

Pleasanton Weekly

Eat, Drink &
Be Merry

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Winter sports preview



Soccer, wrestling, basketball seasons
underway for Falcons and Dons

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Say Goodbye to Nerve Pain



Your nerve system is involved in everything your body does, from regulating your breathing to controlling your muscles and sensing heat and cold. Because your nerve system is so critical for your health when things go wrong

with it you may experience excruciating pain and/or some very strange symptoms...

There are three types of nerves in the body:

1. Autonomic nerves. These nerves control the involuntary or partially voluntary activities of your body, including heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, and temperature regulation.

2. Motor nerves. These nerves control your movements and actions by passing information from your brain and spinal cord to your muscles.

3. Sensory nerves. These nerves relay information from your skin and muscles back to your spinal cord and brain. The information is then processed to let you feel pain and other sensations. Because nerves are essential to all you do, nerve pain and damage can seriously affect your quality of life.

What Are the Symptoms of Nerve Pain and Nerve Damage?

With nerve damage there can be a wide array of symptoms. Which ones you may have depends on the location and type of nerves that are affected. Damage can occur to nerves in your brain and spinal cord. It can also occur in the peripheral nerves, which are located throughout the rest of your body.

Autonomic nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

- Too much sweating or too little sweating
- Lightheadedness
- Dry eyes and mouth
- Constipation
- Bladder dysfunction
- Sexual dysfunction

Damage to motor nerves may produce the following symptoms:

- Weakness
- Muscle atrophy

- Twitching, also known as fasciculation
- Paralysis

Sensory nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

- Pain
- Sensitivity
- Numbness
- Tingling or prickling
- Burning
- Problems with positional awareness

In some instances, people with nerve damage will have symptoms that indicate damage to two, or even three, different types of nerves. For instance, you might experience weakness and burning of your legs at the same time. To further complicate matters we don't all develop the same way and different un-expected nerves can cause similar problems. This has made it very difficult to diagnose disorders caused by nerve damage based on which nerve "should" cause what.

That is, until now...

Recent advances in technology that detects nerve damage has led to more precise diagnosis for those people suffering with nerve damage disorders.

And more precise diagnosis leads to better results... results which have been published in major medical journals. With data published in 2014 showing success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons are recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery (for nerve damage that leads to back pain and sciatica).

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Find out what is causing your nerve damage, book a consultation now by calling (925) 255-5805, they are waiting to take your call today.

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Wreaths at Pioneer Cemetery will honor veterans



JEB BING

Cameron Huber, a junior at Amador Valley High, awaits tomorrow's wreath-laying program at Pioneer Cemetery as part of Pleasanton's "Wreaths Across America" program, which she started.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Photo of wreaths placed on snow-covered graves at Arlington National Cemetery provided impetus for national December tribute to veterans.

Tomorrow at noon, veterans, Scouts and civic leaders will place wreaths on each of the 561 graves at Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery as part of a national tribute to veterans buried there. It's all part of "Wreaths Across America," a national event approved by Congress in 2008 and this month being observed in more than 1,000 locations as well as in Pleasanton.

Although the special holiday-time wreath-laying has been underway for more than a decade, tomorrow's is a first for our town thanks to the enthusiasm and determination of Cameron Huber, a 16-year-old junior at Amador Valley High School.

Her mother, Renee Huber, a State Farm agent in downtown Pleasanton, knew of the interest in bringing Wreaths Across America to Pioneer by members of the Pleasanton Lions Club and the local posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. All they needed was someone skilled at organizing such an effort and willing to take on the task.

She knew just the candidate, and daughter Cameron jumped at the chance.

Always active in school and social groups, Cameron also knew how

important it is to remember and pay tribute to those in the military. Her uncle, grandfather and great-grandfather regularly regaled her family with their military experiences. After checking out the national "Wreaths" organization, she met with the Lions and veterans and took on the job.

She was "overwhelmed" (her word) by the outpouring of support by the scores of volunteers who spent part of Thanksgiving weekend using the learning tools and interactive media she obtained from the national Wreaths Across America organization to make the wreaths. Using materials donated by local organizations, Home Depot and Lowe's, volunteers then hand-made each wreath, each with its own distinctive style and personally tied red bows that will be placed on veterans' graves tomorrow.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization started by Morrill Worcester in 1992 to place wreaths on graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Last year, the now-national effort placed more than 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the U.S. and beyond.

I'll be joining Cameron and other veterans tomorrow when we add Pleasanton to Wreaths Across America's participants. See you there. ■

About the Cover

The winter sports season is underway for Pleasanton high schools. Clockwise from top left: Foothill wrestler Dustin Dukleth is looking for another trip to the state meet (photo by Kari Dukleth), Sadie Moore is one of the top players for Amador Valley this year (photo by Pete Klessel), James O'Brien is a leading wrestler for the Dons (contributed photo) and Sarah Broacha will lead the way for the Falcons girls soccer team (photo by Bob Garcia). Cover design by Kristin Brown.

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'Tis the season of sharing

Are your children (or fur-kids) visiting Santa Claus this year?
Share your photos with us!



Deadline to receive photos is **Dec. 11**

Send your photos to dciardelli@pleasantonweekly.com with "Santa photo" in the subject line by Dec. 11 for Dec. 25 publication.

Photos should be JPEG format and at least 500K.

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

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Is there a particular message you would like to share with our community this holiday season?



Raleigh Resnick

Rabbi, Chabad of the Tri-Valley

In a world where the forces of darkness are ever-present, this Chanukah let us illuminate the universe with goodness and kindness. I would love to communicate the message that a little light dispels a lot of darkness.



Tim Smith Firefighter

It is important for people to think it is perfectly fine to wish someone "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Hanukkah" or whatever other greeting appropriately conveys a message of peace and positivity. There should be no concern that it is somehow offensive or "politically incorrect" to use the words "Christmas" and "Hanukkah," or for that matter "Kwanza" or "Diwali," in offering a friendly season's greeting.



Clare Smith

Teacher

Well, in light of the recent terrorist attacks, I want to remind people that it is still possible for goodness and light to prevail over darkness, evil and hatred, especially if, as individuals, we each share as much goodness and light as we possibly can.



Joseph Bradley

Realtor

This is a season of giving, good cheer, joy and love, no matter what you celebrate or how you celebrate it. It is a time to spread good news, good will, to lend someone a hand, and to ask them in return, to just keep the chain of love going, so that there will be goodness all year long instead of just during the holiday season.



Jenny McKneely

Police services technician

I would like to remind people who are unable to be physically "home" for Christmas that "home" is not necessarily the specific place you have in mind, but can be a person/people, or even pets. So as long you are surrounded by living beings who care about you, you are "home."

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Public art walk

Pleasanton's Public Art Walk Series ends its fourth year this Saturday with a two-hour educational tour of the Pleasanton Library, Senior Center with Centennial Park, Civic Park and the southern portion of downtown.

The walk and talk, led by Nancy and Gary Harrington of the Harrington Art Partnership, will reveal the secrets of Centennial Park with its interesting design and much "hidden" symbolism. They will also discuss the newest Pleasanton public art sculpture, "On the Count of Three" by Jane DeDecker.

The event begins at 9 a.m., departing from the Pleasanton Civic Center parking lot at 200 Old Bernal Ave. For more info, contact the Harringtons at 846-9757.

Fundraising runner

Pleasanton resident Jane Allen raised more than \$10,000 for a local food bank while competing in the PwC Chase to End Hunger Challenge, a new event within last week's Silicon Valley Turkey Trot in downtown San Jose.

PwC donated \$1 for every runner Allen beat in the 5K race. She finished the race with a time of 22:03, better than 10,877 other runners — meaning the Second Harvest Food Bank received a \$10,877 donation.

"I was honored to run on behalf of PwC and proud to come in 202nd place overall to raise \$10,877," Allen said. "Second Harvest Food Bank serves a critical community need. PwC's corporate responsibility focus in on financial literacy for our youth — and basic needs, such as food, are essential for any learning kids do."

Murder mystery party

Pleasanton middle school students can experience a true whodunit tonight during a murder mystery party, along with a bit of holiday fashion hilarity.

The city of Pleasanton will be hosting the next Middle School Night Out with a theme of "Murder Mystery Ugly Sweater Party" from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the Amador Recreation Center, located at 4455 Black Ave.

Students will spend the evening in an imaginary crime scene, trying to decipher who is friend and who is foe in this classic party game. Local improv group Creatures of Impulse will create an atmosphere of an interactive murder mystery dinner while students munch on pizza and show off their traditional ugly sweaters.

For registration and ticket info, visit pleasantonfun.com under course 60860. ■

School board approves calendar survey

Parents, students, staff asked to comment on potential change to PUSD's yearly schedule

By MEREDITH BAUER

The Pleasanton school board agreed Tuesday night to move forward with a survey to see what the community thinks about changing the school year calendar.

The Pleasanton Unified School District board voted unanimously to proceed with the survey, provided that a few measures be added to avoid people taking the survey multiple times.

The informational survey will begin being sent out this week to students in grades 8-12, teachers, staff members, parents and other stakeholders via email, postcards, by posting on the school district's website, through the district's eConnection and details in

the Pleasanton Weekly.

Dianne Howell, interim assistant superintendent of human resources, said participants may be asked to include some sort of identifying code, such as their employee identification number or student ID number, in order to take the survey. The details of that decision were expected to be determined later this week.

Howell said she would be able to provide a summarized update of responses at the board's next regular meeting in January.

The district is pursuing a community survey for changing the instructional calendar after a controversial effort to change the calendar last year.

In June 2014, the board ap-

proved a new, modified calendar for the 2015-16 school year that scheduled the start of school for early August, with the end of school set for late May and the first semester ending before winter break.

That decision was rescinded in January after criticism about a perceived lack of public input during the process, and the traditional calendar was reinstated. Board members did not specify whether a change to the instructional calendar will now be considered for the 2016-17 year or a future year, but it is a possibility that a new calendar could take effect as soon as fall.

"The one thing I don't want to happen is a repeat of the divisiveness and the degradation of trust

the last time we did this," new board vice president Mark Miller said.

Miller, who successfully campaigned for election to the board last year on the calendar change controversy, was selected earlier in Tuesday's meeting to serve as board vice president for the next year. Board member Jamie Hintzke was named board president, succeeding Valerie Arkin.

The calendar-change survey itself offers a variety of questions for opinions about ways the district could improve its yearly schedule. The survey does not provide stakeholders with revised calendar options to vote upon since the survey isn't meant to be treated as a ballot,

See **CALENDAR** on Page 6

Santa comes early to Pleasanton

Thousands turned out last Saturday night to watch Pleasanton's Hometown Holiday Celebration, including a two-hour parade followed by the lighting of the city's holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main.

Brad Kinney, shown here with Santa, helped plan the event along with Michelle Dunaway, event administrator, and Chuck Deckert, who took this photo.

The parade featured hundreds of floats and colorfully dressed marching groups, including the marching bands from Amador Valley and Foothill high schools, the renowned Balloon Platoon, scouting and church groups, hot rod car clubs, dancing troupes and, of course, Santa himself.

Mayor Jerry Thorne lit the tree, which will stay illuminated through New Year's Day.



CHUCK DECKERT

Pleasanton halts penalty charges for excessive water users

Residents, businesses cutting 35% in water consumption compared to 2013 base

Penalties imposed on excessive water users in Pleasanton since last May have been lifted for the winter months after citywide metering showed reductions far exceeding the mandatory 25% cutbacks.

Dan Martin, the city's utilities superintendent, said Pleasanton residents and businesses achieved a 27.8% reduction in drinking water consumption in 2014 and are on track for at least a 35% savings for this year.

The consumption reduction rates are based on usage compared to actual 2013 billings.

"The effective drinking water savings impact has been 1.65 bil-

lion gallons in 2014 and almost 2 billion gallons so far in 2015," Martin said.

Based on these results, Martin recommended removing the penalty charges — although the mandatory 25% cutback requirement will continue.

"In recognition of the community's water conservation efforts, staff is recommending a suspension of the excess use penalties," Martin told the City Council, which voted to accept his recommendation.

The excess use penalties could be resumed in March when information regarding the effects of the

winter rain and snowpack will be known.

Even so, Pleasanton's and the state's restrictions are still in place.

Kathleen Yurchak, interim director of operations services, which includes the city water department, said that despite recent rainfalls, "It is important that the community know and remember that the drought is not yet over."

"We all need to be vigilant and keep our consumption as low as possible and do all that we can to comply with the mandatory 25% reduction over 2013 use," she said. ■

—Jeb Bing

Cook-Kallio to run for Assembly

Former Pleasanton councilwoman challenging Republican Baker

By JEB BING

Former Pleasanton City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio said Tuesday that she will enter the race for the 16th State Assembly seat in the state's June 7 primary.

Cook-Kallio, a Democrat, aims to unseat first-term Republican Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, who already announced her intent to seek re-election next year.

Cook-Kallio's decision to run was not unexpected. A public school teacher for more than 39 years, she served on the Pleasanton council for eight years, until being termed out in 2014. She said friends had urged her to seek another elected office, with many urging her to run for the Pleasanton school board.

She decided against that opportunity in the November 2014 school board election, and also was sidelined by Democrats who favored former Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti as its candidate for the 16th District Assembly seat that year. Baker defeated Sbranti with 51.6% of the vote in the November 2014 Assembly election.

Cook-Kallio also sought election as Pleasanton's mayor in 2012 but lost



Cheryl Cook-Kallio

See **COOK-KALLIO** on Page 7

Hope Hospice names permanent CEO

Announcement comes after nonprofit's 35th anniversary celebration

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton resident Bob Boehm has been named the permanent CEO of Hope Hospice, with the nonprofit's Board of Directors voting to remove his interim tag, Hope Hospice officials said Monday.

The announcement occurred several weeks after the nonprofit celebrated its 35th anniversary recently with staff, volunteers, board members and former agency leaders.

"I'm honored to be working with so many caring individuals who are dedicated to helping our patients and their families live each day to the fullest," Boehm said in a statement. "Our focus is to bring hope for a better today for our patients and families."

Boehm, who joined the Hope

Hospice board in October 2014, became the nonprofit's interim CEO in May after its former CEO, Victoria Emmons, moved away to Montana.

"During the past six months, Bob has provided the leadership to help strengthen Hope Hospice and is making strides to position the organization in a positive direction for the future," board president Craig Eicher said. "Members of the board and I are confident that Bob and his outstanding team will continue to help patients and families enjoy what matters most to them."

Boehm has spent his career primarily in consulting, with extensive experience in business planning, operations and finance, Hope Hospice officials said.

"He is well-qualified and has shown leadership abilities that will enable Hope Hospice to continue to support the community with the highest level of compassion, dignity and excellence for years to come," said Dr. Peter Wong, who served as Hope Hospice's chief medical officer for more than 30 years.

Boehm recently retired from Deloitte Consulting, where he worked as a director for 12 years. In the health care sector, Boehm worked with clients such as Kaiser Permanente, Allergan, Gilead Sciences and Nectar Life Sciences, Hope Hospice officials said.

The Pleasanton man holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of

Illinois and a Master of Business Administration in accounting from the University of Chicago.

Earlier this fall, Boehm and Wong joined former executive director Helen Meier, founder Richard Martin and others for the Hope Hospice 35th anniversary celebration.

The agency started as a grassroots effort of Martin, a Pleasanton resident, and a small group of concerned community members with the goal of helping families care for their terminally ill loved ones in the warmth and familiarity of their own homes by providing emotional and medical support, officials said.

"As we were at our founding, we continue to be community-led by a volunteer board of directors made



COURTESY OF HOPE HOSPICE

Bob Boehm, a Pleasanton resident, has been named CEO of Hope Hospice after holding the position on an interim basis for six months.

up of local residents," Boehm said. "I'm proud to say that we have remained an independent, nonprofit organization, serving everyone regardless of their ability to pay." ■

Foothill student among finalists in Baker's video contest

Online voting for winner open through Thursday

A Foothill High student is among the finalists in a contest in which State Assemblywoman Catharine Baker (R-San Ramon) challenged high school students across her district to make a video proposing a bill idea to address a problem in California that requires a legislative solution.

Foothill's Alexander Lee joined James Zeng of California High and Steven Yuan of Dougherty Valley High to submit one of the videos selected as the three finalists in Baker's "There Ought To Be A Law" competition.

Ahana Sen and Devika Oak, each of The Quarry Lane School, created the other two finalists. All three videos are available on Baker's YouTube page for the public to view and vote on; voting remains open until this Thursday.

The winner will have the chance to join Baker at the State Capitol to introduce their bill for the State Assem-

bly in committee and receive special recognition from the Assembly.

"We received many terrific submissions. I continue to be impressed with the thoughtful and dedicated efforts put forward by so many of our students," Baker said. "All of the submissions show merit, and only after careful consideration have we narrowed it down to three submissions."

In all, the contest received 48 entries. Students were required to submit a 2- to 5-minute video as well as an optional essay.

In their submission, students had to address why the state government should solve their problem rather than the local or federal government, the private sector or nonprofits, and they had to explain how the proposed legislation would be funded. The bill idea didn't need to create a new program or regulation; the concept could repeal, replace or modify existing law.

Baker's staff reviewed all submissions and reduced the list down to the finalists.

In their videos, Sen called for privatization of California highways, Oak urged Bay Area public transportation assistance and the trio including Lee encouraged legislation to support more psychologists and mental health counselors in schools.

The three "There Ought To Be A Law" finalists can be viewed by clicking the playlist tab on the "Catharine Baker" YouTube page. Click the "like" button to vote for the best, and the video with the most "likes" by this Thursday will win.

"I am very grateful for the hard work of so many students in the 16th District. I will be honored to carry any of these measures in the Assembly, and look forward to seeing the results of the contest," Baker added. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

Captivated by code

Mayher Anand, 10, practices JavaScript in her fifth-grade computer science class at Stratford School's Pleasanton campus Monday. Students across the campus participated in the "Hour of Code," an educational campaign by Code.org to encourage more people to learn coding fundamentals.

Students at Stratford School start their elementary school years learning Python and move on to JavaScript as they progress, principal Kim Cullen said. The program also aims to teach children problem-solving skills and incorporates well-known characters, such as Minecraft builders, to keep the project entertaining.

"It's really fun because you get to interpret (the solution) in your own way," Anand said. "It's not always easy to figure out."



MEREDITH BAUER

City: Slow down near workers clearing leaves

Crews working along streets to remove debris that plugs storm drains, causes floods

By MEREDITH BAUER

With the winter rains upon the city, Pleasanton maintenance workers have hit the streets to get a jump on measures to prevent street flooding.

And Pleasanton city administrators have a plea for drivers this time of year: Please slow down near their workers.

Crews from Pleasanton's Operations Service Center are around town this month clearing fallen leaves from city trees — many in medians and by roads, city interim director of operations services Kathleen Yurchak said. If drivers aren't careful, they could hit one of these workers, especially when it's raining.

"We just ask that people be patient," said Leo Lopez, city environmental compliance manager.

Workers are clearing and vacuuming leaves from city trees that would otherwise wash into storm drains, blocking them and causing small floods in streets, Yurchak said. The work is part of the

city's preventative measures ahead of winter rains and the expected El Nino, which is forecasted to hit California in January and could bring large amounts of rain.

However, it can be dangerous work because drivers don't always slow down when they're approaching these workers.

Workers have to step into the street at times to clear leaves. For vacuum trucks, which look like a trailer with a hose at the back, the workers behind the truck can be put in harm's way if a driver cuts off the vacuum truck.

"If that driver pulls off to avoid the hazard, they pull the person on that hose," Lopez said.

Yurchak also noted city employees are not responsible for clearing leaves that fell from residents' trees, so Pleasanton residents shouldn't blow their leaves from their lawn into the street. That will only lead to those leaves blocking storm drains, which will undo some of these efforts, she said. ■

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 5

Howell said.

Decisions on what type of calendar adjustment, and a specific implementation date, will be made at future meetings with input from the community survey.

While there was discussion about not rushing the overall implementation of a new instructional

calendar, three members of the district's calendar committee spoke to encourage board members to pass along the survey in the meantime.

"We need to get the survey out as soon as possible. Without the survey, there's no certainty if we need a new calendar," said Joshua Ott, Amador Valley junior who also serves as a student board member. "It's crucial to answer this question of what the majority wants by sending out this survey." ■

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CHARLOTTE SEVERIN

Bob Williams conducts the Pleasanton Community Concert Band last weekend in its annual Holiday Show at the Firehouse Arts Center that also celebrated the band's 40th anniversary.

40 years of 1, 2, 3!

Concert celebrates four decades of music in the Valley

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band gave its annual Holiday Show last Sunday at the Firehouse Arts Center, an event that also celebrated the orchestra's 40th anniversary.

The band was started in 1975 by the Pleasanton Bicentennial Festival Committee to perform in the new bandstand built in Wayside Park for the occasion, after the committee raised the funds and the Lions Club helped construct it.

Festival chairwoman Charlotte Severin recalled that Pleasanton City Councilman Bill Herlihy told her, "If there is to be a bandstand, what about a band?"

Severin presented a plan for a community band to Mike Connelly, director of the then-Amador High School adult education program, and he agreed to help out. He was

able to procure a modest stipend from adult education funds for the first director, Jerry Lapinski, and the new band, at first called the Pleasanton Bicentennial Band, was allowed to use the music and practice in the Amador High School band room.

Bob Williams became director from 1978 until 1982, when he took a leave of absence and Jay Roberts stepped in. Williams, now 83, returned in 1989 and has led the band ever since.

For the last 40 years, the band has been part of most community celebrations, as many as 14 a year, including its annual concert during the winter holidays. Sunday's concert included Christmas season favorites and "The Eighth Candle — A Prayer and Dance for Hanukkah."

"It has added so much richness to the whole Valley," Severin said. ■

COOK-KALLIO

Continued from Page 5

to fellow Councilman Jerry Thorne.

When looking at issues that matter most to the community, Cook-Kallio said that "the current Assembly member's record in Sacramento does not match her lip service in the community."

"I won't sit idly writing op-eds about the traffic gridlock that spills off the freeways and clogs city streets," she said. "I will take action. I will get BART to Livermore and the subsequent ACE Train connection by introducing legislation to create a joint powers agreement between Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton and the transportation agency to ensure this connection happens."

She said Baker claims to be pro-choice but a look at her votes in Sacramento on reproductive health, women's health and rights, sex education and access to affordable health care tell a different story.

"Her voting record on women's health issues earned her one of the lowest scores in the legislature — when evaluated by PPAC, a women's health advocacy organiza-

tion," Cook-Kallio said.

With years of experience teaching students in the classroom, Cook-Kallio said she understands the needs of students.

"I have the first-hand experience needed to ensure all California students leave our schools with a well-rounded education, a strong foundation and the skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century," she explained.

Cook-Kallio recently retired after more than 39 years as a classroom teacher. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, three teaching credentials from San Jose State University and a master's degree in history with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution, also from San Jose State.

She plans to officially launch her campaign in January. Under California's open primary format, the top two finishers in the June primary, regardless of political party affiliation, would be set to face off in the general election Nov. 8.

The 16th Assembly District includes Pleasanton, Alamo, Danville, Dublin, Lafayette, Livermore, Moraga, Orinda, San Ramon and Walnut Creek. ■



TV30

Mark Aubel puts the Amador Valley High School chamber choir through its paces in rehearsal ahead performances. Aubel is the choir's instructor.

TV30 featuring AVHS choir, Hart string orchestra

By JEB BING

"Your Schools," a program currently being broadcast on Tri-Valley Community Television stations TV28 and TV30, shows the Amador Valley High School Chamber Choir and Hart Middle School String Orches-

tra preparing for their holiday programs.

As part of the program, interim schools superintendent Jim Hansen interviews Dennis Aquilina, Hart Middle School's orchestra director; Mark Aubel, Amador Valley's chamber choir

instructor, and students in both musical groups.

The 30-minute show also shows the groups in rehearsals.

"Your Schools" is currently airing several times a day on TV28, TV30 and via video on demand at tv30.org. ■

Lake Del Valle closed to swimming due to toxic algae

People and especially dogs should stay out of the water

The East Bay Regional Park District closed Lake Del Valle in Livermore to swimmers this week due to a bloom of toxic blue-green algae.

Both people and dogs should stay out of the water, district representatives warned.

District staff detected the algae Monday afternoon near the boat launch and sent water samples to a laboratory in Florida for further testing. Preliminary test results showed a toxicity of more than 20 parts per billion, which exceeds the park district's safety threshold.

There is no estimate for when the lake will re-open for swimming, and the closure could

last into this weekend, district spokeswoman Carolyn Jones said Wednesday morning.

At five miles long, Lake Del Valle is the largest lake in the East Bay Regional Park system. It is owned by the California Department of Water Resources and is part of the state water project.

The park, including the marina and campground, remain open. Fishing and boating are safe for visitors, as long as fish are thoroughly rinsed and the guts removed. Boaters should wash their hands after having contact with the water.

Toxic algae can be fatal for dogs,

which is why park district representatives strongly urged dog owners to keep their dogs away from the lake until further notice. For people, toxic algae can cause skin irritation, diarrhea, vomiting, headaches and other symptoms.

Toxic algae continues to plague other lakes in the district, including Quarry Lakes in Fremont and Lake Chabot in Castro Valley.

Toxic blooms have cleared and warning signs have been removed at Lake Temescal in Oakland and Lake Anza in Berkeley, but the lakes remain closed for the season until April 2016. ■

—Jeb Bing

Sewer district paying \$28,500 to search for new GM

Agency accepting applications for new permanent leader

The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) is accepting candidates to be the district's new general manager after its former leader retired in November.

DSRSD, a water and wastewater retailer to parts of the Tri-Valley, has posted the requirements for the general manager position through its website.

The district is paying Ralph Andersen & Associates \$28,500 to conduct the search for a new general manager throughout the Western U.S. The fee includes all recruitment services and related expenses, including handling screening of can-

didates, selecting a top group of candidates for the board's consideration and facilitating interviews between candidates and the board, DSRSD spokeswoman Renee Olsen said.

The position will be advertised through Jan. 22, interviews will be conducted during February and March and a general manager is expected to be selected by early April, she said.

The district is searching for a new general manager after Bert Michalczyk retired Nov. 2 after 14 years as the district's general manager. John Archer, the district's administrative services manager, has

been working as interim general manager since November. He had overseen the district's financial services since the beginning of 2015.

The annual salary range for general manager is \$216,896-\$271,988, and the district's board will negotiate a salary with the selected candidate, agency officials said.

To learn more about the general manager position or how to apply, visit the DSRSD website.

DSRSD provides sewer service to Pleasanton by contract as well as water and sewer service in Dublin and parts of San Ramon. ■

—Meredith Bauer

Community Pulse



POLICE BULLETIN

Police make four arrests in separate Pleasanton home break-ins

Pleasanton police arrested several alleged burglars during the past week after homeowners and neighbors alerted officials to the incidents while in progress.

The latest occurred Monday when a Pleasanton resident on Lemonwood Way called police around 9:11 a.m. after reportedly spotting a man climbing into the rear window of her neighbor's home.

As police arrived, the man ran from the home and jumped over a backyard fence into a large orchard, according to police. Officers surrounded the orchard while some officers ran after the man.

After about 20 minutes, police detained Kerry Rudd, a 34-year-old transient from Concord. Witnesses identified Rudd as the culprit, police said.

Rudd was arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail on suspicion of burglary. He also had an outstanding warrant for burglary in Contra Costa County, Pleasanton police said.

As of Tuesday, he was being held without bail.

Four days earlier, police arrested three San Jose teens in connection with separate break-ins at two Pleasanton homes.

Christian Castro-Betancourt and Juan Garcia-Rincon, both 18, and a

17-year-old boy, whose name was not released, were arrested Dec. 3 in connection with the burglaries and charged with felony counts of burglary and conspiracy, according to Pleasanton police.

At 9:36 a.m. that day, a resident of Heatherlark Circle called police after she reportedly heard a loud noise in her backyard and saw a young Hispanic male walking around in her backyard.

He jumped back over her fence and ran, and officers didn't find him when they arrived. Nothing was reported missing, police stated. Police later identified the culprit as the 17-year-old San Jose boy.

About an hour later, a homeowner a half-mile away on South Valley Trails called 911 after she saw three young Hispanic males get out of a black Ford Mustang convertible and go into the backyard of a home nearby on Haleakala Road.

Officers arrived and spoke with Castro-Betancourt, the driver of the Mustang, and searched the home, finding it had been broken into via a rear window, police said. However, no one was inside, but the description of one man matched the description for the Heatherlark Circle attempted burglary, police stated.

A few minutes after police arrived at South Valley Trails, an undercover officer driving along Hopyard Road near Valley Avenue spotted two young Hispanic males who matched the description of the burglars in both incidents, police said.

The 17-year-old and Garcia-Rincon were reportedly walking from the Pleasanton Canal trail to the shopping area near Bill's Cafe. When officers arrived to speak with the two teens, police said one of them tried to hide a piece of jewelry under a car.

Officers linked the pair to the



COURTESY OF PPD

Elf on duty

Pleasanton police's elf on the shelf, named Miss Demeanor, will be featured throughout December on the department's social media pages to encourage residents to stay safe this holiday season. One lesson the police elf will be sharing is for residents to avoid leaving valuables visible in their cars to prevent break-ins, a common crime in Pleasanton.

Elf on the shelf — a holiday tradition in which a toy elf is anthropomorphized — has long been used by parents to encourage children to be good (so the elf can report back to Santa), but the tradition has become popular among some police departments this Christmas season.

break-in on Haleakala Road, and a search of the Mustang reportedly revealed stolen items, police said.

In addition to burglary and conspiracy, Castro-Betancourt was also charged with possession of stolen property and the 17-year-old boy was also charged with prowling. The two 18-year-olds were booked into Santa Rita Jail, and the juvenile was released from the police station to the custody of his mother and given a notice to appear in court, which acts as an arrest on paper.

In other police news:

- A Fremont man was arrested Friday after he allegedly got into a fight with coworkers at his Pleasanton job.

Chung Leung, 60, got into a verbal argument with one of his coworkers at Lee Garden Seafood Restaurant on Springdale Avenue over food preparation just after 3:30 p.m., police stated.

Another coworker tried to separate the two employees to de-escalate the situation, and Leung tried to punch

the third employee and swung a chair at the coworker, according to police reports.

Leung was arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail. One employee had an injury of a cut to his or her hand, police said.

- A Pleasanton home was broken into Sunday evening, and several thousand dollars in items were stolen, including security equipment and jewelry.

The thief pried open the rear door of the home in the 5000 block of

Rigatti Circle between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, police stated.

An Asus laptop, Samsung security cameras, white pearl necklaces, gold necklaces, a black coral pendant and black coral earrings were among the items reported stolen, police stated. The items reported missing amounted to \$16,000. No arrests had been made in the case as of Monday.

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

—Meredith Bauer

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 5

Theft

- 7:17 a.m., 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto
- 4:28 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Dec. 4

Residential burglary

- 8:09 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Theft

- 8:18 a.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft from auto
- 8:52 a.m., 7800 block of Foothill Knolls Drive; theft
- 8:58 a.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft from auto
- 6:53 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall; shoplifting

Assault

- 9:34 a.m. in the 5200 block of Crestline Way
- 1:26 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 2:45 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue

Missing person report

- 3:48 a.m. in the 5200 block of Riverdale Court

Dec. 3

Shoplifting

- 5:58 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

Residential burglary

- 10:44 a.m. in the 7100 block of Valley Trails Drive
- 2:51 p.m. in the 2400 block of Heatherlark Circle

Fraud

- 4:10 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

Burglary

- 5:58 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

Robbery

- 1:19 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Dec. 2

Theft

- 10:16 a.m., 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; auto theft
- 3:45 p.m., 7000 block of Corte Rosa; theft
- 8:24 p.m., 5600 block of Springhouse Drive; auto theft

Residential burglary

- 9:46 a.m. in the 7700 block of Creekside Drive

Dec. 1

Theft

- 10:20 a.m., Stoneridge Mall; theft from auto
- 10:42 a.m., Stoneridge Mall; theft from auto
- 3:12 p.m., 6900 block of Lassen Street; theft from auto
- 6:17 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall; theft from structure
- 9:11 p.m., 500 block of Sycamore Road

Nov. 30

Theft

- 4:42 p.m., 5400 block of San Jose Drive; theft from structure
- 4:44 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall; shoplifting
- 5:22 p.m., 4100 block of Hopyard Road; bike theft
- 9:14 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall; theft from auto

Fraud

- 8:31 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

Residential burglary

- 7:42 p.m. in the 7300 block of Stonedale Drive

Commercial burglary

- 11:28 a.m. in the 1300 block of Santa Rita Road

Timothy John Burns

January 29, 1961–November 25, 2015

Timothy John Burns of Pleasanton, California, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015 of complications with pneumonia. Tim was born on Jan. 29, 1961 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and also lived in Hawaii and Alaska throughout his adult life.

Tim was most known for his comedic personality, along with his outstanding golf game. He applied his golf skills working as an Assistant Pro for many years and he very much enjoyed giving lessons. Tim was also a musician playing the guitar and singing, but he was most known for his lyrical abilities.

Tim is survived by his mother, Patricia Burns of Pleasanton, California; along with siblings William Burns and Kelly Capilla of Pleasanton, Mary Burns of San Francisco, and Erin Burns Parker of Brighton, England. Tim was also an uncle to three nieces and two nephews.

Tim will be remembered at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton, California, at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2015 with a reception following afterwards in the Parishioner's Hall.

Tim was an animal lover, so if you would like to remember him in a special way, please make a donation in his name to Tri-Valley Animal Rescue or The Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek.

Memorial service 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 18 at St. Augustine's Church in the Parishioner's Hall. Reception to follow.

Donation request to Tri-Valley Animal Rescue www.tv-ar.org/ or The Lindsay Wildlife Museum www.lindsaywildlife.org/



PAID OBITUARY

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Tri Valley Life Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Associate Editor

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 111

Staff Reporter

Meredith Bauer, Ext. 121

Contributors

Cathy Jetter, Dennis Miller (sports),
Mike Sedlak, Kate Lyness,
Nancy Lyness

ART & PRODUCTION

Marketing and Creative Director

Shannon Corey

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown

Designers

Linda Atilano, Diane Haas,
Rosanna Leung, Paul Llewellyn,
Nick Schweich, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 122

Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 226

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Zachary Allen, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Sierra Rhodes, Ext. 124

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation email:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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EDITORIAL

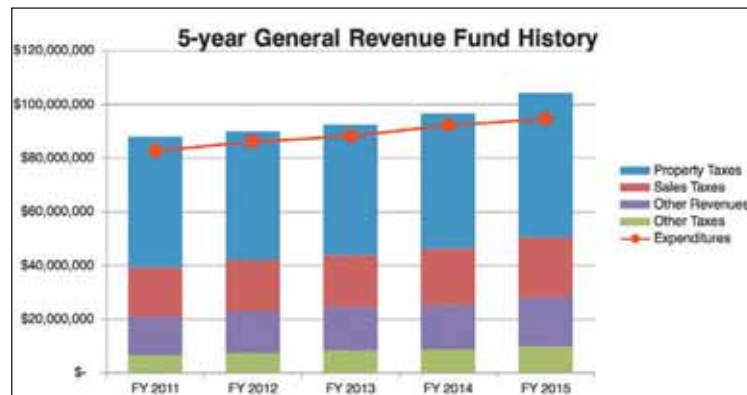
THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

City revenue up 8% for 'a pretty good year'

A just-audited report of Pleasanton's municipal budget for fiscal year 2014-15 shows it was a banner year for the city with prospects for even greater financial growth this year.

Finance director Tina Olson said the year-end revenue totaled a record \$100.3 million, an 8% increase over the previous year and more than \$10 million above the last best budget for pre-recession 2007-08. "Clearly we are out of the recession," Olson told the City Council.

Revenue came in at \$5.7 million over the budgeted amount for the fiscal year that ended June 30, due to higher than expected property and sales tax revenue. Historically, property tax revenues are the single largest revenue source for the General Fund and



CHARLY YANG / CITY OF PLEASANTON

account for nearly 52% of total revenues. Sales tax revenue is the second-largest source of General Fund money. The actual receipts for both of these exceeded city budget analysts' expectations.

The city realized nearly \$700,000 more in property taxes for FY 2014-15 than was anticipated, thus bringing the

total amount of General Fund money from property taxes to \$53,744,273. Sales tax revenue, which accounts for approximately 23% of General Fund money, exceeded expectations by \$160,654, bringing the actual sales tax income to \$22,410,273. During the same period, expenditures dropped by \$1.9 mil-

lion below budget expectations, partly due to unfilled positions and also due to tapping down on other expenditures, including vehicle replacement.

The surpluses will be used to boost the city's reserve for economic uncertainties, such as another recession, add \$2.4 million to the "unassigned" General Fund balance to pay for future needs and add another \$2.4 million to the city's Capital Improvement Program. This is the fund that was tapped to build the Firehouse Arts Center and could also be the source for building a new civic center and public library — two projects that are now under study.

City Manager Nelson Fialho summed up the budget results: "I'd say we had a pretty good year." ■

LETTERS

Lack of traffic planning

Dear Editor,

A fourth consecutive holiday season marked by gridlocked traffic near San Francisco Premium Outlets has arrived. While a tremendous fiscal success for the city of Livermore confers, at this time of year the outlet mall is a traffic nightmare for the surrounding community.

Gridlock may have been a surprise in 2012, but since then, the mall has been allowed a major expansion without addressing their traffic-congestion problem.

On Black Friday, there was no difficulty leaving my residence, but returning to it involved an hour or longer delay. How can emergency vehicles be expected to serve the region? El Charro, Jack London, Stoneridge Drive and I-580 were all backed up a mile or more in all directions.

The failure of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin to plan cooperatively for adequate traffic management at the intersection of I-580 and El Charro is a disgrace. Since all three cities are planning additional high-impact development in this area, it can be anticipated that the situation will only worsen.

For immediate relief, I suggest that Livermore police be assigned to divert vehicles unable to enter the mall parking lots. Cars can be sent east to Isabel, or west and north to I-580. Although some will circle around and return and some will give up, the present situation — filling the nearby streets with stalled cars — is a situation that should not be forced on the public.

—Walter Morgan, Barbara Hempill

Crawdad Republic

Dear Editor,

I would love to introduce the Pleasanton populace to Crawdad Republic. The local band, which first caught my attention at this summer's Pleasanton Concert in the Park series, has truly become a staple in our household. Their set at the June concert was simply incredible and after purchasing their CD our obsession began.

My family started listening to the CD on car rides to work and around town. Our then 1-1/2-year-old would kick his feet gleefully in time with the upbeat banjo-picking ditties while the calmer ballads effortlessly lulled him to sleep on road trips. Within weeks, we knew every word to every track on the album and my son would protest loudly from his car seat when a song would come to an end.

Now six months later, we are no less enamored by this immensely talented group of musicians. This past Saturday they performed at the Double Barrel Wine Bar in Livermore and absolutely brought the house down. They offered fans over three hours of spotless vocals, effortless harmonies, skilled instrumentals and comedic banter.

The band's eclectic musical styling appealed to the diverse audience, as their bluegrass roots mix with folk country, and the occasional 1990s R&B tribute. If their musical brilliance wasn't enough, their wit and humor will endear them to every audience.

In a day and age when most popular music is painfully unoriginal, over auto-tuned and deeply lacking in anything approaching soul, Crawdad Republic is in a class all their own.

—Keli Martinez



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



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **Public Hearing:** Adopt a resolution making the finding that certain development impact fees (AB1600 and SB1693) collected are unexpended after five years and are committed to particular projects
- **Public Hearing:** PUD-107, P14-1024, P14-1025, Fireside Investors, LLC – Consider the following for 377 St. Mary Street: (1) approval of resolutions for a General Plan Amendment to change the land use designation from Retail/Highway/Service Commercial; Business and Professional Offices to Retail/Highway/Service Commercial; Business and Professional Offices and High Density Residential; and for a Downtown Specific Plan Amendment to change the land use designation from Office to Downtown Commercial and High Density Residential; and (2) introduction of an ordinance approving a Planned Unit Development (PUD) Rezoning and Development Plan to rezone the site from the C-C (Central Commercial), Downtown Revitalization, Core Area Overlay District to a PUD-HDR/C-C District, to convert the existing single-family residence into a commercial use building including site and exterior building modifications, and to construct three new, 2,400-square-foot, three-story detached single-family residences
- Consider adoption of the Pleasanton Downtown Association's recommendations regarding Smoking Restrictions for Events in the Downtown with related ordinance amending Municipal Code sections 9.24.040 and 13.08.190, and consider amending City Council Work Plan Priorities to include a Study of Smoking Restrictions in Multifamily Rental Housing
- Consider the 2016 City Council Committee Assignments and the appointment of Vice Mayor
- **Public Hearing:** Consider interim year 2016 rate adjustment application by Pleasanton Garbage Service Inc.

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7:30 a.m.
Conference Room #3, 157 Main Street

- Discussion regarding EVC Work Groups for 2016

To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

TAKE US ALONG



Cheer pride: The Amador Valley High varsity cheer team went down to Anaheim to compete in nationals and took a moment to mark the springtime experience with the Pleasanton Weekly.

Team members were (left to right) Cortney Merrigan, Claire Chandler and Lauren Luke at top; coach Linda Montoya, Megan Quinton, Krista Lewis, Lauren Shohfi and Becky Bland in second row; Megan Olson, Loren Curry, Maci Manos, Kayla Fulmer and McKenna Shaffer in third row; and Emily Mercer, Francesca Tragni, Mary Hinek, Katie Heckart and Sierra Picone in front row.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to srhodes@pleasantonweekly.com. Be sure to identify who is in the photo (names listed from left to right), the location, the date and any relevant details about where you took your Weekly.



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

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KARI DUKLETH

Foothill's Ruben Mercado returns a punt while fellow Falcons Dallas Martin (10) and Josh Merryman (11) block during the sectional final against De La Salle last weekend. The Spartans won the game 35-0 to advance to the Open Division state championship.

Loss to De La Salle ends Falcons' season, but is it fair?

Two inferior teams that didn't win their section get to advance

After holding De La Salle to its second-lowest offensive output of the season, the Foothill football team saw its season end in a 35-0 loss to the Spartans in the North Coast Section Division I finals last weekend.

But did the Falcons' season have to end?

It did according to NCS.

Instead of competing this weekend in the CIF State Playoffs, the Falcons will have turned in their gear and moved on. De La Salle, by virtue of its 24th straight NCS title, skips right by the playoffs and goes right on into the state Open Division final against Centennial.

That means the runner-up to the Spartans — Foothill this year — does not get a chance to compete despite the section having no representative in the Division I state playoffs. NCS has a rule that only section champs can continue on in the process.

Initially this appeared to be a statewide policy, but other sections have seen the light and did what is best for the players.

In the Central Coast Section, two teams that lost in their section finals — St. Francis and Milpitas — are still competing and have a shot this weekend to get into a state championship game.

A case could have been made that either Foothill or Antioch, who battled to the epic 55-54 sectional semifinal game won by the Falcons,

would have deserved a spot in the state playoffs, but thanks to NCS, the loser to De La Salle sees its season end.

Throw in that Antioch controlled Milpitas in a 47-22 win this year and it makes it an even more glowing error.

So Foothill goes out after holding De La Salle to its lowest total since the Spartans lost 26-21 to open the season to Trinity of Eules, Texas and forcing De La Salle to play their starters throughout the game. And the Falcons get nothing but a handshake and a second-place medal.

Meanwhile two inferior teams that didn't win their section, advance. Sound fair?

It has been the age-old question when it comes to high school football locally: Is it fair that De La Salle is allowed to compete against the other schools in the area?

There is no simple answer, so my answer will come as no surprise — yes and no.

The Spartans do have a competitive advantage by the ability to have athletes from throughout the area attend the private school, but no more so than every other private school.

I don't see schools like Moreau, Bishop O'Dowd, Salesian or St. Mary's running off 24 straight NCS titles. Ideally, all private schools should compete with each other.

In my 30 years watching De La Salle, there are two main reasons,

in addition to great athletes, I see for their success.

One, and most obvious: coaching. You have a combination of talent and great coaching, and you will see success.

Second, and what I feel is the most important: commitment. Once the player gets involved with the De La Salle program, the entire family buys into the program. A year-round commitment without issue.

Public schools don't have the same level of commitment, plain and simple. Sure, there are some athletes and families willing to make the sacrifice, but there are far more not as enamored.

In 30 years of being around prep sports, I have seen some crazy behavior. Families take an athlete out in the middle of the season for a family trip without regard to scheduled practices or games. No commitment.

There are athletes with a series of transgressions, even during the school day. Once again, no commitment.

The coaches know this and are frustrated, but in this climate, their hands are tied. Try disciplining and parents are in the principal's office screaming and yelling.

Some may see such a commitment as intrusive on their lives and that certainly is their right, but don't criticize others who are willing to accept the rigors, as it is their choice. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CCOP boys win Thanksgiving tourney

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) seventh-grade boys basketball team recently won the Thanksgiving MVP Tournament in Walnut Creek.

Team members are (back, left to right) coach Curtiss Frederick, Noah Powell, Andre Wright, Charley Jetter, Casey King, Grantt Frederick and coach Kelly King, and (front, left to right) Kolben Thompson, Austin Noval, Dylan Noval and Keshav Patel. Not pictured: Andrew Kim.



Eat, Drink and Be Merry

7 tasty twists to spice up classic holiday foods

Improve bland and boring fare for rave reviews

Food is a central part to any holiday celebration, but after having the same recipe for the fifth or sixth time, even beloved dishes can feel bland and boring. This year, spice up traditional fare with a few unique twists guaranteed to have guests raving.

Mushrooms give earthy appeal to stuffing. The golden turkey or glazed ham is the star of the show at most holiday meals, leaving the meager stuffing beside it looking downright sad. It's the stuffing's time to shine when you give it a hearty upgrade with mushrooms. Simply chop your favorite mushroom variety like porcini, shiitake or cremini and add to your favorite recipe for a rich earthy flavor that is incredibly satisfying.

Jalapenos infuse heat into sweet cranberry sauce. Cranberry sauce is a holiday essential, yet it's the side dish that gets ignored the most. This year spice up your cranberry sauce with spicy jalapenos and watch it disappear fast. Simply seed and mince one to three jalapenos and add when boiling cranberries. The sweet heat is delectable on meats or as a relish to complement appetizers.

Cheese is the ideal topping for rolls. The

lonely bread basket gets a holiday upgrade when you sprinkle tasty cheese to the top crust of baking bread. Hard cheeses like Parmesan, Asiago and Fontina are good options. Grab your favorite shredded variety of cheese when grocery shopping and you'll be set for this incredibly simple, yet superbly savory addition to your rolls.

Nuts add rich crunch to green bean casserole. Green bean casserole is a holiday staple that is often topped with fried onions. This year think bigger with rich, delectable flavors. Start by making your traditional recipe, but update the topping by using chopped walnuts with crumbled corn bread for a tasty crunch that will garner rave reviews from guests.

Tangy Romano cheese enhances asparagus. Sautéed asparagus is a colorful addition to any holiday meal. Give the dish an elegant upgrade by sprinkling cooked asparagus with tangy Romano cheese. The sharp, salty cheese mingles with the pungent flavors of the asparagus for a side dish that is as tasty as it is eye-catching. This dish is great with turkey, ham, duck or beef.

Turmeric brings out savory notes in veg-



BPT

Baked sweet potatoes with cranberry Gorgonzola gremolata. The robust flavor of Gorgonzola pairs perfectly with white or sweet potatoes.

ables. As one of today's most talked about spices, a quick dash of turmeric is perfect for adding a little pizzazz to classic side dishes. For example, the warm, peppery flavor of turmeric brings out the savory notes of roasted vegetables. It's also a fantastic addition when sprinkled on braised greens like kale or collards.

Gorgonzola adds zip to creamy potatoes. Starches are a must for any holiday meal, but that doesn't mean you're stuck with basic mashed. Instantly upgrade your favorite spuds when you add flavorful Gorgonzola. The robust flavor of Gorgonzola pairs perfectly with white or sweet potatoes. Mash directly into potatoes for a rich, creamy dish or sprinkle on top for a tasty topping. ■

—BPT

Baked sweet potatoes with cranberry Gorgonzola gremolata

- 6 medium sweet potatoes
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup pure maple syrup
- 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley
- 1 lemon zested
- 1 clove garlic, minced finely
- 3 tablespoons minced pecans
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped dried cranberries
- 1 scallion minced
- 2 ounces Gorgonzola, crumbled

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place sweet potatoes on cookie sheet and bake for 30 minutes. Flip over and return to oven to bake until tender, about 20 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside.

When cool enough to do so safely, peel sweet potatoes. Place in a medium skillet over low heat with butter, salt and maple syrup for 5 minutes, basting the potatoes with the butter mixture occasionally. Lightly smash the potatoes until there is an even consistency. Hold over low heat.

In a small bowl, toss together parsley, lemon zest, garlic, pecans, cranberries and scallion. Gently fold in the Gorgonzola.

Move sweet potatoes to a serving dish and sprinkle with the cranberry blue cheese gremolata. Serve hot. Makes 6 servings.

Make holidays better with easy appetizers

Love to entertain but maybe not so much to cook? Like to have a houseful of guests but not a sinkful of pots and pans?

Small, easy to prepare appetizers can make parties a snap. Called "small plates" on restaurant menus, flavorful Mediterranean-inspired appetizers are simple and tasty combinations of bold flavors. Here are some savory tips to make beautiful, no-fuss holiday party fare:

• Stock the pantry: Prep pantry shelves by stocking up on assorted jarred items like roasted red peppers, capers, pickles, pickled vegetables, sliced and whole pitted olives as well as tasty premade pestos or tomato based dips.

• Make olives a centerpiece ingredient: Olives have the power to double as an essential part of the healthful Mediterranean diet, and be a party centerpiece. With pitted, seasoned, stuffed and jarred varieties, you have the makings of a festive, ready-to-serve party plate.

For a fast option, serve an assortment in a colorful bowl or small Mason jar. For guests ease, serve pitted olives, so they won't have to worry about disposing of the pits.

• Say cheese: Pick up a selection of cheeses, choosing hard classic cheddars, feta, fresh mozzarella and soft aged cheeses such as brie, as well as cream cheese.

• Support your baker: Take the time to seek out a great local artisan baker for a wonderful crusty Italian ciabatta loaf, a seeded baguette, a whole grain dark rye or a tangy sourdough.

Use slices as a base to emulate trendy restaurants and cafes that serve "toasts" topped with flavorful combinations. In a pinch? Crackers work great, too.

• Go nuts: Combinations of crunchy pecans, walnuts, hazelnuts and cashews are delicious

with everything. For a shortcut, get packaged candied or spiced blends.

• Veg out: A trip to the produce aisle provides colorful inspiration and loads of tasty choices for an elegant veggie platter. Add fruits, too. Sweet grapes and apples are a perfect complement to salty items.

Combine with dips, spreads, cheeses and olives. Dark, flavorful Kalamata olives are delicious combined this way and make a great base for a tapenade.

• Just sticks, no stones: Use bamboo skewers for excellent presentation and make snacking easy on guests. Layer on whole, pitted olives, such as the large and meaty garlic stuffed queen olives, slices of mozzarella, cherry tomatoes, fresh basil leaves, colorful bell pepper strips and chunks of your favorite salami. Drizzle a bit of balsamic vinegar onto your skewers before serving. If you prep them ahead of time, wrap them tightly and refrigerate.

• Great drinks: On bar-tending duty? Gamish spicy or unusual gin or vodka martinis with jalapeno-stuffed or blue cheese-stuffed olives for a rich, surprising twist. Instead of a plain cocktail pick, use a sprig of fresh rosemary to skewer those olives. ■

—StatePoint



SAM BURBANK

A variety of olives, crackers, fresh veggies and dips makes for attractive, no-fuss holiday fare.

Giving the Gift of Spa This Season

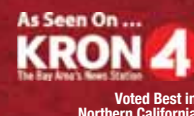


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Eat, Drink and Be Merry



MELISSA NIGRO

'Elf Jr.' onstage at Amador Theater

Mason Hirst and Samrah Shan are members of the two large casts, ages 8-17, in the holiday youth musical theater production, "Elf Jr.," which is onstage tonight through Dec. 20 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and at 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf on his quest to find his true identity. The heart-warming tale is brought to life by Pleasanton's Civic Arts Stage Company in partnership with the Bay Area Children's Theatre Company. Tickets are \$7-\$18; go to www.firehousearts.org; call 931-4848; or purchase at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets will also be available at the Amador Theater two hours prior to the performance.

Blend indulgence with nutrition

Balanced treats can help you enjoy the holiday and wellness seasons



Hazelnuts add extra vitamins and fiber to recipes.



FAMILY FEATURES

With family gatherings and New Year's resolutions, this is the time of year where the holiday and wellness seasons find themselves on a collision course. The key to fully enjoying both seasons is finding treats that balance great taste with nutritional value.

Hazelnuts, which are widely known as the culprit behind the irresistible flavor of chocolate hazelnut spreads, are one way to consciously enjoy the season. Rich in vitamins and dietary fiber, and naturally cholesterol- and gluten-free, hazelnuts can amplify a variety of foods and

flavors for an indulgence-meets-nutritious experience.

The optimal climate of the lush fields along the Black Sea coast of Turkey produces hazelnuts that have a creamy, buttery flavor and crunchy texture and also add vitamins and fiber to recipes.

Hazelnut chocolate energy bars (recipe attached) are a nutritious but indulgent snack. Dates, oats and chocolate chips are bound with hazelnut butter for an on-the-go boost perfect for breakfast time or any time. ■

—Family Features

Hazelnut chocolate energy bars

- 1 cup dates
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup hazelnut butter
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 cup hazelnuts, toasted
- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Place dates in food processor and mix until small bits remain and form ball. Add cocoa powder and salt and process.

Heat hazelnut butter and honey until warm. Pour into food processor along with remaining ingredients. Pulse until well mixed.

Transfer to lightly greased and foil-lined 9-inch-by-9-inch pan. Using spatula, pack mixture into tight square. Freeze to set for 15 minutes. Remove and cut into 15 bars. Store in airtight container or bag in fridge to keep fresh, or in freezer for longer storage.

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WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

BOB GARCIA

Sarah Broacha is one of the top players on the Foothill Falcons girls soccer team.

Basketball, soccer, wrestling seasons underway for Falcons and Dons

By DENNIS MILLER

As the splendor of fall gives way to the frigid nights of winter, it is time for the second season of high school sports — the East Bay Athletic League winter season.

Following are breakdowns of the winter varsity teams for Amador Valley and Foothill.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Amador Valley and coach Adam Sax have a lot of growing to do as the Dons lost their top eight players from last season to graduation and then lost top returning player Peter Ernst to an ankle injury for three weeks in their first game of this season.

Ernst should be back by the start of EBAL play and, along with Hakim Tokhi and soph-

omore Mitch Benson, will be looked upon to lead the team.

The Dons enter the season with four sophomores, one junior and six seniors.

"It's not just new players, but a new system," Sax said. "We got it going some during the summer, and I hope with more reps we will get it done."

Ernst could very well be the key. The Amador star football lineman is 6-foot-2 and the tallest person on the team. He can knock down the three-pointer, and as a football lineman, he can be a force down low as well. After Ernst, it is all about the younger players coming of age.

"We will rely on the sophomores to learn on the fly," Sax said. "This is going to be a learning experience, but we know we will get

better each game."

Foothill welcomes new coach Jason Wallis to the school after he spent the last three years as an assistant at Monte Vista.

"I am excited for the season," Wallis said. "The guys are buying in to the culture I want." Leading the way for the Falcons are a trio of players with a strong supporting cast.

Seth Cobb, one of the top offensive players in the league, returns for his senior year, as does center Garrett Wrenn.

Shaun Kienhofer, who started as a freshman and sophomore but took last year off, returns this season and was voted one of the captains of the team. Cobb and Michael Clement are the other two captains.

"Shaun is the kind of player coaches love to have," Wallis said. "He just knows the

game and will always want to guard the other team's best player."

Sam Novitske got a lot of time on the court as a freshman last year and returns this year, providing the Falcons with more depth.

Will Lewis (Jr.), Michael Smith (So.), Andrew Bailey (Sr.), Ryan Sweeney (Sr.), Rob Allen (Jr.), Gautham Divikar (Jr.), Gary Pride (So.) and JT McDermott (So.) complete the rest of the team.

Griffin Chin (Jr.) figured to play a key role this year, but he is out for the season with an injury.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Foothill has a pair of four-year starters setting the pace this year in Caroline McMorrow



COURTESY OF PETE KLESSEL

Danielle Klessel (center) is among the key returning players for Amador Valley this season.

and Sophia Brown.

McMorrow figures to be one of the top big players in the league this year.

"Caroline is the ultimate competitor," coach Bruce Funk said. "She works hard all the time and uses her quickness to be a fierce rebounder."

Brown will also be counted on across the front line.

"Sophia is an outstanding athlete that has great leaping ability," Funk said. "She has very good instincts on the court."

With a balanced roster of five seniors, five juniors, two sophomores and a freshman, the Falcons have a nice blend of experience and youth. It figures to be a key element for Foothill in a league where after Carondelet, everyone else is right there.

"There is not another front-running team in the league after Carondelet," Funk said. "Everyone else is really close and can beat each other in any game."

Amador coach Augie Valdez is excited about his team this year.

"This is a much-improved team from last year," Valdez said. "This year we have more depth — more chemistry."

Kristy Brown, a 6-4 center/forward, can control the front line, and she and Ashley Ballestri give the Dons a really good 1-2 punch. "Kristy is very dominant and Ashley has been playing lights-out," Valdez said.

At 5-11, freshman Emily Tincher is an exciting player, and Valdez also returns three-year point guard Haley Wesenberg.

"Haley is a very solid point guard," the coach said. "She sees the court great and doesn't turn the ball over."

BOYS SOCCER

Amador will be led by a pair of returning players that earned All-EBAL status last season.

Defender Jeff Klei was a unanimous choice First-Team pick last season, and along with goalie Blake Staniford, an Honorable Mention selection as a sophomore last year, figure to provide a strong anchor for the defense. Junior Jimmy Thompson, another returning starter, is locked in on the defense as well.

Ryan Racer, a senior and one of the captains, will be the key in the midfield. Racer will be able to rely on junior Garrett Howell, also a starter as a sophomore, as a big part of the midfield.

"Most of the kids on the team have some

impressive accomplishments at the club level," Amador coach Scott Berglin said.

Foothill coach Jason Wescott is also very excited about his team, which he calls the best he has had in his four years running the program.

The strength of the team starts in the back with senior Alex Lee. Wescott and the Falcons got a boost when former San Jose Earthquakes developmental player Mike DeSisto decided to play high school this year.

Jackson Still, Imran Matin and Nima Habibi anchor a solid group in the middle of the field.

"We are really strong in the back and solid in the midfield," Wescott said. "If we can score some goals, we will be tough."

Up front, the Falcons will look to freshman Kamran Matin as one choice to put the ball in the back of the net.

GIRLS SOCCER

Foothill and coach Ron Lambert enter the season with a young but balanced team.

"We don't have that one superstar," Lambert said. "All the girls work hard and all can play."

With two freshmen and seven sophomores on the 19-player roster, there may be some



KARI DUKLETH

Dustin Dukleth (left) of Foothill wrestling is looking for his third straight trip to the CIF State Championships meet.

growing pains for the Falcons in the challenging EBAL, but Lambert and his staff seem to have the right attitude.

"We have to approach it one game at a time," Lambert said. "We focus on individual defending and decision-making."

For the defense, Bryanna Schreiber is set in the goal with Jazmyn Green, Julia Densmore and Ariana Nino getting a lot of time on the back line.

In the midfield, Lambert is looking for players like Taylor Noval, Katlyn Fanciskovich, Sarah Mirr and Sarah Broacha as major contributors.

Up front, Tamilyn Kwong is the point person and is a solid goal-scoring threat for Foothill.

Amador coach Tim Gray is hoping the Dons continue to mature as the season rolls on.

"In the non-league games, we are just trying to figure things out," Gray said. "The league is always tough and always a fight."

Anchoring the defense is three-year varsity goalie Juliet Allen. In front of Allen will be senior Mackenzie Bammer and junior Jenyce Dutcher.

In the midfield, senior Sophie Santos may be the most talented player, according to Gray, and Sadie Moore is the heart and soul

of the team. In the front line, Sam Frost has been the go-to player at this point.

WRESTLING

Amador Valley comes into the 2015-16 season as defending EBAL Dual champions.

The team is led by returning seniors Craig Holtzclaw, James O'Brien and Robert Boxberger. Junior all-section wrestler Tyler Kline returns for a run at state.

Additional returning varsity wrestlers include Tyler Self, Brody Kiehn, Brandon Jordan, Jacob Lum, Jake Perlman, Lucas Sira and Andrew Alviar. All qualified for sections last year and recorded wins at the tourney.

Varsity newcomers Gabe Alviar, Thomas Pak, Michael Azuma, Tyler Bonitz and Alex Crepeau round out the varsity squad. Expectations are high as Amador only graduated three wrestlers.

For Foothill, Dustin Dukleth, Johnny French, Luke Hazen, Justin Phillips and Cameron Ghoddoucy are all wrestlers to watch this season.

Dukleth, one of the top linemen in the EBAL during the football season, is looking for his third straight trip to the CIF State Championships. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Returning senior James O'Brien is one of the leaders for Dons wrestling this year.

Calendar

2015 Holiday Fund Donors

So far in the 2015 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign, 119 donors have contributed \$24,886 to the fund. This list includes donations received and reported on or before Dec. 4, 2015.

| Individual | |
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| Gene Johnson..... | \$100 |
| Ajay Shah | ** |
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| Jason Stinebaugh..... | \$20 |
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| Richard Del Tredici from Judith Del Tredici..... | \$100 |
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| Mike, Matt & Diane from The Pentin Family | \$100 |

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Civic Meetings

CITY COUNCIL The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

HOUSING COMMISSION The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Clubs

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION The Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, NSDAR, meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month Sept.-May. It is a social gathering and time to explore the history of our American roots. For more information contact the chapter's regent Diane Groome at dggroome@comcast.net.

DBE (DAUGHTERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE) Welcome to ladies of British or British Commonwealth Heritage. DBE holds meetings at 11 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month at Castlewood Country Club. Members focus on philanthropy, enjoy social interaction and form long-lasting friendships while contributing to local charities and supporting retirement homes in the USA. Call Edith at 998-3500.

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION BRANCH 285 The Italian Catholic Federation, Branch 285, a social/philanthropic organization, invites those who love all things Italian to join for a potluck and guest speaker evening at 6 p.m. the third Friday of the month at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Call Judy at 462-2487.

TRI VALLEY WRITERS MEETING Join California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch as we hold a "Workshop A La Carte" in which attendees will be able to join in on three out of five table-top discussions on Saturday, Dec. 19. Attendees will take away ideas and concrete examples of ways to improve their writing. Cost is \$12 for members, \$17 for non-members. Contact publicity@trivalleywriters.org.

TRI-VALLEY STARGAZERS ASTRONOMY Feed your wonder about the night sky and the Cosmos by joining Tri-Valley Stargazers from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on the third Friday of the month at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore. Contact Richard Combs at 337-2385 or combs.richard@comcast.net.

Concerts

CANDLELIGHT STARLIGHT Let 200 children brighten your holidays with the "Choir of Angels." The International Award-Winning Cantabella Children's Chorus presents a choral celebration of light for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Diwali with two concerts; K-5th children

PET OF THE WEEK

TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

Mile High pup

Denver is a special young boy with lots of devotion to his human friends and greets everyone with big tail-wags. He enjoys the company of other dogs, and his basic obedience is great. He rides well in a car, is crate-trained and wants to find his forever family this holiday season. For more info, visit www.tv-ar.org and click on Denver's profile under dogs and puppies.



perform at 1 p.m., 5-12th graders perform at 4 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 12 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Tickets are \$22, children under 18 free. Contact president@cantabella.org or go to www.cantabella.org.

CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND GATHERING Get in the Christmas Spirit with Irish Folk band Pog Mo Thoin and guest Steve Kritzer on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Bring food to share at 6 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m. Free cider and tea. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call 447-2787 or go to www.bothwellartscenter.org.

CLASSIC ROCK CHRISTMAS WITH 'DECEMBER PEOPLE' Enjoy a Classic Rock Christmas featuring December People, with musicians from world-famous rock bands, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Bring as many food donations as you can for Open Heart Kitchen. Tickets are \$30-\$40. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

THE 4TH ANNUAL TRINITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT Come join the Trinity family as we celebrate the sounds of the season with our choir, kids and guest soloists at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. All are welcome. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Events

POLYNESIAN DANCE AT THE LIBRARY Let the Bay Area Hula dance company whisk you away from the winter cold to an afternoon in Polynesia featuring dances from Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand and Tahiti at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Pleasanton Library. Call 931-3400, ext. 3.

Exhibits

THAT 70'S EXHIBIT Feather that hair, break out those bell-bottoms, and get ready for a trip to Funkytown at this exhibit at Museum on Main. This exhibit, running now through Jan. 3, was originally created by the Hayward Area Historical Society and looks back at the movies, the music, the TV shows, toys and fads that gave the Me Decade its distinctive feel. Go to www.museumonmain.org.

Film

'THE POLAR EXPRESS' Enjoy a free showing of the holiday favorite "The Polar Express" at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. They will supply the coffee and hot cocoa. You can bring a donation of non-perishable food for the local food pantry, and maybe some Christmas cookies to share. Call 462-4802 or go to stclarespleasanton.org.

Fundraisers

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS GARAGE SALE Foothill High School's senior class will hold a garage sale to raise money for their senior ball from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sat Dec. 12 in the Foothill High School parking lot.

GIRL SCOUTS HOLIDAY GIFT-WRAPPING Support Girl Scout Troops 31545 and 31149 earning income for their international Girl Scout travel trips and community service abroad. Make a donation to get your gifts beautifully wrapped in handmade, eco-friendly designs from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18 at True Value Hardware, 652 Main St.; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19 at Studio 7 Arts, 400 Main St.; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20 at Rick's Picks, 719A Main St.; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 22 at Prim, 520 Main St.

SLEEP TRAIN'S TOY DRIVE FOR FOSTER KIDS AND PHOTO CONTEST Christmas is an exciting time of year, but foster children often have the added worry of wondering whether Santa will find them. To help ensure every foster child wakes up with a gift on Christmas morning, Sleep Train is hosting its Toy Drive for Foster Kids and #SleepTrainSecretSanta photo contest, now through Dec. 13 at any Sleep Train location.

Health

GETTING STARTED WITH COVERED CA AND MEDI-CAL Hosted by a Certified Enrollment Counselor from Axis Community Health, this presentation will cover basic features of both programs, local resources for in-person help, and tips for a successful enrollment application at

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at the Livermore Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Call 201-6018 or go to www.axishealth.org/news_events/news_events.html.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind will be meeting from 1-3 p.m., second Saturday of each month at Valley Memorial Hospital, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call Carl at 449-9362.

Holiday

‘CELEBRATE! THE JOY AND WONDER OF CHRISTMAS’ See Centerpointe Church’s choir and musicians perform a cantata called “Celebrate! The Joy and Wonder of Christmas” at 10 a.m. during normal worship service and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13 at Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. Pastor Mike Barris will give a short, Christmas-themed message after the cantata. Call 846-4436 or go to www.centerpointechurch.org.

BRING YOUR HANUKKAH MENORAH Join congregants and friends and bring a Hanukkiyah, a Hanukkah Menorah, to light before Shabbat services at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. The Hanukkiyot are lit before Shabbat services, so be sure to arrive early to set yours up. All are welcome, even if you don’t bring a Hanukkiyah. Go to www.bethemek.org.

HOLIDAY DANCE SOCIAL Get in the mood, grab your partner and dance the evening away at a Holiday Dance Social from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Swing to big band music by the 3 O’clock Jump Big Band. Tango, waltz, cha-cha and foxtrot, too. With door prizes and light refreshments. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Call 556-4511.

LAS POSADAS CELEBRATION Experience a taste of Mexican Christmas traditions with a special Las Posadas celebration from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at the Pleasanton Library. With music, drama, and treats for the entire family. Call 931-3400, ext. 3.

PTSCA POSADA CELEBRATION The Pleasanton/Tulacingo Sister City Association invites you to a “Posada” celebration at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20 at Veteran’s Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Through music, carols, and everyone’s participation, the Posada reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter in Bethlehem to await the birth of Jesus. Followed by dessert and refreshments. Go to www.ptasca.org.

SEVENTH NIGHT INITIATIVE Join a Hanukkah celebration for families with kids under 8, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. On this special night, instead of receiving a gift, our children give a gift. Families will create and decorate a pillow to donate to the Tri-Valley Haven. With candle lighting, Hanukkah songs with Rabbi Milder, latke dinner and crafts. Cost is \$20 per family. Go to www.bethemek.org.

Kids & Teens

MIDDLE SCHOOL NIGHT OUT: MURDER MYSTERY AND UGLY SWEATER PARTY The City of Pleasanton will host the next Middle School Night Out: Murder Mystery Ugly Sweater Party with Creatures of Impulse Teen Improv Troupe from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at the Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Ave. With a pizza dinner, and prize for best holiday sweater. Tickets are \$15 for residents, \$17 for non-residents. Contact David Weisgerber at 931-3474 or dweisgerber@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

pleasantonca.gov. Register at pleasantonfun.com course 60860.

PLEASANTON FIFE & DRUM LESSONS GIVEN Pleasanton’s 1776-era Colonial Fife & Drum Band is now accepting new members for a limited time. Learn to play drum or fife (flute) for only \$12 per 1.5 hour small group lesson, ages 8-17, from 6:30-8:15 p.m. Fridays. Experience helpful but not required. Learn music, history and leadership. Go to www.YoungAmericanPatriots.com.

Lectures/ Workshops

HOPE HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP: HANDLING THE HOLIDAYS Hope Hospice will offer a special workshop for those experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin. Learn about ideas and choices that can make a difference in handling the holidays. Call 829-8770 or go to <http://hopehospice.com/>.

Miscellaneous

‘LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY’ Members of the Alameda County Bar Association visit the Pleasanton Public Library on the third Tuesday of each month to give free 15 to 20 minute consultations. Appointments are by lottery. Register from 5:30-5:45 p.m.; names will be selected at 5:50 p.m. and people must be present when names are drawn. Appointments begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

On Stage

‘SEASON OF LIGHT’ CHRISTMAS MUSICAL See the “Season of Light” Christmas musical at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20 at Lighthouse

Baptist Church, 118 Neal St. The theme of light carries through the songs and drama, reliving the birth of Christ, the Light of the world. Stay for cookies and cider after the performance. Call 846-7220.

GOLDEN FOLLIES HOLIDAY REVUE The hugely popular Las Vegas-style dance revue returns with a high-stepping holiday show with their talented, glamorous senior performers, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Firehouse Arts Center. They tap, kick and strut to memorable holiday music from Sinatra to Bruno Mars. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

VALLEY DANCE THEATRE NUTCRACKER See Tchaikovsky’s magical holiday classic “The Nutcracker” at 7 p.m. Fridays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 12-20 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No 2 p.m. performance Dec. 12. Tickets are \$25-\$38, \$19 for students 17 and under. Call 373-6800 or go to www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Recreation

THURSDAY MORNING BIKE RIDE Join our every Thursday morning bike ride as we tour the trails and vineyards of the Tri-Valley area. We will ride 20-30 miles at a “social” rate of speed with a coffee stop along the way. You will need a bike, a helmet and a sunny disposition. Call 426-1290 or go to www.meetup.com/Pleasanton-Pedalers/.

Seniors

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

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT THE DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER Enjoy delicious food, close friends and songs sung by Janice Reid at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. With holiday chicken roast, cornbread stuffing, roasted vegetables, sweet potato mash, gravy and apple cinnamon cobbler. Register in person, by mail or online by Dec. 11. Cost is \$15 for Dublin residents, \$18 for non-residents. Call 556-4511 or go to seniorctr.dublin.ca.gov.

Spiritual

CHRISTMAS EVE BY CANDLELIGHT Come to this traditional service celebrating the joy and mystery of the Christmas holiday at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24 at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 N. Vasco Road, Livermore. Rev. Lucas Hergert will lead the service. You are also invited to bring cookies for fellowship afterwards. Call 447-8747 or go to uucil.org.

MOM2MOM MEETINGS Moms and Grandmothers of all ages are wel-

come to join the Mom2mom group based on the Titus 2 women where the older moms are mentoring the younger moms. Parenting tips, guest speakers, crafts and practical life applications. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Harvest Valley Church, 3200 Hopyard Road. Contact Valerie Fleming at 484-2482 ext. 121 or valerie@harvestvalley.org.

SHAMANIC DRUM CIRCLE Drumming will help you to gain access to your inner guidance and learn to work with your helping spirits. Presented by Ashleigh Pevey, a Shamanic healer, sessions are usually 3-4:15 p.m. the second Sunday of the month at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. For December only, session will be on Saturday, Dec. 12. Bring a drum or rattle; a few will be available. Call 829-2733 or go to www.unityoftrivalley.org.

SUNDAY SERVICE AT UNITY OF TRI-VALLEY Join the Sunday service at 10 a.m. every week at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. The Dec. 13 speaker will be Rev. Micah Murdock with guest musician Suzanne Baldwin. All are welcome. Ongoing classes, groups, and activities. Call 829-2733 or go to <http://www.unityoftrivalley.org/>.

Support Groups

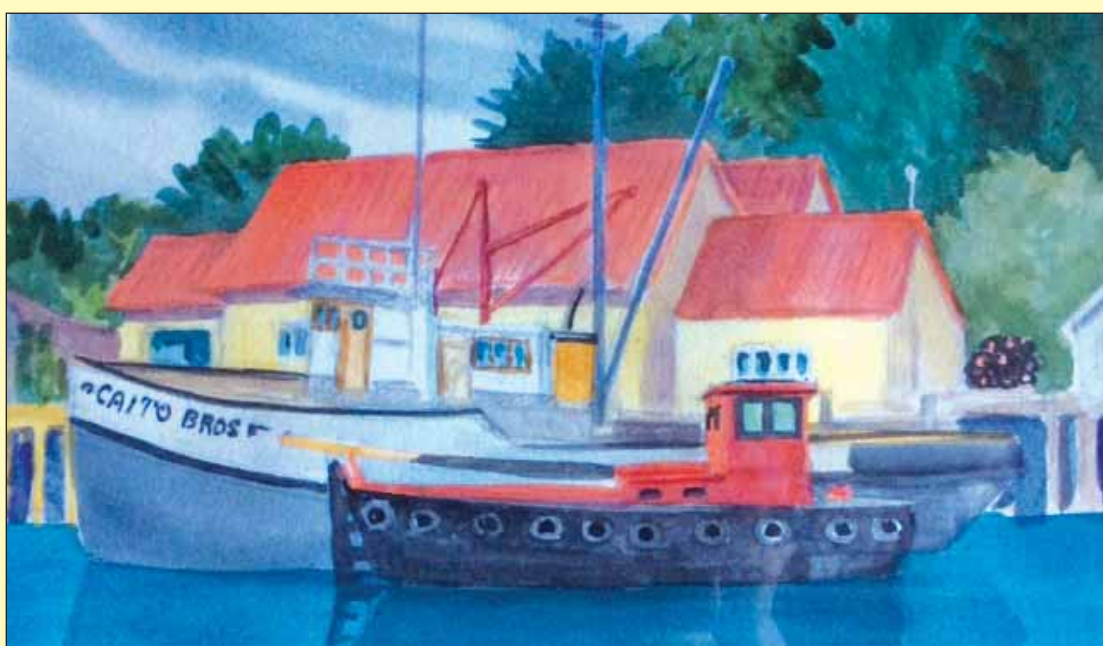
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of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

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) TRI-VALLEY NAMI Tri-Valley Parent Resource and Support Group meets for parents with children to age 17 diagnosed or suspected of having bipolar or other mood disorders. It meets from 7-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Pathways To Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 114. The group is drop-in, no registration required and is free. For more information contact Marsha McInnis at 980-5331 or marsha@nami-trivalley.org.

Volunteering

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS The Catholic Community of Pleasanton has many families to adopt for Christmas. If you are interested in giving a family a wonderful holiday this season, contact Toni Manzetti at manzettitoni7313@gmail.com.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF AMADOR VALLEY All ladies are invited to join this dedicated group of volunteers, reaching out to those in need in the Tri-Valley and having fun doing it. Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at The Parkway, 100 Valley Ave. Contact 461-6401 or assistanceleagueamadorvalley@yahoo.com. Go to www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.



Mendocino on display

Works by Pleasanton watercolorist Charlotte Severin are part of the exhibit “Mendocino Memories,” this month at the Livermore Civic Center Library Gallery, featuring the works of Pleasanton and Livermore artists.

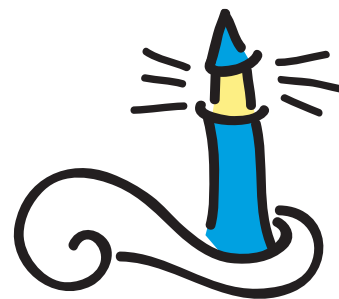
“We went at the end of September for a week of en plein air painting, and this showing is the result of everyone’s inspiration,” Severin said. “Everyone enjoyed painting and photographing the old historic buildings, wild coast and natural bridges.”

Painters in the show are Stephen Barkkarie, Bonnie Bartlett, Kathleen Elm, June Ferreri, Helene Hallett, Mary Jane Hassman, Dorothy Maestas, Carolyn Ramsey and Severin; photographers are Carole Hilton and Justin Trent. A free artists’ reception is being held from 2-4 p.m. Sunday. The gallery is located at 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Get MORE for LESS! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months.) PLUS Bundle & SAVE (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month.) CALL Now 1-800-357-0810 (Cal-SCAN)

235 Wanted to Buy

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240 Furnishings/ Household items

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Two Spring Air adjustable bed frames. Fully electric. Use twin extra long or King mattress when used together. \$500 each.

245 Miscellaneous

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starting at \$15/month or TV & Internet starting at \$49/month for 12 months with 1-year agreement. Call 1-800-453-0516 to learn more. (Cal-SCAN)

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260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

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425 Health Services

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460 Pilates

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605 Antiques & Art Restoration

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624 Financial

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636 Insurance

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640 Legal Services

Blood Thinner Xarelto?
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655 Photography

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751 General Contracting

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781 Pest Control



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855 Real Estate Services

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Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

ZEN FITNESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 511474

The following person(s) doing business as: ZEN FITNESS, 3059 HOPYARD ROAD #C, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Traci Saba, 128 Alamo Lane, Tracy, CA 95377. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 09/01/2010. Signature of Registrant: Traci Saba. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/06/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11; 2015)

FASTEK TECHNICAL SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 511564
The following person(s) doing business as: FASTEK TECHNICAL SERVICES, 4479 STONERIDGE DRIVE, SUITE C, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fastemps, Inc., 4479 Stoneridge Drive, Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 07/01/1989. Signature of Registrant: Mari Ghazey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/10/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11; 2015)

DESIGN WORKS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 511272
The following person(s) doing business as: DESIGN WORKS, 275 ROSE AVE. #200, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MonaFox, Inc., 9104 Longview Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 09/03/2008. Signature of Registrant:

Mona Fox, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/03/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11; 2015)

SWEET AND SAVORY CAFE AND BAKERY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 511566
The following person(s) doing business as: SWEET AND SAVORY CAFE AND BAKERY, 5685 GIBRALTAR DRIVE, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SIDK, Inc., 5685 Gibraltar Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 11/03/1992. Signature of Registrant: Donald L. Eichler, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/10/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11; 2015)

ACHIEVE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 511738
The following person(s) doing business as: ACHIEVE, 3550 BERNAL AVE. UNIT 140, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gabriel Araiza, 3513 Kamp Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Gabriel Araiza. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/17/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18; 2015)

PSPS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 511141
The following person(s) doing business as: PSPS, 4300 BLACK AVE. #415, PLEASANTON, CA 94566; PO BOX 415, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Joseph Upchurch, 4300 Black Ave. #415, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Joseph Upchurch. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/29/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18; 2015)

TURNKEY UHV
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 512068
The following person(s) doing business as: TURNKEY UHV, 4619 LAS LOMITAS DRIVE, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): TurnKey Ultra High Vacuum Corporation, 4619 Las Lomitas Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Christopher K. Juan, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/30/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015; Jan. 1, 2016)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: HG15793198 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: JAMES DERRICK GIBRON and TRACY LYN GIBRON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JAMES DERRICK GIBRON to JAMES DERRICK STARK; TRACY LYN GIBRON to TRACY LYN STARK. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: APRIL 7, 2016, 1:30 p.m., Dept.: 503 of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA, 24405 AMADOR STREET, HAYWARD, CA 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY. Date: Nov. 13, 2015 /s/ Winifred Y Smith, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11; 2015)

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 9-19

Pleasanton

1733 Beachwood Way Mccaley Trust to C. Shimy for \$1,150,000
5655 Black Avenue Johnson Trust to J. Godara for \$890,000
2114 Delucchi Drive A. & F. Ferlazzo to F. Guruprasad for \$685,000
4266 Diavila Avenue H. Min to R. Veerasubramanian for \$920,000
383 Division Street Carey Trust to Chenery Trust for \$835,000
2844 El Capitan Drive B. Larson to Y. Jing for \$735,000
1952 Fiorio Circle M. & K. Brett to Palepu Trust for \$752,000
7455 Ginger Court D. & J. Partridge to C. & N. Gabriel for \$900,000
812 Independence Court L. & A. Zuras to M. Asaravala for \$1,495,000
2112 Laguna Creek Lane Joyful House to S. Polavarapu for \$1,490,000
1209 Machado Place P. & M. Steiner to Araiza-Scott Trust for \$2,225,000
1612 Ramblewood Way Burns Trust to S. Shaherwalla for \$865,000
4099 Stanley Boulevard P. & J. Shomsky to R. Thiagarajan for \$675,000

Dublin

8680 Bandon Drive J. Masoner to T. Singh for \$610,000
4195 Blackrock Road Brookfield Trio to JNK Property Holdings for \$835,000
7124 Cross Creek Circle #B M. MacNiak to J. Thomas for \$475,000
3290 Maguire Way #408 C. Woodruff-Tropp to

L. Suh for \$301,500
10760 McKay Lane Ferreira Trust to P. Posanipalli for \$657,000
4747 Perugia Street S. Vedule to S. Gunda for \$677,500
4847 Perugia Street R. Yau to Bobba Trust for \$680,000
11608 Regio Court Lutz Trust to Parker Trust for \$900,000
7631 Sunwood Drive Cornara Trust to P. & A. Rowland for \$693,000
4436 Tarcento Lane D. & Y. Depoy to R. Shah for \$961,500

Livermore

373 Ann Court Dent Trust to L. Pedro for \$735,000
666 Buckeye Drive A. Rickords to R. & J. Watson for \$622,000
2943 Calico Common M. Kruse to Q. & F. Khan for \$670,000
5477 Carnegie Loop P. & C. Carroll to Meyer Trust for \$956,000
139 Diamond Drive D. Tobias to Soby Trust for \$714,000
6970 Edgewater Lane T. & C. Ince to F. Spinardi for \$750,000
3136 Four Hill Common #4 J. Silva to J. Wu for \$538,000
164 Heligan Lane #10 W. & A. Miller to P. & R. Smith for \$584,000
530 Heligan Lane #3 Simpson Trust to M. & D. Tupper for \$485,000
164 Heligan Lane #8 A. & S. Usedom to I. Shaikh for \$595,000
5154 Irene Way James Trust to S. Sangiorgio for \$699,000
888 Laguna Street T. Tran to B. Buehrle for \$406,000
1312 Melanie Way R. & K. Tiago to T. McKinsey

for \$779,000
1961 Monterey Drive J. & A. Armstrong to R. Engledinger for \$430,000
1085 Murrieta Boulevard #216 M. Nasir to L. & L. Guinchard for \$285,000
765 Orion Way Hedges Trust to Peters Trust for \$840,000
166 Selby Lane #9 A. & A. Case to C. & Y. Kunsman for \$570,000
1173 Spruce Street Kurtzer Trust to D. Ferrara for \$445,000
4177 Sugar Pine Way J. Cappel to J. Potter for \$520,000
438 Swan Drive E. McGarry to D. Mastrantonio for \$575,000

San Ramon

10009 Albion Road Chan Trust to K. Sardar for \$690,000
223 Azalea Lane R. & S. Langro to Krishnappa Trust for \$1,009,000

62 Jamaica Drive Chung Trust to A. & A. Mayerson for \$940,000
5942 Lantana Way D. & K. Yoo to Tamtoro Trust for \$1,300,000
2108 North Donovan Way K. & L. Inokuchi to N. Kommaraju for \$850,000
829 Pinehurst Court D. & G. Johnson to R. Chandrasekaran for \$910,000
2053 Poinsettia Street Western Pacific Housing to T. Trang for \$898,500
1230 Sutter Creek Lane C. & E. Sorgel to T. Yan for \$648,000
3031 Sweetviolet Drive W. Jung to S. & P. Rani for \$910,000
6012 Tigerside Way S. Yu to P. & S. Kong for \$1,165,000
1288 Ustilago Drive S. & R. Rasala to P. & M. Morton for \$1,100,000
705 Winterside Circle L. McDonald to K. Zheng for \$740,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 9-19

Pleasanton (Nov. 9-16)

Total sales reported: 13
Lowest sale reported: \$675,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,225,000
Average sales reported: \$1,047,462

Dublin (Nov. 9-16)

Total sales reported: 10
Lowest sale reported: \$301,500
Highest sale reported: \$961,500
Average sales reported: \$679,050

Livermore (Nov. 9-16)

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$285,000
Highest sale reported: \$956,000
Average sales reported: \$609,900

San Ramon (Nov. 16-19)

Total sales reported: 12
Lowest sale reported: \$648,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,300,000
Average sales reported: \$930,042

Source: California REsource

PLEASANTON COMING SOON



Downtown zoned CC or residential. Upstairs 1 bed unit fully contained with separate entrance. Downstairs could be 4 bed unit or office/retail. ADA access with wheel chair lift. All new. Ample parking.

Val Vista
 3 bed, 2 bath.
 Formal Living.
 Family Room w/
 Fireplace.
 Walk to schools,
 parks & shopping.
 Call for more
 information



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 925-699-0999
 BRE# 01117395
 REALTOR SINCE 1991



BRIAN WRIGHT
 925-580-4524
 BRE# 00887067
 REALTOR SINCE 1985

LOCATED UPSTAIRS IN THE HISTORIC PLEASANTON HOTEL

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to:

www.PleasantonWeekly.com/real_estate

Livermore

5 BEDROOMS
6411 Rubicon Way **\$749,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Pleasanton

4 BEDROOMS
2321 Redberry Court **\$1,050,000**
 Sun 1-4 Scott Piper & Sophie Aretta 989-1300
2849 Brezza Court **Call for price**
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 519-8226/980-0273

6 BEDROOMS

3891 Hot Springs Court **\$1,049,000**
 Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 785-7777

San Ramon

1 BEDROOMS
4775 Watson Canyon Court #241 **\$335,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

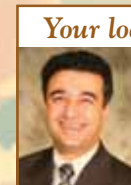
4 BEDROOMS

179 Woodview Terrace Drive **\$1,074,500**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Tri-Valley Real Estate Directory



Darlene Crane,
 Branch Manager/Mortgage Advisor
 RPM MORTGAGE, INC.
 925-699-4377
 dcrane@rpm-mtg.com
 www.darlenecrane.com
 NMLS 30878 License 00907071
 30 W. Neal Street #105, Pleasanton



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 Re/Max Accord
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 Steve@BayAreaHomeFinder.com
 www.BayAreaHomeFinder.com
 BRE#01267039

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jmurtagh@apr.com
JuliaMurtagh.com
CalBRE #01751854



See reviews of Julia on



5011 Forest Hill Dr., Pleasanton

Enjoy 3,400 sq. ft. of living space on .25 of an acre. 5 bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms, including a full bed and bath downstairs.

Conveniently located near award winning schools.

SOLD FOR \$1,650,000



3721 Rocky Mountain Court, Pleasanton

Gorgeous single story 1,647 sq. ft. home is located on a large corner lot on a nice court.

This home has been meticulously remodeled with almost everything in the home being redone. You will enjoy entertaining in this large open floor plan with beautiful kitchen, great room, dining and living rooms. Nice touches abound such as rounded corners on walls, custom wood shutters and upgraded bathrooms.

MULTIPLE OFFERS – SOLD FOR \$815,000



BUYERS NEEDS

- ✓ Family looking for 4 bedrooms, hoping for at least 2000 sq. ft., up to 1.1 million
- ✓ Family looking for 4 bedroom home on West Side of Pleasanton up to 1.1 million, pool if possible
- ✓ Downtown Pleasanton, 2 or 3 bedrooms, single story home up to 950k

5949 Via Del Cielo, Pleasanton

Fabulous Country Fair home with amazing upgrades. The larger model with 5 bedrooms and 3 baths, has 3259 sq. ft. of living space on a 0.25 acre lot.

The backyard has an amazing pool with mature trees.
REPRESENTED BUYERS – SOLD FOR \$1,600,000



TESTIMONIAL

“From start to finish, it was a pleasure to work with Julia. She is a great communicator and was always available, making us feel like we were her only client. We had a lot of different needs to consider when buying a home and it took us almost a year but Julia was very patient and helped us weigh our options. When we found something that we really wanted, we were in a multiple bid situation and Julia’s experience and connections in the real estate community helped us make a strong (and accepted!!) offer.

A Vangompel, Sept 2015

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Trust your home to the award winning Weiner McDowell Team!

Happy Holidays!

During our celebration of the Holidays, we are reminded of those who have helped us along our journey of life and profession. We would like to take this opportunity to “Thank You.” During this special time, we want to express our deepest appreciation for placing your confidence in us and supporting our practice with your friendship and referrals.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season. May the joy of the holiday extend to you and your family now and throughout the coming year.

Cheers! From your Realtors,
The Weiner McDowell Team



4318 First Street, in the heart of Downtown Pleasanton

A work of art, and a piece of history! This completely remodeled, expanded and improved Victorian is the best of both worlds. Incredible Amenities! Features 4 Bdrms, 3 ½ Baths, 2694 sq.ft.

- Completely Remodeled 1900 Victorian!
- Highest quality materials and workmanship
- Separate Guest Apartment
- 480 Sq.Ft. Basement



282 Mission Dr., Pleasanton

Pending in 3 days with Multiple Offers!

Pottery Barn adorable 4 bdrm, 3 bath single level home with 1806 sq ft on huge private lot!

Updates throughout with hardwood floors, granite, travertine, crown molding and more! Sorry you missed it but we have others, give us a call!

PHYLLIS WEINER, REALTOR®
PWEINER@VENTURESIR.COM
925.872.1416 | weiner mcdowell.com
CA Lic. #00673849

PETER MCDOWELL, REALTOR®
PMCDOWELL@VENTURESIR.COM
925.209.0343 | weiner mcdowell.com
CA Lic. #01361481

2 New Listings in Pleasanton

368 LINDEN WAY, PLEASANTON



6 Bed/4.5 Bath/3,902 Sq. Ft. Beautiful custom home located on a quiet country lane. Walking distance to downtown Pleasanton. Built in 2014, this home is still like brand new with hardwood floors, s.s. appliances, a large island and a huge lot, .47 of an acre. The lot has room for a pool, guest house or a second garage. The home is 98% LED lights, and is wired for a 40 amp 220 volt electric car charger in the garage.

\$1,769,000

3632 VINEYARD, PLEASANTON



Gorgeous, modern remodel in approximately 2,126 square feet on a 9,944 sq. ft. lot. 4 bed, 3 bath home. An entertainers delight, with an open floor plan. Go from the kitchen island, to the dining room, to the great room, and go through the beautiful french doors to the landscaped garden. The gourmet kitchen features s.s. appliances, quartz countertops, new cabinets and an island for prep space and storage. The home is walking distance to multiple parks, New Leaf Organic Market, restaurants and downtown Pleasanton!

\$999,999.00

- Another Current Listing -

VACANT LOT

3620 VINEYARD AVE., PLEASANTON

Cheapest, level lot in Pleasanton. 11,588 sq. ft. Plans for a 3,312 sq. ft. home are included with the lot. Walking distance to downtown Pleasanton, multiple parks and markets.



LAURA GLOVIN
(925) 518-4800

laura.glovin@gmail.com



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COMING SOON/EXCLUSIVE



Del Prado 5 bed/3 bath with beautifully designed and landscaped drought tolerant yard. 3315 SQ on 1/5 acre lot with 3 main level bedrooms (including the master), 2 upper level bedrooms, 3 Baths, extensive living/great room space and large gourmet kitchen. Pricing TBD.

NEW LISTING



Open Sunday, Dec. 13, 1 to 4

2849 Brezza Ct, Ruby Hill
4 bedrooms +office. Master and guest on main floor
4 bathrooms
4,031 sf on .6 acre lot
Call for Pricing

Homeowners: It's time to get ready for the spring selling season, which started on January 1 this past year. We are scheduling home visits NOW to help sellers prep their homes to be ready to go on the market in the early spring. Specializing in all sizes of homes in the Pleasanton, Ruby Hill, and Livermore areas. If you're considering a sale NOW IS THE TIME to call us. Call Donna at 925.980.0273 or reach Susan at 925.519.8226.



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DONNA GARRISON | SUSAN SCHALL

925.980.0273 | 925.519.8226

FABULOUSPROPERTIES.NET

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Coldwell Banker

#1 IN CALIFORNIA



ANTIOCH

4632 DURNESSE COURT

NEW ON MARKET! \$449,000
3 BR 2 BA Court Loc Beautiful Home! Lrg tiled flring, New crpt. Lrg Kit w/grnt cntnr, pntry&Island!
Suzan Gladieux, CalBRE #01245705 925.847.2239



HAYWARD

Open SUN 1 - 4 21109 GARY DRIVE #102

QUAINT HOME! \$389,000
2 BR 2 BA Features lam flr, fresh pnt, step down LR w/ wood burning FP. Level in. Assigned parking.
Laurie Pfohl, CalBRE #00866660 925.847.2231



LIVERMORE

2682 MCLAREN COURT

COMING SOON! \$1,099,000
4 BR 3 BA Amazing Executive Hm in Priv Reserve in Livermore. Brt&Open flrpln Bks to vinyrd w/views.
Romar De Claro, CalBRE #01341138 925.847.2315



SAN RAMON

Open SAT/SUN 1-4 179 WOODVIEW TERRACE DRIVE

EXQUISITE VISTA SAN RAMON \$1,074,500
4 BR 3BA 2,310 SF, 3 Car, Pool on 1/4 acre Tahoesque wonder. Stylish, warm, remodeled throughout.
Steve Akel, CalBRE #01072386 925.989.6530

DUBLIN

7438 MANCINI CT

UPGRADES & QUIET LOCATION! \$875,000
6 BR 3 BA Remdlld/recnfigrd Kit Opens to fmlly rm. Dual Pn win&hrdwd flrs. BD/BA dwnstrs. Pool & Bkyrd.
Suzanne Bieser, CalBRE #01355940 925.847.2294

BRENTWOOD

73 IBIS LANE

NEW ON MARKET!! \$349,000
3 BR 2.5 BA Btiful hm in Brntwd! Spac kit w/ eatg br&grnt cntrs, wtr sftnr, sd yd dk, 2car. Cls to dwntwn!
Suzan Gladieux, CalBRE #01245705 925.847.2239

LIVERMORE

4221 LAS POSITAS ROAD

PRIVATE COUNTRY PROPERTY \$1,490,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Spacious home. Inside Urban Growth Boundary. Agricultural Residential Zoning.
Nancy Terpening, CalBRE #00380392 925.847.2213

1899 SMOKE BELLEW ROAD

WINE COUNTRY HOME! \$1,229,000
5 BR 3.5 BA Beautifully Indscpd 12,000 sf Lot! Enhanced in mdl hm cond. Cust pnt&appointed throughout!
Kathleen Waelde, CalBRE #00885285 925.847.2305

Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 6411 RUBICON WAY

RARE FIND IN THIS PRICE RANGE! \$749,000
5 BR 3.5 BA Exclt flr pln w/BD&BA on 1st lvl. Brt&Opn w/vltd celgs. Kit/ Fam combo&frml dning&livg rms.
Shannon Arvig, CalBRE #01350212 925.847.2313

519 CALIENTE AVE

FABULOUS "SUNSET WEST" HOME \$725,000
4 BR 2 BA Upgraded w/maple cabinets, granite counters, recessed lighting, hardwood flrs & yard w/pool.
Thomas Ivarson, CalBRE #01242205 925.847.2298

SAN RAMON

3375 ASHBOURNE CIRCLE

LUXURY HOME IN NORRIS CANYON \$2,650,000
6 BR 6.5 BA Soaring ceiling foyer. Dual stairways. Cherry wd cabinets. Gourmet Kit. Lots of upgrades!
Sharon He, CalBRE #01810593 925.847.2260

Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 775 WATSON CANYON CT #241

JUST LISTED!! \$335,000
1 BR 1 BA San Ramon Home Just Listed, 657 approx. sq. ft. Amazing Views!!! A MUST SEE!!
Romar De Claro, CalBRE #01341138 925.847.2315

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please contact Lynn Gygas, Manager at 925.847.2257.

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PLEASANTON

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**OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13th 1-4pm**



2321 Redberry Court, Pleasanton

Pleasanton Valley Home!

Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath with pool at the end of a court! New kitchen, bathrooms, floors and paint; ready to move right in. Walk to Walnut Grove Elementary and Harvest Park Middle School. LOVELY! List price \$1,050,000. Open this Sunday from 1-4pm.

**Scott Piper
Sophie Aretta**
(925) 989-1300

Cal BRE #01704073, 01151725



Visit www.2321Redberry.com for more details.



JUST LISTED



951 Laguna Creek Lane

Elegant 5 BR + office & bonus, 5.5 BTH, hardwood floors, granite/marble/stainless, large private yard
\$2,099,000

NEW PRICE



West Side Custom

Fabulous 5 BR + Bonus Rm & Office on premium .69 Acre wooded cul-de-sac lot with gate
\$1,999,000

OPEN SUN 1-4



3891 Hot Springs Ct

Remodeled home with 2 master suites!
6 BR + office, 4 BTH, cul-de-sac location
\$1,049,000

JUST SOLD



2688 Becard Ct

The one you want! Gorgeous Birdland home with 5 BR, 3 BTH, hardwood floors, pool, and more!
\$1,304,000



Doug Buenz
& THE 680 GROUP

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BRE #00843458

Pleasanton Market Update - Holiday Slow Down

It was a typically November real estate market in Pleasanton. That's to say, fewer active buyers, lower inventory and declining sales. Inventory was, however, higher in November than in any of the prior three Novembers (2012, 2013, 2014). The median sales price dipped below that of a year ago; the first time that has happened since March 2014. We saw fewer multiple offers and the average sale was for less than the list price for the second straight month.



The low end of the market is where the action was, with tighter inventory and more sales.

Pending sales, which took a surprise jump in October, came back down in November; falling 45% from 60 in October to 33 in November. That was also 13% less than the 38 pending sales a year ago. Inventory fell from 77 at the end of October to 49 at the end of November. 44 homes were on the market a year ago. 40 sales closed in November, down from 53 in October and 45 a year earlier. Homes that did sell did so quickly in November – just 20 days. That was down from 35 days in October, which was the most in the ...

Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.

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CalBRE#01804670



Dave & Sue Flashberger
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 www.SoldInAFlash.com

COMING SOON..... THREE SIMPLY STUNNING HOMES!

Highly Sought After Foxbrough Estates
 Tucked away on an expansive 18,000 sq ft parcel, this custom home has 4 bdms, a den, 2.5 baths and 3400 sq ft. Beautifully remodeled throughout!
PRICED IN THE LOW \$1,700,000'S



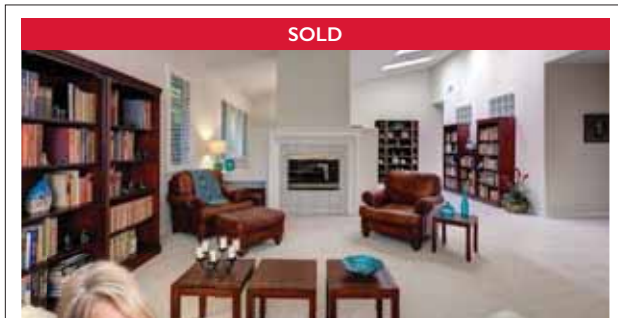
Custom Home in Vintage Heights!
 5 bdms, 3.5 baths and 4000 sq ft. Situated on a quiet court with a private 1/2 acre parcel, pool, spa and cabana. **PRICED IN THE LOW \$1,700,000'S**

Wonderful Vintage Hills!

Stunning 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath expanded 2200 sq ft home! Gourmet granite slab kitchen and bathrooms! **\$1,100,000**



SOLD



Gail Boal
 REALTOR® LIC # 01276455
 925.577.5787
 www.gailboal.com

7961 SPYGLASS CT, LOWER GOLDEN EAGLE, PLEASANTON
 Sold for \$1,020,000 - Gorgeous 1 story open floor plan in gated community in Lower Golden Eagle. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 2523 sq ft. with Living, Family and Formal Dining areas. Beautiful community pool and tennis courts! Represented Buyers.

The Armario Venema Homes Team

DeAnna Armario
 925.260.2220
 DeAnna@ArmarioHomes.com
 REALTOR® LIC # 01363180

Liz Venema
 925.413.6544
 Liz@VenemaHomes.com
 REALTOR® LIC # 01922957

ArmarioVenemaHomes.com

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| PENDING!  1977 ARMONDO COURT, RUBY HILL Stunning custom w/ views. 6BR, 5BA, 6828+/- sq. ft. OFFERED AT \$3,199,000 | PENDING!  3338 SLEEPING MEADOW WAY, SAN RAMON Highly upgraded! 5BR, 4BA, 3758+/- sq. ft. OFFERED AT \$1,399,000 | PENDING!  6343 INGLEWOOD DR., PLEASANTON Beautifully updated single story. 4BR, 2BA, 1608+/-sq. ft. OFFERED AT \$799,000 |
| COMING SOON!  2106 CASCARA CT., PLEASANTON Golden Eagle estate. 5BR, 6BA, 10,000+/- sq. ft. 1+acre lot. OFFERED AT \$4,750,000 | COMING SOON!  1054 SANTA RITA RD., PLEASANTON 3BR, 1 BA, 1001+/- sq. ft. CALL FOR PRICING. | COMING SOON!  1838 HARVEST RD., PLEASANTON 3BR, 2BA Townhome, 1684+/-sq. ft. CALL FOR PRICING. |

#1 Top Producing Team in Sales and Volume for Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty in 2014 and 2015!

Mary Furnace

Happy Holidays

KW TRI-VALLEY
 KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

925-202-4505
 Realtor®, CA BRE# 01961460
 mary@maryfurnace.com
 maryfurnace.smarthomeprice.com




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375 SEA WOLF, SOUTH LIVERMORE


Exclusive listing, call for more details. 2770 sq ft, remodeled kitchen, gorgeous backyard w/ pool and spa, RV side access, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, single story.



Thinking of moving up or downsizing?
 Call me for a FREE market analysis of your Home!

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 Team Leader
 925.417.8628
 Jennifer.Haus@kw.com

