six-month, around-the-world cruise.

In each case, there's one very important person you should call well before locking the door that last time — your insurance agent.

"Many people don't realize that their standard homeowners policy won't provide full coverage if their home sits unoccupied for a certain amount of time," Ruth Stroup, a Farmers Insurance Group agent from Oakland, said.

"The timeframe varies by state and insurance carrier, but typically it's 30 or 60 days," she explained. "After that, you could be liable for losses related to theft or vandalism."

Unoccupied or vacant homes are considered a higher risk by insurers because no one lives on site to maintain and protect the property. We've all seen news reports of abandoned or foreclosed homes that have been stripped of their fixtures, overrun by squatters or simply vandalized.

Also, if you're hoping that your insurer simply won't notice your house is unoccupied, think again. As Stroup points out, "Insurance companies increasingly are doing routine inspections at policy renewal time. If they find that the property is unoccupied, chances are your policy won't be renewed."

So what should you do if you find yourself in this situation?

First, check your homeowner's policy for language regarding unoccupied or vacant homes. Once you know that your house will

be empty for more than the allowable time — and before the deadline passes — contact your insurer to find out whether they offer vacant home insurance.

They may be willing to make special provisions depending on the projected duration of vacancy. If your carrier doesn't offer such coverage, find one that does.

Foreclosure or short sale.

This is grim but critical information to know if you're losing your home through a foreclosure or short sale: Even if you've already moved out, you're still responsible for insuring the property until you no longer officially own it.

"If a prospective buyer slipped and fell, you'd be liable for damages since you're still technically the owner," Stroup said.

Landlord insurance.

Many homeowners prefer to rent out their property until the real estate market rebounds. From the insurer's perspective, this is preferable to leaving the house vacant, although it's still considered riskier coverage because tenants are less likely than owners to protect and maintain the property.

Landlord insurance covers the structure of the building as well as any personal belongings you leave on the premises against hazards such as fire, water damage, lightning, etc. It will reimburse you for lost rental income if the home becomes uninhabitable.

"Landlord policies are structured differently than homeowners coverage but often cost about the same," Stroup said.

"Homeowners policies typically provide considerable coverage for personal property, which you probably wouldn't need here because your renters are responsible for insuring their own things," she added.

To protect your current and future assets, always have sufficient loss and liability insurance on all your property and possessions. Better safe than sorry.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.



Jason Alderman

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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5 BEDROOMS

852 Old Oak Rd \$947,900
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

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Sun 1:30-4:30 Moxley Team 600-0990

4 BEDROOMS

6785 Paseo Catalina \$699,000
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1675 Paseo Del Cajon \$775,000
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Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

3404 Torlano Place \$1,475,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

364 Linden Way \$1,299,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Laura Glovin 518-4800



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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2012

Dublin

- 3312 Araldi Ln** D R Horton to C. & G. Guthrie for \$574,500
3316 Araldi Ln D R Horton to T. Tran for \$552,500
3340 Araldi Ln D R Horton to S. Bhattacharjee for \$562,000
2108 Avanti Ave D R Horton to A. Patel for \$871,000
2136 Avanti Ave D R Horton to S. Satar for \$912,500
2178 Avanti Avenue D R Horton to R. & A. Bannatyne for \$899,000
3312 Capoterra Way Standard Pacific Corporation to J. & S. Chang for \$672,500
11530 Circle Way Jones Trust to K. Loftus for \$522,000
4305 Clarinbridge Circle B. Mayfield to V. & H. Thirumalai for \$365,000
3321 Cydonia Court KB Home to V. Chao for \$781,000
3465 Dublin Boulevard #417 Toll Dublin Limited to D. Stone for \$356,500
3465 Dublin Boulevard #439 Toll Dublin Limited to M. & G. Acojido for \$361,500
2831 East Sugar Hill Terrace Sugar Hill Terrace to Y. & G. Dhillon for \$925,000
6629 Ebensburg Lane R. Ginn to Katsifolis Trust for \$440,000
3420 Finnian Way #200 Toll Dublin Limited to A. Lee for \$366,000
3420 Finnian Way #219 Toll Dublin Limited to C. Parchman for \$381,500
3420 Finnian Way #232 Toll Dublin Limited to S. Lien for \$375,000
6013 Kingsmill Terrace J. & M. Gomes to I. Esomonu for \$1,475,000
11461 Marwick Drive P. Ghali to C. & R. Hudnall for \$620,000
4497 Mazzoni Terrace Standard Pacific Corporation to J. & A. Choi for \$660,000
7638 Ridgeline Drive Schaefer Dublin Holdings to F. Yuen for \$1,080,000
7662 Ridgeline Drive Schaefer Dublin Holdings to S. Wu for \$811,500
7700 Ridgeline Drive A. & M. Reed to J. & S. Upadhyaya for \$900,000
3629 Rocking Horse Court C. Anderson to D.

Lange for \$540,000

- 6565 South Mariposa Court** KB Home to A. Mun for \$438,000
7026 Stagecoach Road #B D. Holliday to N. Yuen for \$167,000
4867 Swinford Ct E. Pinlac to S. Arajarvi for \$450,000
7771 Tuscan Drive T. Abrahams to Baytree Living Limited for \$305,000

Pleasanton

- 6010 Acadia Court** J. & G. Goodman to A. & D. Tarricone for \$535,000
3078 Bolero Court V. Draper to Chen Trust for \$428,000
539 Bonita Avenue Toole Trust to Dambrosio Trust for \$645,000
1588 Chatham Place Ponderosa Homes to Y. Lu for \$749,000
1904 Fiorio Circle B. & C. Jolette to C. Yurkovic for \$480,000
2561 Glen Isle Avenue K. Souther to X. Zhu for \$705,000
238 Junipero Street Yetso Trust to M. MacArt for \$796,000
911 Kottinger Drive C. & N. Gieringer to S. & M. Brooks for \$835,000
2906 Liberty Drive S. Willis to F. & M. Tornaghi for \$400,000
2930 Liberty Drive Archambault Trust to J. & L. Gao for \$431,000
432 Mission Drive D. & M. Eckert to J. Kuizon for \$780,000
2008 Olivia Court S. Kim to C. Gordet for \$336,500
1891 Palmer Drive Barker Trust to T. Yerondopoulos for \$1,025,000
3723 Rose Rock Circle C. Leibengood to J. Papageorge for \$632,000
3275 Royalton Court C. Parchman to C. Wang for \$640,000
5602 Selena Court Loewenhardt Trust to S. Garuda for \$1,399,000
4209 Sheldon Circle M. Choi to D. Verma for \$291,000
125 Sylvia Circle K. & M. Muccio to R. & S. Warnick for \$615,000
5168 Willowview Court R. & S. Warnick to C. Schutta for \$525,000

Source: California REsource

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1801 MARINI LANE
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5464 MAYBECK LN
CRAFTSMAN STYLE HOME! \$710,000
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WELL MAINTAINED HOME!! \$60,000
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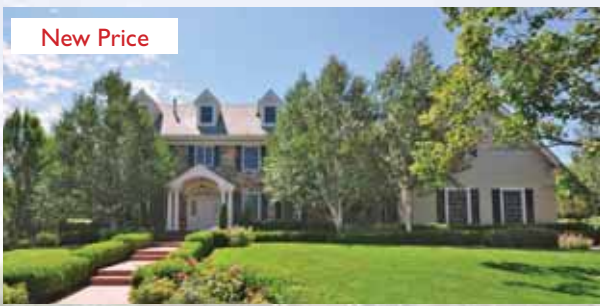
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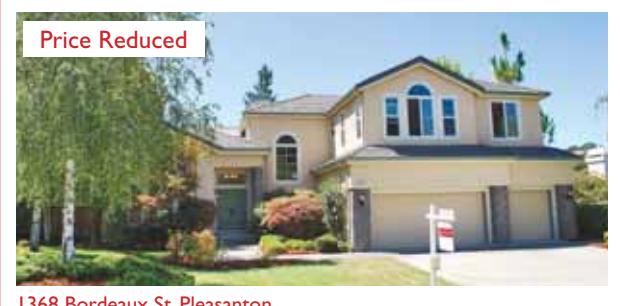


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