

# Pleasanton Weekly

World audience  
for local miniatures

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## Weathering El Niño

Pleasanton and Tri-Valley  
agencies prep for intense  
winter storms

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# FINALLY - Straight talk

## About Sciatica

Are you suffering from back pain or sciatica? Then it's likely your biggest problem is pain. But there's another major problem: bad information.

To end sciatica misery, you must have the right information. Pay close attention because I'm going to destroy sciatica myths and give you the facts.

**MYTH:** Sciatica will just "go away" with some rest.

**FACT:** If you are dealing with back pain, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a sciatica specialist *immediately*. Left untreated, sciatica can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

**MYTH:** Pain is the only problem associated with sciatica.

**FACT:** In severe cases, sciatica can be associated with inability to control your bowels or bladder - leading to embarrassing situations.

**MYTH:** You must take pain medications to deal with sciatica.

**FACT:** Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure the root cause of sciatica.

**MYTH:** "I must have done something wrong to get sciatica."

**FACT:** Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to sciatica. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprits. Pregnancy can cause sciatica. Sciatica can affect anyone - including

super-fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

**MYTH:** Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to overcome sciatica.

**FACT:** Staying active can help to relieve sciatic pain and prevent the pain getting worse. Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands.

**MYTH:** Sciatica requires surgery.

**FACT: NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain. It's a procedure called Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care. The excellent results from this treatment have been published in major medical journals. Success rates are up to 90%.**

**MYTH:** "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

**FACT:** With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in sciatica, you can find relief from the core cause - and the symptoms.

**MYTH:** Getting sciatica properly diagnosed is expensive.

**FACT:** Not true. Intero Chiropractic in Pleasanton is currently offering an initial consultation for **Just \$20**.

**Dr. Jerry Hsieh and his team of fully-trained spinal care specialists have helped numerous patients find relief from agonizing back pain and sciatica.**

He's one of the first professionals in the U.S. to use Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

This procedure does not require a hospital stay and in most cases you'll be able to continue with your normal daily activities with little interruption. The focus is on finding - and correcting - the original cause of the back pain and sciatica.

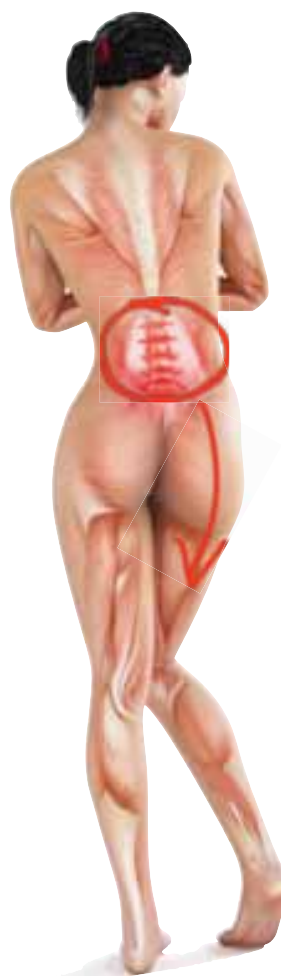
According to Hsieh, "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in the region, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica. This means superior long-term results for most people."

### Almost Immediate Relief From Pain

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe, and easy, most patients report an almost immediately relief from their back pain.

Patient Narae S. from San Leandro says, "I had pinched nerves and pain in my back and neck. It hurt so much that I couldn't reach up or reach down without sharp pain and walking was hard on my back as well. I attempted to take pain relievers but they did not help. I tell people that Dr. Jerry is a magician. Right after the first treatment my pain was drastically reduced and each time I came with a sore back, the treatments have been really helpful."

Take the Next Step - END the Suffering... Initial Consultation Just \$20



The first step is to secure a thorough examination with one of the specialists at Intero Chiropractic.

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**Pleasanton Weekly**

# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## At last, world-renowned Sunrise Senior Living comes to Pleasanton



LANTZ BOGGIO ARCHITECTS

Architects' drawing shows proposed Sunrise Senior Living facility that will be built on a vacant 2-1/2 acre lot at Foothill Road and Stoneridge Drive with residences for more than 100. Construction is expected to start in March.

Sunrise Senior Living, now the fifth largest senior living provider in the U.S., is back and soon will start construction on a two-story assisted living facility at the southeast corner of Stoneridge Drive and Foothill Road. To some of us who remember the "Soon Coming" signs on the vacant lot years ago, this is old news. Except it's not.

Sunrise opened in 1981 as a resident-centered new approach to senior care by founders Paul and Terry Klaassen, who applied for a permit to open one of its first facilities in Pleasanton in 1982. In those days, building permits once issued had no expiration dates, an omission that was changed a few years later. For unknown reasons, Sunrise and the signs went away, much to the relief of neighbors in adjacent homes and condominiums.

Then Sunrise administrators resurfaced in 2008, asking for the permit they had been promised 33 years earlier. Brian Dolan, assistant city manager who was the city's planning director at the time, assembled an informal task force that reviewed the new building plans with neighbors and determined they were largely in conformance with the originals. One of the big sticking points was that Sunrise originally wanted to build a three-story building, but agreed to limit it to two stories after objections from nearby homeowners.

Then, Sunrise disappeared again, mainly due to economic concerns over the recession then taking hold. Suddenly last fall, the firm was back with detailed plans and still an active building permit. Dolan and senior planner Shweta Bonn again reviewed Sunrise's documents, found them again in com-

pliance with current codes, and reissued the building permit. Work is scheduled to start in March.

Sunrise has impressive credentials. It now provides senior living services in more than 310 communities worldwide, serving nearly 30,000 residents in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. Sunrise of Pleasanton, its local name, will occupy 2-1/2 acres with a 64,000-square-foot building. The main driveway to its 53 parking spaces will be off Pleasant Hill Road with an exit-only driveway leading onto Foothill Road.

The levels of care to be offered at Sunrise of Pleasanton include assisted living and reminiscence (memory care). There will be 82 resident units, with 53 assisted living and 29 reminiscence units, with a total of up to 103 beds. Memory care will account for 35% of the total units.

Since resident units will not be equipped with kitchens, as at other Sunrise facilities, meals will be provided for all residents. Also not provided here will be intensive nursing, medical and psychiatric services. Sunrise administrators point out that residents will have access to more intensive services of these kind in the local area. While the majority of resident transportation will be provided by family and friends, the Pleasanton operation will provide a bus/limo service.

Sunrise will offer numerous organized activities, arts and crafts, and exercise and wellness programs. The facility will include activity and media rooms, a library, bistro, TVs and computers. The facility also will feature an open-air courtyard with two balconies for access to outside air and sunshine. ■

### About the Cover

A man walks along Main Street during a rainy interlude where a puddle has pooled by the intersection of Neal Street on Tuesday afternoon. Pleasanton is expected to get rainy days like this throughout January and February as El Niño storms begin to appear. Photo by Meredith Bauer. Cover design by Kristin Brown.

Vol. XVI, Number 50

## AN INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY

*Good Company – Inspiring Conversation – Practical Tools for Self Mastery*  
The First Ten Week Course is Free - Registration Fee: \$10

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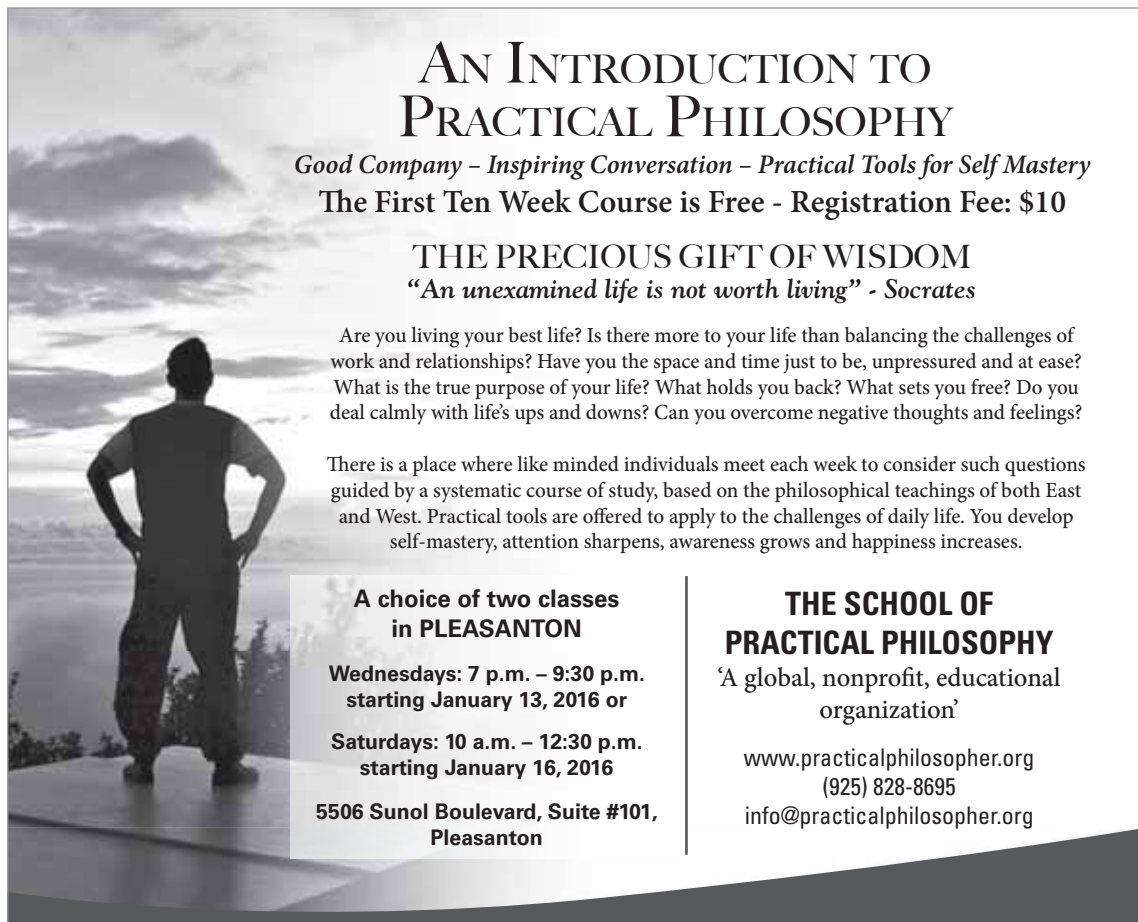
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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## What was your favorite childhood toy?



**Jeffrey Mauro**  
*Middle school student*

I really liked my Thomas the Tank Engine train set. I collected all of the trains, the track and other pieces, like signals and bridges, and my brother and I would play with the trains while watching the Thomas the Tank Engine television show.



**Janelle Mauro**  
*Consumer research*

I was never that into toys. But I really loved to play board games, especially Monopoly. We used to play as a family and I really enjoyed that. I was often the banker, collecting and dispensing the Monopoly money, which made the game that much more interesting for me.



**Jeannie Wurzel** *Dental hygienist*

I had a stuffed Tigger that I used to bring everywhere with me. I thought he was such good company. I remember once when my sister was in the hospital, I left Tigger with her so that she wouldn't be lonely. I was so happy to get him back once she got better. I still have that Tigger, although obviously he doesn't come everywhere with me anymore. LOL



**Brian Vicente**  
*Software developer*

I had a toy gun growing up in Belize that I really loved to play with. It looked like a toy, so no one was really afraid of it. My friends and I would run around the neighborhood playing cowboys and Indians like we were in a Western movie. We had a lot of fun.



**Irene Brownin**  
*Director*

I sure did love my Legos. They only came in primary colors back then — red, yellow and blue — but that was just fine. It was so great to have the creative opportunity to use only my imagination and what I had in front of me in order to make whatever I wanted to make.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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## DIGEST

### DSRSD tour

The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), Pleasanton's sewer service provider, is offering the public a chance to see how clean water and green energy are recovered from wastewater at a tour of its treatment plant on Johnson Drive this Wednesday.

Dublin, Pleasanton and southern San Ramon produce 10 million gallons of wastewater every day that must be collected, purified, disinfected and then returned to the environment or reused, DSRSD officials said.

"Increasingly, wastewater treatment is a resource recovery operation that produces recycled water for irrigation and construction and biofuel to generate heat and electricity," they added. "The tour highlights all these processes."

Starting at 1 p.m. Wednesday and running 60-90 minutes, the tour is open to adults, teens and children 7 or older. To reserve a spot, visit [www.dsrds.com/tour](http://www.dsrds.com/tour) or call 846-4565.

### Dementia support

Hope Hospice is offering a class tomorrow to help educate family caregivers tending to loved ones with dementia.

The free session will describe the different types and causes of dementia and memory loss, signs and symptoms, as well as how to effectively communicate with the dementia patient. It is open to any community member serving as a family caregiver or expecting to soon become a caregiver.

The class is set for tomorrow 9:30 a.m. to noon at 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, in Dublin in the second-floor conference room. Register online at [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com) or call 829-8770. Space is limited.

### PAL meeting

The Pleasanton Art League is holding a general meeting on Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Building at 4455 Black Ave, featuring a presentation by guest artist Irene Carvajal entitled, "Incorporating Printmaking Into Your Practice."

"Whether you are interested in blending printmaking into your existing art practice, creating editions of unique works of art to expand your commercial art, making or wanting to explore compositional, color and design variations, printmaking makes this all possible," PAL officials said.

Carvajal is set to teach attendees how to make mono prints and woodcuts using simple tools, inexpensive inks and paints, or non-toxic chemicals all from the comfort of their home or studio. For more details, visit [www.pal-art.com](http://www.pal-art.com). ■

# Council OKs developer's plan for 43 homes on Lund Ranch

Decision ends years of debate over houses there

By JEB BING

The City Council closed out years of debate over building houses on Lund Ranch in the southeast hills of Pleasanton on Tuesday night, approving the latest developer's plan for 43 upscale homes on the 194-acre site.

As part of the agreement, Greenbriar Homes Community will donate 177 acres of its property to the city as open space, which will be kept free of any future development in perpetuity with hiking trails to be added.

Although the council's 3-1 vote

to approve the plan came at the end of the sixth public hearing on the Greenbriar proposal, the two-hour-long final public hearing was again contentious for council members and a council chamber half-filled with interest groups, both in favor and opposed to the Lund Ranch development.

Mayor Jerry Thorne and council members Kathy Narum and Arne Olson voted in favor of Greenbriar's bid. Councilwoman Karla Brown again voted against it. Councilman Jerry Pentin again recused himself from the discussion and voting be-

cause he lives close to one of the proposed access routes to the project.

Brown said a roadway planned as an extension of Sunset Creek Way to homes in the Greenbriar development plan would be built on hillside slopes greater than 25% in violation of Measure PP, a voter-approved measure that now rules against hillside construction.

She said Measure PP rules that nothing is allowed within 100 feet of a ridge, no scarring or no severe grading, which the roadway extension will require.

"This is not protecting the ridge-

lines and there's no way as a PP supporter that I can support this plan," she said in voting against the plan approval ordinance.

But the three others on the council disagreed.

"Most everything that can be said about this project has been said since 2002," Thorne said. "We're coming down from over 100 houses once planned to less than 50 because of PP. It worked."

Olson, who once said that roadways should be considered as a

See **LUND RANCH** on Page 7



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Familiar faces in France

**Take Us Along:** On a trip to Europe spanning London, France, Italy and Spain, the Pleasanton Weekly got to accompany Kent Rocca, Jen Langeloh, Griffin Langeloh, David and Rosie Yandell, Katie Rocca, Ray Anderson, Anney Rocca, Mary Anderson and Emily Rocca to Anney, France. Five members of their group were featured on the front page of the Weekly they brought — dated May 21, 2010.

# Tri-Valley forum to shine spotlight on human trafficking in Bay Area

'Hidden in Plain Sight' discussion set for Jan. 21

By JEREMY WALSH

Two Tri-Valley women's organizations are presenting a forum on human trafficking later this month, bringing together law enforcement officials, trafficking-prevention advocates and a trafficking survivor to highlight a crime they all say is far too pervasive in the Bay Area.

Dubbed "Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking in the Bay Area," the Jan. 21 event will teach attendees about the "modern form of slavery, what is being done to fight this crime and what local agencies and nonprofits are doing to rescue victims ... and what you

can do to help," according to organizers.

Co-sponsored by the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek and San Ramon branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the forum is being held in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Contra Costa County.

"California is one of the top four destination states for human trafficking, and the Bay Area is one of the top destinations in the entire country," forum organizers said. "Human trafficking disproportionately affects girls and women, which

is why AAUW has focused on this issue during the last decade."

AAUW officials pointed to revelations from last August when authorities arrested a local couple and an Oakley man for allegedly taking part in a nationwide sex trafficking ring centered in San Ramon and Danville over the past 14 years.

Panel speakers on Jan. 21 are set to include Brian Wo, co-founder of the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition; Aron DeFerrari, deputy district attorney for Contra Costa County; Alexandra Madsen, human

See **TRAFFICKING** on Page 7

# PUSD community meetings

Search firm gathering opinions about qualities of a good superintendent

By MEREDITH BAUER

In order to determine what characteristics the community would like to see when picking Pleasanton Unified School District's new superintendent, the district will hold five open community forums, starting next week.

The community forums will include discussion about the abstract qualities community members most expect from the new schools leader.

The forums next week will be held 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Pleasanton Middle School's library, 7 p.m. Tuesday at Pleasanton Middle's multipurpose room, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Pleasanton Middle's library and 7 p.m. Wednesday at the district's boardroom at 4665 Bernal Ave.

An additional forum will be held Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. at the district's boardroom on Bernal Avenue.

Translation services will be provided in Spanish and Mandarin upon request, which can be done by calling the superintendent's office at 426-4333.

The paper survey that will be handed out at these meetings will also be offered in simplified Chinese and Spanish, as well as other translations upon request, according to district officials.

Search firm McPherson & Jacobson LLC will lead the meeting, and the firm has been facilitating the hunt for a new schools leader since signing a contract with the district this fall.

More selective meetings are expected to take place later in the process. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation board members present Michael Callahan (far left), owner of Rubino and Ruby Hill Wineries, the inaugural "Follow Your Dream Award." Others in photo are (from left) Bob and Joyce Shapiro, co-chairs of the foundation board, and board members Frances Hewitt and Lori Arden.

## Inaugural ValleyCare Foundation award goes to winery owner Michael Callahan

Local philanthropist has even created a wine called 'Philanthropy'

By JEB BING

The ValleyCare Charitable Foundation board of directors has awarded Michael Callahan, owner of Rubino and Ruby Hill Vineyards, with the inaugural ValleyCare Charitable Foundation "Follow Your Dream Award."

"Mike has provided tremendous support to the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation," said Bob Shapiro, its co-chair. "Not only has his winery hosted events for us, he has created a wine, called 'Philanthropy.'"

A portion of each bottle sold goes to the charitable foundation, Shapiro added.

Rubino has hosted release parties that feature the Philanthropy Cabernet Sauvignon wine, which is available for purchase at both Rubino and Ruby Hill wineries in Pleasanton.

The ValleyCare Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation with the sole purpose of raising funds for Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.

Shapiro said the foundation has been generously supported by the Tri-Valley community for over 50 years, including by the annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. ■

## New adult education program sets off chain of promotions at school district

Walnut Grove principal, several vice principals change positions

By MEREDITH BAUER

The new year has brought some new faces to Pleasanton Unified School District schools after a series of promotions left positions up in the air.

The PUSD's decision to restart its adult education program this year necessitated hiring a director and assistant director, both of whom were picked from the district's ranks.

Walnut Grove Elementary principal Jan Steed is leaving the school to become the district's assistant director of adult and career education, district officials announced Tuesday. Steed had been principal at Walnut Grove since May 2014.

Glen Sparks, formerly the district's coordinator of career and technical education, was selected

as the director of adult and career education last month.

Those appointments set off a chain of promotions and new hires.

Replacing Steed as interim principal at Walnut Grove is Chris Connor, a vice principal at Fairlands and Mohr elementary schools with 11 years of education experience.

Kathy Roselle, a retired principal from Dublin, will replace Connor as vice principal at Fairlands, and Beth Cutter, vice principal of Walnut Grove and Vintage Hills, will drop her second assignment to become a full-time vice principal at Walnut Grove.

Robyn Annacherio, formerly a vice principal in Mountain House, will become the interim vice principal at Vintage Hills.

Rich Puppione, retired senior director of student services, will replace Connor as vice principal at Mohr.

Interim superintendent Jim Hansen said Sparks will absorb his former job into his current role as director of adult and career education, so a replacement will not be selected for his old position.

The school board voted in November to restore adult education classes after the program was gutted in 2012 due to the recession. The first classes that are expected to be offered are English as a second-language courses.

The district was set to hold a public meeting with parents and guardians yesterday to answer questions about the assignment changes. ■

## Sewer district audit shows clean finances, footprint of drought

DSRSD financial practices follow appropriate rules, report says

After undergoing an annual audit review, Dublin San Ramon Services District's finances received a clean bill of health.

DSRSD passed an independent audit review in mid-December, an annual undertaking for the district for the prior fiscal year, and certified public accounting firm Badawi & Associates reported the district is following financial policies according to the latest Governmental Accounting Standards Board rules.

"I'm pleased the auditor found no difficulties, no uncorrected mistakes, no disagreements with management, and no weaknesses or areas of concern regarding internal controls of the district," interim general manager John Archer said in a statement.

Another year of the four-year, statewide drought left its mark on DSRSD's finances.

In 2015, DSRSD's net worth increased \$13.4 million, ending at \$377 million as of June 30, 2015.

Operating revenues decreased \$1 million to \$44.7 million, mostly due to drought-related conservation, and operating expenses decreased \$3.9 million to \$45 million because the district bought less potable water from its wholesaler, Zone 7 Water Agency, due to the drought.

DSRSD provides wastewater on contract to Pleasanton and water and sewer services to Dublin and parts of San Ramon. ■

—Meredith Bauer

## Chevron's Fuel Your School challenge raises \$41,000+ for Pleasanton schools

By MEREDITH BAUER

Chevron's school project fundraiser generated nearly \$1 million for 1,102 classroom projects in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, nearly half of which focus on math and science instruction.

The San Ramon-based energy company released the final fundraising tally from its annual Fuel Your School program, which raised \$528,986 for 583 projects in Alameda County and \$470,269 for 519 projects in Contra Costa County, according to a company statement.

In Pleasanton, 44 projects in 14 schools were given a total of \$41,797 for educational projects. The projects funded in both counties went to 110,258 students at 434 public schools, Chevron stated.

The funded items ranged from classroom reading books to Chromebooks.

"Chevron supports STEM at every stage — from early edu-

cation through employment," Dale Walsh, president of Chevron Americas Products, said in a statement. "We are proud to support our local teachers in helping their students get excited about STEM and encourage them to pursue STEM courses, and ultimately, STEM careers."

Through the Fuel Your School program, Chevron contributed \$1 to educational projects when a customer bought eight or more gallons of fuel at Chevron and Texaco stations throughout the month of October.

That funding then paid for projects on DonorsChoose.org, a crowdfunding website for classroom items.

Eligible projects were funded by Fuel Your School on a rotating basis, and the order of the funding was determined based on which projects were posted first on DonorsChoose.org in each city within

Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Once the earliest posted projects were fully funded, the funding would then move on to the next posted project at another school in each city. If no other school had posted projects within a city, the next project at the same school would be funded.

Since the DonorsChoose.com website is independent of the program and Chevron, donors can independently donate to classroom projects through the website year-round.

"These materials will help the children to engage in lessons that offer many opportunities to master the skills needed to help prepare them for their educational careers and expand their future career opportunities," Jean Kintscher, recipient teacher at Verde Elementary School in Richmond, said in a statement. ■



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# California officially opens state tax season

2015 returns due by April 18, three days beyond the traditional deadline

By JEB BING

The state's Franchise Tax Board announced this week that it is now accepting 2015 state tax returns for a filing season that extends through April 18, three days beyond the traditional deadline because of a federal holiday.

Starting with calendar year 2015 tax returns, California is offering its own Earned Income Tax Credit (Cal EITC). This credit is in addition to the existing federal EITC.

The Cal EITC is refundable, meaning that taxpayers will receive a refund if the credit is greater than taxes owed. The credit is available to California households with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$6,580 if there are no qualifying children, less than \$9,880 with one qualifying child, or less than \$13,870 with two or more.

Unlike the federal EITC, California's credit is based only on income reported on a W-2 form, such as

wages, salaries and tips, and was also subject to California withholding. Income from self-employment cannot be used to qualify for the state credit.

Taxpayers can learn more about the credit at [caleitc4me.org](http://caleitc4me.org).

Free tax preparation is provided through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly Programs (VITA/TCE). Many military bases also provide this service for members of the U.S. Armed Forces. For information on locations throughout California, go to [ftb.ca.gov](http://ftb.ca.gov) and click on free filing assistance.

The standard deduction for single or filing separately tax status for the 2015 tax year has increased to \$4,044. For joint, surviving spouse or head of household filers, the deduction grew to \$8,088.

The dependent exemption credit increased to \$337 per dependent. The personal exemption amount

for single, filing separately and head of household filers increased to \$109. For joint or surviving spouses, the exemption grew to \$218.

## Disaster relief

When the governor declares a disaster area to be in a "state of emergency," affected taxpayers may claim a disaster loss in either the year the disaster occurred or the prior year. The latter option can generate a quick refund by reducing or eliminating the previous year's tax liability.

Taxpayers who have already filed returns for the preceding year can claim a disaster loss against that year's income by filing Form 540X, amended individual income tax return.

A new law created by Senate Bill 35 automatically allows loss claims any time the governor declares a "state of emergency" between Jan.

1, 2014, and Jan. 1, 2024. Previously, taxpayers could only get relief if the President declared a disaster or the state legislature approved a special measure.

## New focus on electronic services

The Franchise Tax Board has enhanced the MyFTB website to provide greater access to online tax services. Once registered for the program, taxpayers can use the site to:

- Send a secure message to FTB staff or chat online with an FTB representative.
- Skip an installment agreement payment.
- Protest an income tax audit.
- Access helpful tax calculators.
- File a power of attorney (POA) declaration.

Walk-in service is still available at six regional field offices weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The nearest field offices to Pleasanton are in Oakland and San Francisco.

Cash payments are no longer accepted at field offices, but taxpayers may still pay using MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover, debit card, check, cashier's check or money order. A service fee of 2.5% is charged for credit card transactions.

The Franchise Tax Board administers two of California's major tax programs: personal income tax and corporation tax. FTB also administers other non-tax programs and delinquent debt collection functions, including delinquent vehicle registration debt collections on behalf of the Department of Motor Vehicles, and court-ordered debt.

Annually, FTB tax programs collect more than 65% of the state's general fund revenue. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [taxes.ca.gov](http://taxes.ca.gov). ■

## LUND RANCH

Continued from Page 5

structure and not allowed on hillside with 25% or greater slopes, said he changed his mind after seeing the need to build this road extension to reach Lund Ranch.

"I had to change my opinion on this project in order to get to this point after seeing how Measure PP impacted this (Greenbriar) plan, so I did," he added.

"I also think that PP worked," added Narum. "I think we honored it, and residents should be proud of that."

"The city is receiving 177 acres of open space from this developer," Narum continued. "It's pristine open space, at the top of the ridge. It's gorgeous, beautiful land that all of us are going to want to hike on."

Most of the 10 speakers at the council meeting voiced opposition to the Greenbriar plan.

Planning Commissioner Greg O'Connor, speaking as a homeowner in Bridle Creek, a neighborhood served by Sycamore Creek Way that much of the new Lund Ranch traffic will use to reach Sunol Boulevard, urged the council to postpone again a final vote on the project.

He said the access road off Sunset Creek Way will be built on a slope of 25% or greater and will require retaining walls within 100 feet of a ridge, in violation of Measure PP rules.

Alan Roberts, who lives in the gated Gray Eagle community at the end of Crellin Road, also opposed the project.

"The only reason you made a decision that that is not ridgeland is because of the inconvenience (this would cause) the developer of this property," he said. "I think that is wrong, and I urge you to reconsider what you are doing."

But another speaker called the final plan that was approved by the council "a very fair compromise."

"I would like to thank all of you for the time you put into this," he said. "I know it's well beyond what you normally deal with in considering housing developments. Now let's move on."

Another speaker, a homeowner in the Sycamore Creek Way community, vowed to seek a referendum to overturn the council's decision.

"Tonight, we'll be starting the signature process immediately," he said. "For the next 30 days, you'll be seeing us in every neighborhood, every workplace, everywhere you shop and play. We're well-funded, and we'll easily obtain the required signatures to place this on the ballot."

"This project blatantly disrespects the use of Pleasanton's ridges and hillsides," he added. "The City Council and city staff made an arbitrary decision as to the location of ridgelines."

The Greenbriar plan approved Tuesday calls for 12 of the new homes to use Lund Ranch Road,

Independence Drive and Junipero Street to reach Sunol Boulevard which, with Middleton Place traffic, will total motorists from 27 homes using these thoroughfares. Motorists from the other 31 new Lund Ranch homes would use Sunset Creek Way and Sycamore Creek Way to Sunol Boulevard. ■

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## TRAFFICKING

Continued from Page 5

trafficking prevention coordinator for the Zero Tolerance Initiative, Contra Costa County; and Cynthia Peterson and Carly Devlin of Community Violence Solutions.

San Ramon police detective Matthew Malone and a human-trafficking survivor will also attend

the forum as guests, according to organizers.

The event is set for 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Veterans Memorial Building at 400 Hartz Ave. in downtown Danville. There's a \$5 entry fee.

To reserve a spot for the forum, visit [daw-ca.aauw.net/human-trafficking-2016](http://daw-ca.aauw.net/human-trafficking-2016) or contact program co-chair Charla Gabert at [charlagabert@yahoo.com](mailto:charlagabert@yahoo.com). ■

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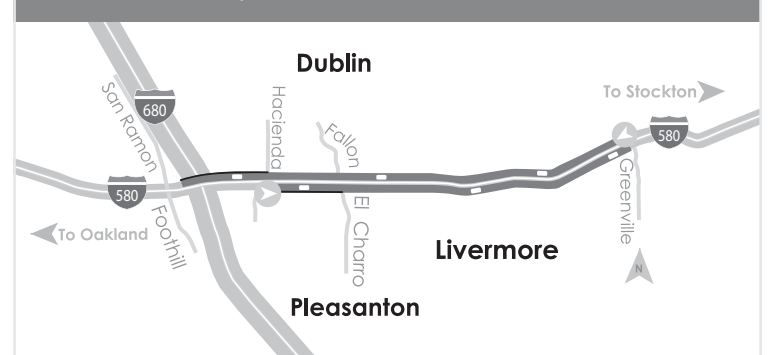
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# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN



### Two students injured in bottle explosion on Amador Valley quad

Two Amador Valley High students sustained minor injuries after a glass bottle exploded in the school's quad Tuesday morning, according to a Pleasanton police spokesman.

The two bystanders were hurt by exploding debris while in the area during the school's brunch period, Pleasanton police Lt. Brian Laurence said. Some people took to social media to describe the "loud booming sound" they heard at the school.

Police are working to determine whether the incident was an accident or intentional, such as the result of dry ice or a household product placed into the glass bottle with the goal of making it explode, Laurence said. Classes at the high school were not disrupted.

The incident happened at 10:05 a.m. Tuesday, and no arrests had been made in the case as of Tuesday afternoon.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call Pleasanton police at 931-5100.

#### In other police news:

- Pleasanton police were called to an apartment complex last Saturday after a 60-year-old woman allegedly threw a steak knife toward three boys who wouldn't leave the complex.

Three 12-year-old boys were playing outside around 2:20 p.m. near the Vista del Sol apartment complex on Santa Rita Road when a woman, who was upset by the boys' presence near her apartment,



COURTESY OF PPD

Pleasanton police are searching for this woman, who is accused of using another person's banking information to steal \$700 from the account.

asked them to leave, police stated.

When they didn't leave immediately, police allege she threw a steak knife in their direction, but it didn't hit anyone.

The woman wasn't arrested, and the case has been sent to the district attorney's office, which will review the circumstances and make the decision about whether the woman will be charged. Police declined to release the woman's name because she had not been arrested.

- Pleasanton police are looking for a woman who is suspected of stealing money from a compromised Bank of America account.

The woman, whose face is visible in security photos posted on the police department's

social media sites, is described as a black woman in her mid-20s, roughly 5 feet and 4 inches tall and between 160 and 200 pounds.

Police allege she gained access to a Bank of America customer's account and took \$700 from that account via the Main Street branch in Pleasanton.

No arrests had been made in the case as of Monday.

Anyone with information about the woman is asked to call Officer Steven Bennett at 931-5100 or email him at sbennett@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

- A Vallejo man was arrested in connection with a break-in at a Pleasanton bike store

early Wednesday morning.

Police saw a white Ford F-250 Crew Cab pickup parked behind Mike's Bikes on Bernal Avenue at 4:21 a.m. When Officer Brad Middleton went to see why the truck was at the store so early, he saw a window had been smashed and two men were stealing a bicycle, according to a police statement.

The two men saw the officer and dropped the bicycle, and one man took off in the pickup while the other man ran away, according to police.

Middleton followed the truck from the parking lot onto Interstate 680 southbound, and it got off the highway at the Sunol exit and drove through an opening in a fence at an intersection. The truck eventually stopped just south of Koopman Road, police stated.

The driver, identified as 49-year-old Matthew Allen, was arrested without incident and taken to Santa Rita Jail on suspicion of burglary, recklessly evading a peace officer and possession of a stolen vehicle.

Police stated the pickup truck's ignition was punched, a sign the truck may have been stolen. The owner of the truck was contacted after the incident, who confirmed the truck had been stolen from San Rafael, according to police.

The second man involved in the break-in had not been located by police as of Wednesday morning, and no description was given by police aside from "adult male." ■

—Meredith Bauer

## Cyrus Edwin Finley

March 25, 1935 - December 28, 2015

Cyrus Finley passed away suddenly on Dec 28, 2015, surrounded by family. He was a long-time Pleasanton resident until his retirement in 2005, when he moved to Arnold, CA. He was active in the Air Force for 15 years, finishing as a Captain in Air Defense Command. He went on to work as an Air Traffic Controller for 11 years and retired from Safeway as a Computer Administrator. He was active in volunteering in his daughters' activities, serving as President of the Los Compañeros Drum and Baton Corps and also the Foothill High School Band Boosters. When he retired he continued his volunteering with the Friends of the Library in Arnold, as well as an active member of the Lion's Club. Cy was a devout Catholic, a member of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton and the Our Lady of the Sierra Catholic Church in Arnold. He was an avid Notre Dame football fan, never missing a game. Cy is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary; two daughters, Dawn Abbey and Cindy Dourov; 2 sons-in-law, Terry Abbey and Alex Dourov; six grandchildren and their spouses, Zachary and Heather Abbey, Tiffany Abbey, Caitlin and Will Dyer, Andrew Abbey, Christopher Dourov and Matthew Abbey. He was preceded in death by his daughter Barbara, sister Joanne and his parents.



A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 23, at 11am at the Our Lady of the Sierra Church, 1301 Linebaugh Rd, Arnold. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to either the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society.

PAID OBITUARY

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Jan. 2

#### Residential burglary

- 10:18 p.m. in the 1300 block of Hopyard Road

#### Auto theft recovery

- 8:16 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

#### Theft

- 11:37 a.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; auto theft

- 5:23 p.m., 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; theft from auto

#### Domestic battery

- 2:05 a.m. on Dublin Canyon Road

- 7:01 p.m. on Hopyard Road

#### Commercial burglary

- 1:02 p.m. in the 00 block of California Avenue

#### Assault/battery

- 12:20 p.m. in the 2400 block of Santa Rita Road

### Jan. 1

#### Theft

- 11:43 a.m., 9500 block of MacDonald Court; theft from auto

- 2:56 p.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road

- 8:54 p.m., 5300 block of Owens Court; auto theft

#### Domestic battery

- 8:13 p.m. on Ensenada Drive

#### Robbery

- 3:02 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

#### Residential burglary

- 11:07 a.m. in the 4700 block of Black Avenue

#### Assault/battery

- 9:16 a.m. in the 4600 block of Canary Drive

### Dec. 31

#### Theft

- 11:26 a.m., 7600 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; theft from auto

- 4:13 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

- 4:26 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

- 5:59 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

#### Assault/battery

- 8:44 a.m. in the 2100 block of Pomezia Court

### Dec. 30

#### Fraud

- 1:22 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

#### Residential burglary

- 11:59 a.m. in the 7500 block of Rosedale Court

#### Missing person report

- 12:43 p.m. on Solimar Lane

#### Theft

- 9:16 a.m., 5000 block of Hopyard Road; theft from structure

- 10:01 a.m., 8000 block of Mountain View Drive; theft from auto

#### Assault/battery

- 8:54 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

### Dec. 29

#### Theft

- 3:12 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

- 3:50 p.m., Stoneridge Mall; auto theft

- 4:11 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

- 6 p.m. in the 9600 block of Crosby Drive

- 6:05 p.m. in the 2700 block of Lylewood Drive

- 6:32 p.m. in the 9500 block of MacDonald Court

- 6:34 p.m. in the 9500 block of MacDonald Court

- 7:06 p.m., 7200 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

#### Fraud

- 3:18 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

#### Commercial burglary

- 2:02 p.m. in the 5800 block of Hopyard Road

#### Assault/battery

- 12:20 p.m., 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

### Dec. 28

#### Animal service

- 2:25 p.m. in the 1900 block of Rheem Drive

#### Lost property

- 4:13 p.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive

- 6:54 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

### Dec. 27

#### Domestic battery

- 10:13 p.m. on Kottinger Drive

#### Theft

- 9:03 a.m., Stoneridge Mall; theft from structure

- 4:38 p.m., Stoneridge Mall; theft from auto

#### DUI

- 12:58 a.m. on Main and St. Mary streets

### Dec. 26

#### Assault/battery

- 9:49 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Residential burglary

- 12 p.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive

#### Theft from auto

- 9:03 a.m. in the 2400 block of Crestline Road

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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Lund Ranch decision shows Measure PP works



JEB BING

End of Lund Ranch Road will soon be extended to new homes.

The decision on Tuesday by the Pleasanton City Council to approve a 43-home development on Lund Ranch II shows that Measure PP works.

It was the first major test of Measure PP, which was approved by voters in 2008 and has since restricted development of housing and commercial structures on steep slopes and within 100 vertical feet of a ridgeline.

Without PP, it's likely that homes would dominate the hills on the 195-acre site. Back in 2002, a developer sought approval for 113 homes. Economic conditions and a change in developers kept that plan from ever moving forward.

In the current proposal, developer Greenbriar Homes Communities first asked to build 50 homes, then downsized to 48 and Tuesday accepted the council's approval of 43. Greenbriar also agreed to split the traffic coming from the new development — a contentious issue by neighborhoods on either side of Lund Ranch — to 12 using Lund Ranch Road and the other 31 to use Sunset Creek Way and Sycamore Creek Way to reach Sunol Boulevard.

Besides accepting the conditions of Measure PP to refrain from building on lots on or near a ridgeline, Greenbriar also is donating 177 acres of its property to the city of Pleasanton as open space, an agreement in perpetuity that will allow the development of trails for public use.

The significance of Tuesday's vote extends well beyond Lund Ranch.

The action effectively ends any possibility of a major development in southeast Pleasanton. Because of Measure PP, the once planned 51-home development in Oak Grove is now limited to 10 homes. Foley Ranch near Ruby Hill is now limited to 10 homes on its Pleasanton side and no homes on its acreage outside the Urban Growth Boundary. Al Spotorno's plan for homes on his hillside ranch is also now limited to no more than 10.

All this started years ago when voters stopped proposed housing and commercial projects on the Pleasanton Ridge, including one plan by Six Flags to build a Magic Mountain-type amusement park on the hills off Foothill Road. That vision, along with Measure PP and the council's reaffirmation of its hillside construction ban, ensures that what we see in the hills around Pleasanton will stay the same for generations to come. ■



Visit Town Square at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com) to comment on the editorial.

### Found love online?

The Pleasanton Weekly is considering a Valentine's Day story about local residents finding love online. Did you meet your spouse or the person you plan to marry with the help of online dating, and would you like to share your story with us? If so, email Gina Channell-Allen at [gallen@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.com) by Jan. 22.

## LETTERS

### Incident with Dublin police

Dear Editor,

I've learned that my daughter's friend from high school in Pleasanton, while home for the holidays, was pulled out of a bookstore in Dublin, handcuffed and detained in the back of a police car while officers searched his car because a citizen had reported a "suspicious person."

The absurdity of this incident is beyond my comprehension. He is one of the most decent and respectful human beings on the planet. He is also an accomplished cinema artist, university graduate and a senior employee at a video game developer. Recently he became an American citizen, proudly sharing his experience with all.

I understand that police officers have to respond to a report of "suspicious activity." I question the way that response was conducted.

He is brown-skinned and at the present time wearing a beard. Come to think of it, so am I.

I'm sure Dublin police officers are better trained than to assume someone is a threat because of the color of his skin. So I'm left befuddled. Why was this young man detained and treated this way?

I have lived and worked with people of many different nationalities and ethnicities. The sad fact is that the only ones I know who have experienced this type of treatment are people of color. It's appalling and disgraceful that we don't treat all people, without regard to their appearance, with the respect they deserve as citizens of this great melting pot called the United States of America.

—Lon J. Fiala

### Negligent business boosterism

Dear Editor,

While it's no surprise that the Pleasanton Weekly excels as a mouthpiece for the Chamber of Commerce, the business boosterism displayed in your Dec. 25 "Around Pleasanton" column about the proposed Costco takes things to another level.

Suggesting that the outcome will be determined in a battle between a "lobbying group" consisting of Black Tie Transportation, the Cox Shell Station and the Doubletree Hotel on Johnson Drive versus the "22,000 Costco members in Pleasanton" who will "likely" turn out in support of the project is less news reporting than a call to action to make sure the project is approved.

Your column neglected to mention the 150-plus residents and local, small-business owners — including those mentioned above — that attended the last city-sponsored neighborhood meeting who were all vehemently opposed to the project.

This was an outpouring of broad public opposition, not a "lobbying group." They know the damage the Costco will do to our traffic situation, our locally owned businesses — especially in downtown — and to our general quality of life. There was nary a Costco supporter in sight. I guess all 22,000 were out shopping at the time.

—Matt Sullivan  
Former city councilmember  
Former planning commissioner



### WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

#### Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

#### • P15-0741, Vijay Kumar

Application for Design Review approval to construct an approximately 4,225-square-foot single-family residence with an attached approximately 623-square-foot garage at 5967 Kolb Ranch Drive

#### • PUD-114/P15-0597/P15-0598/P15-0603, Guy Houston

Work Session to review and receive comments on a proposal to construct five detached single-family homes and related improvements on an approximately 4.3-acre portion of the 16-acre Pleasant View Church of Christ site located at 11300 Dublin Canyon Road

#### Library Commission

Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Civic Center Task Force Update
- Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair
- Library Commission Retreat Follow-up

#### Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Please visit our website at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov) to view information regarding the joint workshop

To explore more about Pleasanton,  
visit us at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)

# 2015 Holiday Fund

Each year the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in the community. The Holiday Fund partners with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax deductible donation goes directly to the 12 local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

**Agape Villages Foster Family Agency** locates stable homes and a loving environment for abused and neglected children throughout 14 counties in Northern California.

**Axis Community Health** provides services for low-income or uninsured families, including medical care for children, adults and seniors, prenatal care, mental health counseling, drug- and alcohol-recovery, and nutrition.

**Hope Hospice** provides ethical hospice care, transition services for those not quite eligible for hospice, bereavement support for adults and children, and community education.

**Museum on Main** enriches community life through education and preservation, and provides a place where people can reminisce and engage with others on how life has changed.

**Open Heart Kitchen** serves prepared, nutritious, hot meals every weekday free of charge to hungry people at multiple locations in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin.

**Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation** raises funds to support critical educational programs for students that have been threatened by state budget cuts in the public school system.

**REACH** (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing) provides education programs, resources and housing opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.

**Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation** provides cancer patients with the benefit of complementary therapies to help alleviate the side effects caused by radiation and chemotherapy.

**Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley** provides services for seniors over 60 to promote independence, safety and well being, preserve dignity and improve quality of life.

**Stanford Health at ValleyCare** contributions support the Breast Cancer Patient Navigator program, helping guide patients through the treatment and follow-up process to improve a patient's experience and quest for wellness.

**Sunflower Hill** creates a sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs with life-long living opportunities, vocational education, and recreation programs to ensure a full and productive life.

**Valley Humane Society** rescues and rehabilitates companion animals, champions responsible caretaking, shares pets' soothing affections with people in need of comfort, and supports and preserves existing pet-guardian relationships.

## 2015 Holiday Fund Donors

So far in the 2015 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign, 295 donors have contributed \$65,331 to the fund. The Holiday Fund will continue to run now through Jan. 15. This list includes donations received and reported on or before Jan. 1, 2015.

Individual	
Gene Johnson.....	\$100
Ajay Shah.....	**
Sue & Jim Falls.....	\$100
Jason Stinebaugh.....	\$20
Susan Evans.....	\$100
Pat & Ran Costello.....	**
Eric & Lainie Krieger.....	\$500
Andy & Valerie Poyes.....	**
Colleen Seal.....	\$100
Kim & Ron Possehl.....	\$250
Betty Kirvan.....	\$100
Raymond Szidon.....	\$50
Vince & Sarah Ciccarello.....	**
M.C. Chesnut.....	**
Michael & Bernie Billen.....	**
Christine Bourg.....	\$100
Kathleen Lesser.....	**
Marvin Rensink.....	**
Bobbie and Robb Kahn.....	\$1,000
Fredric Van Wagenen.....	\$50
Andrew Bailey.....	\$1,000
Cindy Gee.....	\$100
Christina & Srikant Mantha.....	**
Lori J. Rice.....	\$100
Victor Wheatman.....	\$100
Sandra Gray.....	\$100
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Lynn Dantzker.....	\$250
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Bill & Pat Ruvalcaba.....	\$300
Gregory Landrum.....	\$500
Chris & Linda Coleman.....	**
David Cryer.....	\$100
Gary & Nancy Harrington.....	\$250
Carl & Sharrell Michelotti.....	\$100
Gladys Pearson.....	\$50
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MEREDITH BAUER

A bike lane along Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area was damaged during the intense 1997-98 El Niño storms, but it has long since been repaired and reinforced.

# Weathering El Niño

Pleasanton and Tri-Valley agencies prep for intense winter storms

BY MEREDITH BAUER

**A**mid much hopeful and anxious waiting, winter rains have come to Pleasanton. With more strong, howling winds and raging gales expected to arrive in the coming weeks and months, the inevitable question arises: Is Pleasanton ready for El Niño?

The Bay Area is well aware of the effects a strong El Niño event had on the region in 1998. A landslide in Fremont threatened homes, washouts in Pacifica tumbled houses into the sea and rivers across the state spilled over their banks and sent residents scrambling for higher ground.

In Pleasanton, localized flooding caused traffic backups, and eroding dirt caused the pavement of a bike lane above Shadow Cliffs Regional Park to crumble. But all in all, the city was spared the worst of the disastrous flooding and washouts.

Experts say the Tri-Valley has learned a great deal from the damage the Bay Area endured during that torrential winter. Since then, emergency management and flood control experts have put measures into place to prevent certain emergencies from occurring and to react quickly when damage and flooding does occur.

The El Niño system sent some rain to the Bay Area in December, but some experts believe the large storms will start hitting this month or next — much like they did dur-

ing the 1997-98 El Niño. Others say it's impossible to completely predict "the big one" until it's on its way.

"Nobody knows when the big El Niño storms will hit," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration meteorologist Steve Anderson said.

During the 1997-98 El Niño, the Pleasanton-Livermore area got 24.6 inches of rain from November to May — 12 inches of which dumped during January and February, according to NOAA data.

Kathleen Yurchak, Pleasanton's director of operations services, said the city is working on multiple fronts to make sure the city is as prepared as possible.

"If anything, I feel like we're more prepared this year than we have been in a while," she said.

Then again, agencies' staff acknowledge nature is unpredictable.

"The best we can do is prepare for heavy rain, and then wait to see what Mother Nature brings us," said Dan Gallagher, operations manager for Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD).

## Getting ready for the big one

A century ago, Pleasanton was subject to the whim of nature. A heavy rainfall would almost always mean flooding, particularly near Shadow Cliffs and in the area that

is now Hacienda Business Park.

But developments in civil engineering have ensured the businesses near Hacienda have adequate drainage, and natural areas like Shadow Cliffs have water channels that keep runoff moving through the city to San Francisco Bay.

Pleasanton has a few areas that officials are keeping an eye on for potential damage and danger as the El Niño approaches.

In the western area of town, Dublin Canyon and Foothill roads are expected to get cascading runoff from Pleasanton Ridge that can make driving difficult, according to Leo Lopez, city environmental compliance manager.

That rainfall can cause a problem in and of itself, but it also means tree branches, dirt and trash might wash onto the road.

"Dublin Canyon poses a particular safety hazard for us because aside from getting a lot of runoff on the road and creating a traffic hazard, clearing those areas is dangerous for us because folks are driving at high speeds," he said.

In the central part of town, flooding is mostly caused when the above-ground channels are blocked with debris or when below-ground pipes are clogged.

City workers also often monitor areas along smaller waterways such as Kottinger Creek near Kottinger Com-

munity Park, as well as specific grates and outlet pipes that are known by experts to cause problems if left unchecked — some of which are located on the southeast part of town.

When it rains, water is funneled away from Pleasanton in two ways: It flows into above-ground channels or it flows into storm drains and is carried off by underground pipes to the Bay.

The infrastructure can do its job and keep water moving, but a plug in the system means water will back up into streets and homes, Gallagher said.

Zone 7 Water Agency, a regional water wholesaler, is also tasked with providing flood management and mitigation to the areas under its jurisdiction, including Pleasanton.

Carol Mahoney, Zone 7's manager of integrated water resources, said staff regularly check the streambeds of above-ground channels, even if they're bone-dry, to

make sure there isn't anything that could potentially block the water's path. If a tree or man-made debris gets in the way of a large flow of water, it can back up and overflow onto the nearby streets.

"In the major channels, what's happened is someone's dumped a couch and that's blocking a culvert," she said.

Pleasanton has about five major man-made channels that direct water through the city, such as Arroyo Mocho that flows along Ken Mercer Sports Park, Arroyo del Valle that runs through downtown and Chabot Canal that runs through Hacienda Business Park.

Each is a dirt channel, and they all flow west to combine with the Arroyo de la Laguna, which flows south parallel to Interstate 680 before emptying into Alameda Creek and then into the San Francisco Bay.

One of Pleasanton's unique challenges is the dirt that makes up these waterbeds is essentially fine

## Resources

- To keep up-to-date on whether streams have flooded in your area, visit Storm Central to see water levels in local channels: <https://stormcentral.waterlog.com/public/Zone7>.
  - Alameda County also has a website to keep residents up-to-date on flooding, road closures and storm safety information: <https://www.acgov.org/pwa/info/elnino.htm>.
  - Now might be the time to talk with your insurance agent about whether flood insurance is necessary — particularly if your home is in an area expected to get higher water levels. Visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) to get information from the National Flood Insurance Program.
  - The city of Pleasanton is handing out free sandbags throughout winter. To get your sandbags, take a shovel to one of the following locations for free sand and free bags:
    - Operation Services Center, 3333 Busch Road
    - Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.
    - Ken Mercer Sports Park, 5800 Parkside Dr.
- Those locations will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and supplies will only be restocked during working hours.



MEREDITH BAUER

A woman steps over a puddle at the intersection of Main and Neal streets Tuesday afternoon during a brief burst of rain.



COURTESY OF CITY OF PLEASANTON

Pleasanton city workers use a vacuum truck to suck up leaves along city streets. City staff have been working to prepare for the storms by clearing roads of debris.

silt — easily moved soil with little gravel to keep it in place. Such soil can cave in easier than Livermore's gravel-based soil. Zone 7 staff are tasked with repairing the channels in areas where it has given way, which can also back up storm-flow and cause flooding.

For underground stormwater pipes, the biggest preventative measure is clearing away tree roots that have burrowed inside, in addition to contending with trash, grass clippings, leaves, dead animals and sediment. The years-long drought has been tough on trees, and they've pushed out their roots to any water source possible. While tree roots are a bigger problem in wastewater pipes, experts clean out those and stormwater pipes as needed.

"Trees are desperate for water," Gallagher said.

At the same time, the smaller floods are often caused when leaves wash off people's roofs and yards and plug up drains.

"If people have the opportunity to go out and clear those leaves before the storm hits, that is a huge benefit," Mahoney said.

In Livermore, Cal Water has cleared pipes, established contingency plans for flood-related problems and set up an emergency response team to fight floods in town, said Frank Vallejo, Cal Water Livermore district manager.

Pleasanton's Operations Services Center will run flood operations but have several levels of plans in place in case the El Niño packs a large punch.

At agencies across the Tri-Valley, staff members are setting up portable generators, stocking up on supplies and talking with county, state and federal disaster management agencies — just in case.

"We are even equipped with portable beds and things like that in case we face a big emergency," Vallejo said.

One of the biggest concerns is for people's safety as rains approach. Some local arroyos are known to funnel water through quickly, creating a stream that could sweep

someone off the bank.

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) has started practicing for swift-water rescues, particularly along the arroyos in the western edge of town, acting deputy fire chief Joe Testa said.

The LPFD advises residents to never drive into a flooded road, even if the water is still, since you can't be sure about the depth of the water. Testa said people should also never enter flowing stream water.

Even if the whitewater looks like fun, it is dangerous, he said.

"Some of the water rescue emergencies that we have had in the past have included kids attempting to use inflatable rafts in the arroyos during times of peak flows and people becoming stranded in the water on an island or in a vehicle," he said.

### So, is the drought over?

With this winter potentially bringing the most water the state has seen in recent years, experts say the El Niño will not fix California's drought, and residents should still keep conserving water.

But the El Niño will help.

For example, it is expected to bring snow to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the runoff from which provides water to many areas of California, including Pleasanton.

Experts from various agencies said this snowfall is entirely the key to helping alleviate the region's drought. No snow, no relief.

While some El Niño rainwater will be captured in nearby reservoirs, the Tri-Valley has few options for capturing rainwater for later use, aside from lakes.

One of the biggest reservoirs in this area is Lake Del Valle. The lake itself is five miles long, and some of the water that is caught there will be used for drinking water for Zone 7's wholesale buyers — the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, Cal Water's Livermore division and DSRSD.

In general, some rainwater will trickle through the dirt and gravel to reach the local underground

aquifer, especially water that rages through above-ground channels.

However, the water doesn't have the time it needs to sink into the soil — after all, it needs to be moved away from streets and homes to avoid flooding. That aquifer is relied upon by Zone 7, municipalities and private residents with their own wells to provide water in dry years.

Public and private water retailers in the Tri-Valley do not have their own reservoirs because it's not a part of their operational mission. Zone 7 has the ability to artificially recharge the underground aquifer with treated water, but there's no easy way — given current infrastructure — to funnel rain into a safe storage area where it can later be treated and used to replenish groundwater supply.

"Catching water and providing

water are two completely different things. We don't have any storage reservoirs or any lakes or anything to hold water in," Gallagher said. "Unfortunately, there just isn't anything we can use to capture rainwater and to put it back into the ground."

So the fact remains that much of the rain that falls won't find its way into drinking glasses this summer. Most of it will be dumped into the San Francisco Bay or the Pacific Ocean.

### What you should do

Pleasanton residents' efforts are essential to helping prevent flooding in town, experts say. Plus, most of the measures are simple.

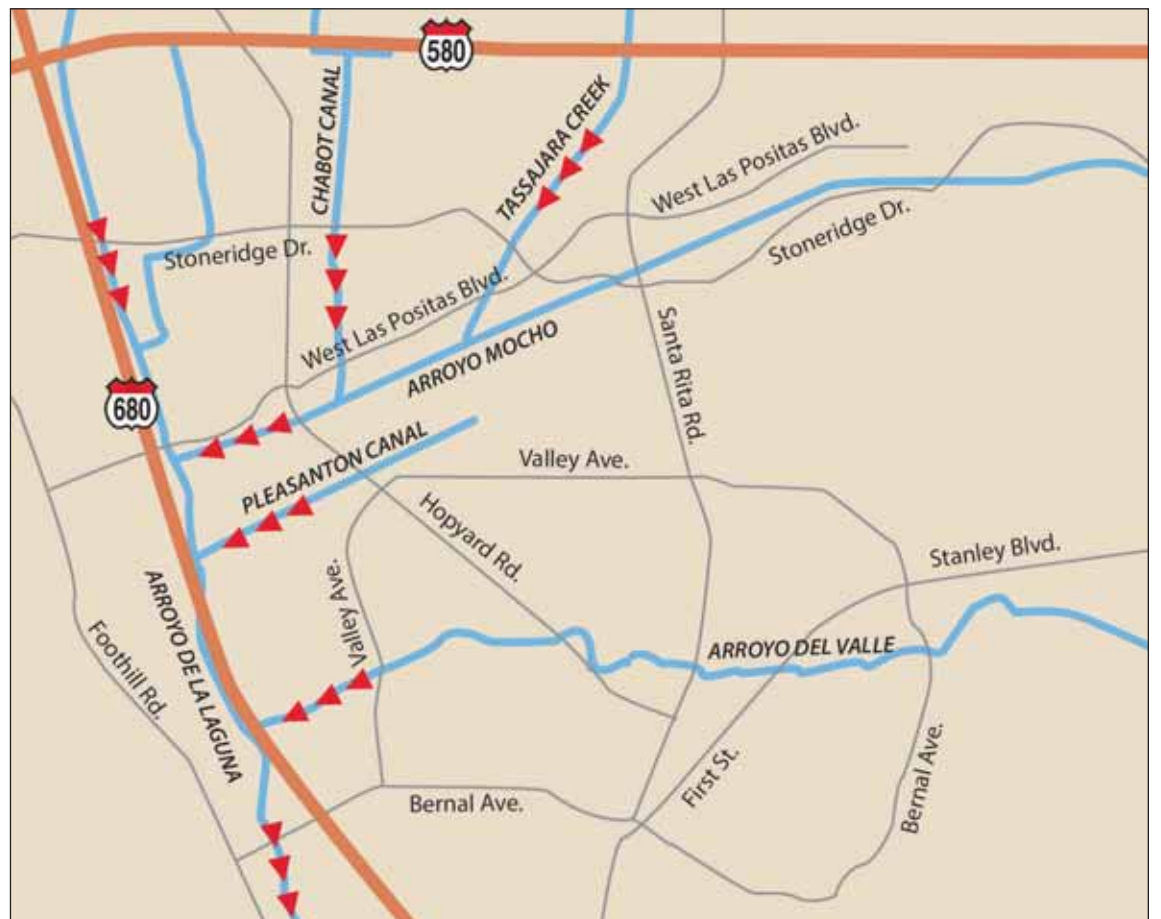
City staff encourage residents to clean leaves off their yards and roofs and bag them for disposal. By doing so, residents will ensure these leaves

won't be washed into storm drains when it rains, which can easily clog the drains and cause flooding.

Residents are also encouraged to store sandbags before the El Niño hits. Sandbags can be used along garage doors and entryways to keep water from getting into a home, causing damage.

Additionally, make sure drainage directs toward the street's storm drain system, and remove any dead trees and brush from one's property. Residents can use a rake, broom or shovel to unplug a storm drain grate if flooding has started to occur.

In the event of flooding or downed power lines, contact Pleasanton's operations service center at 931-5500 or the Pleasanton Police Department in the event of an urgent safety matter at 931-5100 or 9-1-1 in case of an emergency. ■



KRISTIN BROWN

Several channels funnel rainwater through Pleasanton and ultimately out to the San Francisco Bay. The channels flow westward until they reach Arroyo de la Laguna, which flows south and out of town. These streams could be a source of flooding during an El Niño if they get clogged with tree debris or man-made items, like discarded couches.

## World audience for local miniatures

Artist hopes show will gain fans for petite paintings



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**Clockwise from top:** A display by miniature artist Barbara Stanton includes tiny viewers. Stanton inspects her exhibit in Mendocino; she uses color and light to make tiny pieces glow, attracting viewers. Stanton wears magnifiers to create her pieces of art on a 1/12 scale. Stanton at the TV show filming with host Graeme Stevenson and camerawoman Sophia Stacey.

Livermore artist Barbara Stanton goes small in her paintings but is about to go large in her audience. She will be the first American artist featured on the Australian television show “Colour in Your Life!” with host Graeme Stevenson.

“I’m so excited about this opportunity to share my miniatures with the world,” Stanton said. “It was wonderful to meet Graeme and his lovely camera lady, Sophia Stacey. They spent the day with me, interviewing and filming me paint a miniature landscape in oils.”

The show will be aired on PBS stations across the United States and will be released on YouTube sometime in late January or early February.

“They were quite the professionals but also very friendly,” Stanton added. “I love their Australian accents. They made me feel very comfortable in front of the camera.”

She hopes that being on the show will help promote her miniature painting workshops.

“I would love to spread the news about this wonderful way of self-expression,” she said.

Stanton specializes in miniature oil painting and portraits, miniature and full size. She paints in the dollhouse scale, 1/12 (1 inch equals 1 foot), so the paintings fit perfectly in any fine miniature collection, some no larger than a postage stamp. Her oil paintings are done on a variety of subjects in a realist style,

using color and light to make each piece glow.

Although Stanton is known by fine art miniature collectors around the world, she also creates larger works. Pleasanton, where she grew up, commissioned her to paint a 22-foot-by-7-foot mural called “Pioneer Founders of Pleasanton,” which can be seen on Main Street under the Arch across from the Museum on Main.

Stanton also runs a figure drawing workshop and teaches art classes at Livermore’s Bothwell Arts Center. Her works are displayed at the Livermore Art Association Art Gallery, 2155 Third St., in Livermore — a local co-op where she has been a member for about 25 years. ■

### About the show

“Put Some Colour In Your Life?” — or “Colour In Your Life!” — is a television series created in 2010 by master artist Graeme Stevenson. It began in the small town of Murwillumbah, an artistic region of Australia, and the show has spread out to encompass the arts and artists of the country — and the world. The website [www.colourinyourlife.com.au](http://www.colourinyourlife.com.au), which runs in conjunction with the TV series, was created in the hopes of building an arts hub for artists all around the world.

# Pianists to offer 'inspiring' concert

Performance will benefit Arts in the Schools Program

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Pleasanton concert pianist Tamriko Siprashvili, director and owner of Inspire Academy of Music and Arts, and Temirzhan Yerzhanov will return Jan. 23 to the Amador Theater to perform another two-piano concert to benefit the Arts in the Schools Program in Pleasanton.

The concert, entitled "An Evening of Inspiration," will include Brahms' Sonata for Two Pianos in F minor, Opus 34b, Tanhauser Overture by Wagner, and "Pictures at an Exhibition" by Mussorgsky.

Siprashvili and Yerzhanov both were recognized at an early age as musically gifted and moved from their native countries of Georgia and Kazakhstan, respectively, to Moscow to be educated at the prestigious Moscow Conservatory. They also were both awarded the gold medal at the Robert Schumann International Piano Competition in Swickau, Germany — Siprashvili in 1985, and Yerzhanov in 1993.

"To my knowledge, no two of the few International Schumann Gold Medalists in the world perform concerts like this," said Dave Wright of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, which sponsors the concert and the school arts program.

Wright also noted it is appropriate that the concert includes Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," a work which connects music with the visual arts, since funds from the performance will benefit the visual arts in Pleasanton schools.

Last year's concert sold out and raised more \$12,000.

"We hope once again that folks can 'begin the new year on a high note' by attending the Jan. 23 piano concert," Wright said.

Siprashvili has performed concerts throughout Europe, Russia, Georgia, Chile, Argentina, Canada and the United States as a soloist and chamber music performer. She has made appearances on Radio Russia, Voice of America, Deutsche Radio Berlin, and on Italian Radio, and has worked with Nimbus Records and XCP in France to produce CDs.

Yerzhanov has toured in 12 countries in solo and chamber music, and has appeared in London Wigmore Hall, Berlin Konzerthaus, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Paris Salle Gaveau, New York Carnegie Weill Recital, Moscow and St. Petersburg Philharmonic halls. ■

### Renowned pianists

What: "An Evening of Inspiration" to benefit Arts in the Schools

Who: Pianists Tamriko Siprashvili and Temirzhan Yerzhanov

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 23

Where: Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road

Tickets: \$35 adult; \$30 senior;

\$20 student; go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org)

or call 931-4848.



VICTORIA WHYTE BALL

Tamriko Siprashvili (right) and Temirzhan Yerzhanov will give a two-piano concert Jan. 23 to benefit the Arts in the Schools Program.

## 'California Dreaming'

The Allied Artists West "California Dreaming" exhibit opens next Thursday at the Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery, featuring 21 professional South Bay artists who each interprets the theme in their own way, ranging from abstract to realism, conceptual to fantasy, and everything in between. The show will launch with a free reception from 7-9 p.m. Thursday. Painting demonstrations will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on some Saturdays as follows — Jan. 16: Pat Suggs, pastel; Jan. 23: Jane Hofstetter, watercolor; Jan. 30: Teresa Ruzzo, pastel; and Feb. 20: Michael Rogan and Gary Coleman, acrylic. The exhibit runs through Feb. 20.



Artworks in the showing include (clockwise from left): "Bright Uphill Climb" by Gary Coleman, "Spring Fever" by Teresa Ruzzo, untitled painting by Karen Honaker and "All About Me" by Judy Welsh.



## PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

### Foothill girls take 3rd place at the West Coast Jamboree

Amador vs. Foothill match-ups start again Jan. 19 with boys soccer

The Foothill girls basketball team took third place at the West Coast Jamboree in the highly competitive Zircon division during the week of Dec. 28.

The Falcons started with a 59-40 win over Montgomery-Santa Rosa. A stellar defensive effort in the second half keyed the win.

Leading the way on offense was sophomore guard Madison Baxter with 16 points. Caroline McMorrow contributed nine points and 20 rebounds.

In the second round, the Falcons faced a tough team in Central East out of Fresno, dropping a hard-fought game, 50-41. Baxter had 14 points, followed by McMorrow with 12 points and eight rebounds. Sophia Brown chipped in with six points, five rebounds and outstanding defense.

In the third-place game, Foothill took out Monterey Trail of Elk Grove, 62-50. Baxter led the way with 24 points, followed by McMorrow's 10-point, 11-rebound effort.

For their outstanding performances, McMorrow and Brown were named All-Tournament players.

#### Amador Valley vs. Foothill

For those who love the Amador Valley vs. Foothill rivalries (and who doesn't?), here are the dates for the regular-season winter contests.

In boys basketball, the Dons and Falcons meet on Jan. 26 at Foothill and then Feb. 19 at Amador. Game time for the varsity contests is 7 p.m.

On the girls side of the basketball ledger, the games are set for Jan. 26 at Amador, with the rematch set for Feb. 18 at Foothill. Once again, the varsity is set for 7 p.m. starts.

Those willing to bundle up and head out to watch some great soccer action can catch the boys Jan. 19 at Foothill and Feb. 11 at Amador. The varsity games are set for 6 p.m. starts.

In the always-intense games between the girls, Amador will host the Jan. 19 game and the Falcons play host on Feb. 11. Games are all set for 6 p.m. starts.

Finally, the dual match between two of the most consistent wrestling programs in the area sees Amador play host to Foothill on Feb. 16. The match is set for a 6 p.m. start. ■

*Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact Miller or submit local high school sports scores and game highlights for his weekly Pleasanton Preps column, email him at [acesmag@aol.com](mailto:acesmag@aol.com).*



MARTHA BROWN

Foothill's Madison Baxter scores against Montgomery-Santa Rosa during the Falcons' 59-40 win at the West Coast Jamboree.

#### Seahawks shine at winter nationals

Five Pleasanton Seahawks competed in the AT&T Winter National Championships last month in Federal Way, Wash. Shown from left: Lyon Zhang (200 breaststroke), Christopher Jhong (200, 400 individual medley), Maxime Rooney (100 backstroke, 50, 100, 200, 400 freestyle), Christie Chong (100, 200 back), coach Steve Morsilli and Miranda Heckman (200, 400 free). Heckman swam a personal best of 2:02.12 in the 200 free to earn her first Olympic trial cut, and Rooney placed fourth in the 200 free and fifth in the 100 free and swam a personal best in the 400 free.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

#### Elite Seahawks swim in Texas

The Pleasanton Seahawks sent six Elite division swimmers to the Speedo Short Course Junior Nationals last month in Austin, Texas. From left: Ed Smith (200 individual medley, 200 freestyle, 200 breaststroke), Samantha Howell (100, 200, 500 free), Alex Gilchrist (200, 400 IM, 200 butterfly), Tori Koleta (100 breast), Kennedy Truex (100 backstroke) and Katie Woods (100, 200, 500 free).



COURTESY OF DANETTE ONDI

#### Foothill cheer headed to nationals

The Foothill High School competition cheer teams qualified for nationals in March with high finishes at the USA Regional Competition last month at James Logan High School in Union City. The varsity (shown) and junior varsity squads each took first place while the group stunt team was a close second in its division.

# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

## Book Clubs

**TOWNE CENTER BOOK CLUB** The club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826 or visit [www.towne-centerbooks.com](http://www.towne-centerbooks.com) for the current selection.

## Civic Meetings Clubs

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

**SCHOOL BOARD** The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly during the school year in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

**YOUTH COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

## Classes

**FREE COUNSELING JOB SEARCH SKILLS AND RESUME WRITING** Get a free consultation with an experienced Employment Recruiter on select Wednesday evenings, Thursday afternoons and Saturday afternoons for a half or full hour at the Pleasanton Library. Receive help with resume writing, employment web sites, search for a job on the web, and get help with online applications. Make a 20-minute appointment at the Reference Desk by calling 931-3400, ext. 4.

**PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER DAILY PC TUTORING** Get one-on-one PC tutoring between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Pleasanton Senior Center. If you have your own laptop, you can bring it. PCs are available in Windows 7/8/10. Get help on using the internet, email, photo editing and attachments. Cost is \$2-\$2.50. Call 931-5365.

**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](mailto:dggroome@comcast.net).

**GARDEN CLUB MEETING** The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14 at Alisal School, 1454 Santa Rita Road. Dr. Lisa Tell of UC Davis will tell us about the hummingbird program at Davis. Visitors welcome. Call Bev at 485-7812 or go to [www.lavgc.org](http://www.lavgc.org).

**GIRLS NIGHT OUT NETWORKING** GNON invites you to kick off the new year in style with a great mixer from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 11 at Coco Cabana Restaurant, 4500-C Tassajara Road, Dublin. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. Prepayment required. RSVP by Jan. 8. Call 487-4748 or go to [www.gnon.org/rsvp.html](http://www.gnon.org/rsvp.html).

**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.

**KIWANIS OF PLEASANTON** Kiwanis of Pleasanton is celebrating the 100th anniversary of their organization this year. Those interested in making a difference in the community are invited to join for lunch from 11:50 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 Main St. Call 425-9127 for more info.

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS TED SHAPAS** Ted Shapas, President of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society, will address simple ways to manage your image collection so you and family members can identify, find, archive and enjoy important aspects of your family history on Monday, Jan. 11 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. Contact Marilyn Glass and Diane Wiedel, Program Chairs, at [program@L-AGS.org](mailto:program@L-AGS.org).

**PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB** The Pleasanton Lions Club meets for dinner at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at The Regalia House, 4133 Regalia Court. The dinner fee is \$10. For more information please visit <http://pleasantonlionsclub.org>.

**PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB** Open to new and established residents of the Tri-Valley, members include retirees, working families, business owners, married, single, empty nesters, of all ages and from all over the world. Activities include monthly coffees and lunches, day trips, games, book club, wine club, shared interest groups, community service, outdoor activities such

## PET OF THE WEEK

TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

### Aye, Calypso

A young adult Dalmatian-pit mix, Calypso loves to hike, jog or throw balls. She is spayed, microchipped and up-to-date on shots. She appears to be good around the other dogs housed at the shelter. Ring in the new year with this beautiful girl. Calypso is available for adoption at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. For more info, call 803-7040.



as hiking, walking, and golf. New events and activities are planned throughout the year. Meet your Tri-Valley neighbors, have fun, and learn more about our beautiful community. Contact 215-8405 or [pnewcomers@gmail.com](mailto:pnewcomers@gmail.com). Go to [www.PleasantonNewcomers.com](http://www.PleasantonNewcomers.com).

**PLEASANTON-TULANCINGO SISTER CITY** All are welcome to join for "Taco Tuesday" at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Fiesta Taco, 1989 Santa Rita Road Unit J. We are an active organization promoting cultural exchange, goodwill and friendship. We have a youth and adult exchange program. Call 989-6882 or go to [www.ptsca.org](http://www.ptsca.org).

**ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON** The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. It has a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m. every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122 W. Neal St. Cost for lunch is \$17. For information, visit [www.PleasantonRotary.org](http://www.PleasantonRotary.org).

**ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON NORTH** Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at Handles Gastropub, 855 Main St. Call 556-2333 or visit [www.pnr-rotary.org](http://www.pnr-rotary.org).

**TRI VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED PRESENTS KEN SMITH**, TVRWF presents Ken Smith, California State Director for the Fair Tax, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14 at Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore. RSVP by Jan. 11. Contact Linda Krikorian at 426-1474 or [krikorianpublishing@yahoo.com](mailto:krikorianpublishing@yahoo.com).

**TRI-VALLEY EVENING ROTARY** Tri-Valley Evening Rotary has been supporting the community veterans, children and seniors for the past 12 years. We are the only Rotary club in the valley that meets in the evening. If you want to give back with a fun loving group please visit one of our meetings, from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday at Castlewood Country Club. Cost is \$5 plus dinner. Go to [trivalleyrotary.org](http://trivalleyrotary.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](mailto:combs.richard@comcast.net).

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

## Concerts

**AMBROSIA** Ambrosia will perform their smooth-rock style, fusing progressive, classical and world influences, yet rooted with the soul of the blues and R&B at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 22-23 at the Firehouse Arts Center. With 5 Grammy nominations and sold out concerts across globe. Tickets are \$36-\$46. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**JOEL: A TRIBUTE TO THE SONGS OF BILLY JOEL** Enjoy a Tribute to the Songs of Billy Joel featuring Kyle Martin and his band at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Piano-man Kyle Martin will perform the hits from Joel's timeless repertoire, including songs like "Big Shot," "Only the Good Die Young," and "New York State of Mind." Tickets are \$17-\$27. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**THE SPECIAL CONSENSUS: BLUEGRASS WITH ATTITUDE** Jan 15, 8pm. Enjoy the Grammy-nominated four-man acoustic bluegrass band in a classic vein, with modern edge, spotless vocals, and boundless energy, at 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

## Events

**FARMERS MARKET** Visit the Pleasanton Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday, on East Angela Street between Main and First streets. The Farmers Market is open every Saturday, year-round, rain or shine, to provide the season's fresh-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Movie thrills continue

Pleasanton continues its "Thrill Rides" Movie Night Series at 7:30 p.m. this Wednesday with "Snowpiercer," at the Firehouse Arts Center Theater. The two-hour, R-rated movie takes place in a post-apocalyptic ice age that forces humanity's last survivors aboard a globe-spanning super-train; one man risks everything to lead a revolt for control of the engine and the future of the world. Come a few minutes early to enjoy some fun trivia about the film. Tickets are \$10 at the door, which includes popcorn. Soda and other snacks will be for sale, but no outside food or beverages are permitted. To buy tickets in advance, go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), call 931-4848, or purchase at the center box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

See **CALENDAR** on Page 18

CALENDAR

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est fruits and vegetables, sold by the very farmers that planted, nurtured and harvested the crop.

**FREE TOUR: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER RECYCLING PLANTS** Learn how 10 million gallons of Tri-Valley wastewater is treated every day, either purified and recycled to irrigate Tri-Valley green spaces or cleaned and pumped into the San Francisco Bay. The tour will be from 1-2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13. Reservations required, go to <http://www.dsrdsd.com/outreach/tour-request>.

**MUSEUM ON MAIN READING TIME** Preschoolers (ages 2-5) and families are invited for books and crafts. The Rainy Day book theme will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at Museum on Main. Admission is free; no reservations required. Call 462-2766 or go to [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org).

**SANDRA J. WING HEALING THERAPIES FOUNDATION QUARTERLY ROUND UP** The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation will hold its Quarterly Round Up meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at Handles Gastropub, 855 Main St. All are welcome. To RSVP and for more information, call 866-862-7270.

Fundraisers

**PAWS IN NEED VALENTINE CRAB FEED** Save the life of a pet and attend the Paws In Need Valentine Crab Feed from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6 at the Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. With fresh Oregon/Washington cracked crab and raffles. All proceeds benefit local pets. Tickets are \$55 until Jan. 23, \$60 after. Get tickets at [Paws-In-Need.org](http://Paws-In-Need.org) or send check to Paws In Need, P.O. Box 3436, San Ramon, CA 94583.

**PLEASANTON LIONS STEAK FEST FUNDRAISER** Join for a delicious steak dinner grilled by the Lickety Spit barbecue crew served with all you can eat sides of green salad w/ shrimp, Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi pasta, beans and rolls, at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Enjoy DJ music and dancing, casino games, dessert roulette, silent auction baskets, raffles and more. Tickets are \$55. Proceeds benefit organizations and projects supported by the Pleasanton Lions Club, including Lions in Sight, Tri-Valley Haven, local youth programs and education, Pleasanton Military Families and Open Heart Kitchen. Call Steve Grimes at 484-3524. Go to [www.pleasantonlionsclub.org](http://www.pleasantonlionsclub.org).

**ROTARY CRAB FEED** The Livermore Rotary Club will host its annual Crab Feed from 6-10 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29 at the Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. With a crab dinner and dancing to live music by the Gabe Duffin Band. The Livermore Rotary Club is a member of Rotary International and sponsors community events and many worthwhile local projects. Tickets are \$50. Call 447-4300.

Health

**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.

Lectures/ Workshops

**HOPE HOSPICE DEMENTIA FAMILY CAREGIVER CLASS** To help family caregivers who are tending to patients with dementia, Hope Hospice will offer a class that will describe the different types and causes of dementia and memory loss, signs and symptoms, and how to effectively communicate with a dementia patient. The class will be from 9:30 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Jan. 9 at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin. Call 829-8770. Register at [HopeHospice.com](http://HopeHospice.com).

Miscellaneous

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

**VFW-AL COFFEE AND DONUTS** Every Saturday morning from 7:30-9 a.m., the VFW and American Legion host coffee and donuts for all veterans at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. All veterans are welcome. Visit [www.vfw-post6298.com](http://www.vfw-post6298.com).

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/](http://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](http://www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org).

Spiritual

**'THE STORY' EVENING BIBLE STUDY** God has gone to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. "The Story" is about the story of the Bible,

God's great love affair with humanity. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, come find your story in God's story in the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation, at 6 p.m. every Sunday at Faith Chapel, 6656 Alisal St. Workbook is \$10. Call 846-8650 or go to [www.fcpleasanton.org](http://www.fcpleasanton.org).

**CENTERPOINTE CHURCH SUNDAY WORSHIP** Centerpointe Church, located at 3410 Cornerstone Court, will hold a worship service called "Ancient Future," rooted as the early church was in God's story, which is central to participants' lives, at 10 a.m. Sundays. Gatherings include songs, hymns, Scripture, art, ancient prayers and creeds and a biblically based message designed to deepen worshipers' relationship with Jesus as well as apply to their lives and equip them for the world. Call 846-4436 or go to [www.centerpointechurch.org](http://www.centerpointechurch.org).

**PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP** Lynnewood United Methodist Church offers a friendly congregation where all are welcome. Worship is at 9 or 10:30 a.m. on Sundays with Sunday school for youth and adults at 10:30 a.m. and childcare at both services. Contact Rev. Heather Hammer at 846-0221 or [office@lynnewood.org](mailto:office@lynnewood.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. Bring a drum or rattle; a few will be available. Call 829-2733 or go to [www.unityoftrivalley.org](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.

**GRIEF WORKSHOP** The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Join these bi-monthly meetings and let us accompany you on your healing journey, at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 12 and 26; Thursdays, Feb. 11 and 25; and on Thursday, March 10 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. No registration required, but if it is your first session make sure to arrive a little early. All are welcome. Call Nancy at 846-9543.

**MOTHERS WITH A PURPOSE** Mothers With a Purpose meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Foothill High School Library. Mothers with a Purpose was formed by local moms to offer support to families affected by addiction. Visit [www.motherswithapurpose.org](http://www.motherswithapurpose.org).

Who says winter can't be the most active time of the year!



Staying Healthy 2016 WINTER EDITION

Special publication coming

JAN 22

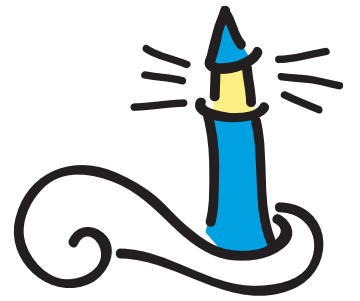
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Pleasanton Weekly

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Now you can log on to fogster.com, day or night and get your ad started immediately online.

So, the next time you have an item to sell, barter, give away or buy, get the perfect combination: print ads in your local newspapers, reaching more than 35,000 readers, and unlimited free web postings reaching hundreds of thousands additional people!

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**Pregnant?** Thinking of Adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/ New Mexico/Indiana (AAN CAN)

### 130 Classes & Instruction

**Airline Careers**  
New Year, New Airline Careers - Get training as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Career placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance, 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

## For Sale

### 202 Vehicles Wanted

**Cash for Cars**  
We Buy Any Condition Vehicle, 2002 and Newer. Nationwide Free Pick Up! Call Now: 1-888-420-3808 www.cash4car.com (AAN CAN)

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

**Antiques**  
Restored by A Labor of Love. Vanity w/mirror; chest of drawers; caned rocker; reading/music table; 2 church railings; lg. uphol. chair. 925/216-7976

## Jobs

### 560 Employment Information

**Paid in Advance!**  
Make \$1000 A Week Mailing Brochures From Home! No Experience Required. Helping home workers since 2001! Genuine Opportunity. Start Immediately! www.TheIncomeHub.com (AAN CAN)

## Business Services

### 601 Accounting/ Bookkeeping

**Need Help With Quickbooks?**  
No job too big or too small. Call Linda at (925) 918-2233.

### 605 Antiques & Art Restoration

**"A Labor of Love" ANTIQUE RESTORATION**  
Preserve special memories... Recycle the past into the future  
Impeccable Quality  
Integrity of Workmanship  
Conveniently located in Pleasanton For 15 Years  
**925-216-7976** License #042392

### 695 Tours & Travel

**Experience the Past and Present!** Explore Tourist attractions, Museums, and Car events around the world! Travel with patrons of the California Automobile Museum. Call 916.442.6802 x13 or calautomuseum.org/car-themed-tours (Cal-SCAN)

## Home Services

### 751 General Contracting

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

### 781 Pest Control



**Attic Clean-Up & Rodent Removal**  
Are you in the Bay Area? Do you have squeaky little terrors living in your attic or crawlspace? What you are looking for is right here! Call Attic Star now to learn about our rodent removal services and cleaning options. You can also get us to take out your old, defunct insulation and install newer, better products.

Call (866) 391-3308 now and get your work done in no time!

## Real Estate

### 809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

**All Areas: Roommates.com**  
Lonely? Bored? Broke? Find the perfect roommate to complement your personality and lifestyle at Roommates.com! (AAN CAN)

### 845 Out of Area



**4 homes on 30 acres**  
Vacation where you live in Nevada City!! Looks like Disneyland with rock walls, manicured gardens, private lake, HUGE outdoor entertaining area and even its own mining museum!! 15 car garages for all your toys!! Priced to sell only \$2M!! Seller financing. Call Edie 530-913-0150 cell

## Legal Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

**ROBERTO'S CANTINA, INC. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 512558  
The following person(s) doing business as: ROBERTO'S CANTINA, INC., 168 S. MURPHY AVE., SUNNYVALE, CA 94086., is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Roberto's Cantina, Inc., 168 S. Murphy Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 01/01/2015. Signature of Registrant: Roberto Cervantes, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/14/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 25; 2015, Jan. 1, 8, 15; 2016)

**HERELD & AYRES ARCHITECTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 512145  
The following person(s) doing business as: HERELD & AYRES ARCHITECTS, 1039 SERPENTINE LANE, SUITE D, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kurt Hereld, 2833 Kennedy St., Livermore, CA 94551; David Ayres, 3248 Cheryl Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a General partnership. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 10/01/2010. Signature of Registrant: Kurt Hereld, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/02/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 25; 2015, Jan. 1, 8, 15; 2016)



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**Pleasanton Weekly**



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## Existing-home sales fall nationally to slowest pace since April 2014

All major U.S. regions see decline; West sales drop 13.9%

Existing-home sales dropped off across the U.S. in November to the slowest pace in 19 months, with all four major national regions seeing sales declines, according to a recent report released by the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

Total existing-home sales — which are completed transactions for single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops — fell 10.5% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.76 million in November, down from revised 5.32 million in October and the lowest rate since 4.75 million in April 2014, according to the report.

After November's decline (the largest since July 2010 at 22.5%), sales are now 3.8% below a year ago, marking the first year-over-year decrease since September 2014.

NAR officials contend part of the sales drop-off could be tied to an apparent rise in closing time-frames due to the new Know Before You Owe mortgage disclosure rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which may have pushed some pending transactions into December.

"Sparse inventory and affordability issues continue to impede a large pool of buyers' ability to buy, which is holding back sales," said Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist. "However, signed contracts have remained mostly steady in recent months, and properties sold faster in November. Therefore it's highly possible the stark sales decline wasn't because of sudden, withering demand."

According to NAR's Realtors Confidence Index, 47% of respondents in November reported that they are experiencing a longer time to close compared to a year ago, up from 37% in October.

"It's possible the longer time-frames pushed a latter portion of would-be November transactions into December," Yun said. "As long as closing time-frames don't rise even further, it's likely more sales will register to this month's total, and November's large dip will be more of an outlier."

The total housing inventory nationally at the end of November decreased 3.3% to 2.04 million existing homes available for sale and is now 1.9% lower than a year ago (2.08 million), according to the NAR report. Unsold inventory is at a 5.1-month supply at the current sales pace, up from 4.8 months in October.

Properties typically stayed on the market for 54 days in November, a decrease from 57 days in October and below the 65 days in November 2014, the report said. In all, 37% of homes sold in November were on the market for less than a month.

First-time buyers accounted for 30% of November sales, down from 31% the prior month and 31% the year before.

A new quarterly NAR survey found that 94% of current renters under 35 years old want to own a home in the future, but their top reason for not buying yet is their inability

See **EXISTING-HOME** on Page 21

### SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 1-16

#### Pleasanton (Dec. 1-10)

**Total sales reported:** 11  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$600,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,450,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,209,136

#### Dublin (Dec. 7-10)

**Total sales reported:** 11  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$534,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,280,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$872,000

#### Livermore (Dec. 7-10)

**Total sales reported:** 20  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$308,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,161,500  
**Average sales reported:** \$654,225

#### San Ramon (Dec. 10-16)

**Total sales reported:** 14  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$507,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,085,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$796,107

Source: California REsource

### HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 1-16

#### Pleasanton

**3909 Blacow Court** Roberts Trust to G. Abraham for \$930,000  
**3897 Brockton Drive** L. Paulson to A. Gilani for \$421,500  
**2163 Cameron Circle** Ponderosa Homes to H. Wu for \$2,100,000  
**78 Castlewood Drive** Wagerman Trust to D. & N. O'Brien for \$1,489,000  
**3621 Chillingham Court** Cavanaugh Trust to Q. Xu for \$905,000

**4528 El Dorado Court** Yocham Trust to B. Botelho for \$805,000  
**3167 Gulfstream Street** M. Gorman to J. Xia for \$912,000  
**3492 Guthrie Street** Gupta Trust to R. Agrawal for \$990,000  
**4737 Herrin Way** C. Hazelwood to M. & M. Bartlett for \$750,000  
**1316 Rhone Place** S. Chipman to M. & R. McLaughlin for \$1,790,000  
**2264 Segundo Court #3** Strother Trust to L. & L. Logan for \$375,000

**652 Sycamore Creek Way** R. & U. Lee to S. Wolfenberger for \$1,638,000  
**475 Abbie Street** J. & K. Johal to R. & L. Brown for \$750,000  
**7670 Canyon Meadow Circle #D** W. Courtney to C. Oya for \$370,000  
**6843 Corte De Flores** M. & P. Yu to Ruby Roze Limited for \$805,000  
**6159 Corte Santiago** Gray-Mitchell Trust to K. & J. Lee for \$1,375,000  
**2228 Goldcrest Circle** D. Wyskiel to G. Kumaraswamy for \$680,000  
**8035 Mountain View Drive #D** R. Herr to T. Tan for \$462,000  
**4451 Shearwater Court** R. & A. Harrison to W. Wu for \$1,170,000  
**7526 Stonedale Drive** J. Bahrami to P. Srikanta for \$728,000

**5802 Sycamore Court** Western Pacific Housing to P. Srinivasan for \$1,406,000  
**294 Trenton Circle** K. Koertner to Y. Ye for \$726,000  
**1347 Vintner Way** Craun Trust to L. King for \$995,000  
**2524 Wilde Avenue** L. Thomas to Hariani Trust for \$1,967,000  
**3484 Windsor Court** L. & C. Smith to M. Ross for \$958,000  
**1871 Zenato Place** Randel Trust to Shah Trust for \$2,310,000

**1531 Calle Santiago** S. & M. Hawkins to M. Tecson for \$600,000  
**2157 Cameron Circle** Ponderosa Homes to Jenkins Trust for \$1,995,000  
**7683 Cottonwood Lane** T. & K. Anderson to S. Bentley for \$850,000  
**1196 Crellin Road** Mackay Trust to K. Shin for \$880,000  
**4338 Fairlands Drive** S. Ysaguirre to Y. Wu for \$680,000  
**7794 Forsythia Court** Blau Trust to D. & J. Tagalog for \$962,000  
**3868 Stone Pointe Way** P. Silvestre to A. & S. Sattar for \$810,000  
**5814 Sycamore Court** Western Pacific Housing to M. & J. Dalporto for \$1,365,500  
**1833 Via Di Salerno** Ehlert Trust to Y. & D. Kanouff for \$3,450,000  
**3484 Windsor Court** L. & C. Smith to M. Ross for \$958,000  
**5203 Zaro Court** T. Owyang to Y. Shah for \$750,000

#### Dublin

**3648 Branding Iron Place** Rancho Silvera Ventures to J. Marsh for \$806,500  
**4343 Brannigan Street** H. Gallaway to Gener Trust for \$534,000  
**4517 Fabriano Place** P. & B. Vyas to A. Bare for \$925,000  
**3420 Finnian Way #122** M. Martin to A. & B. Shukla for \$535,000

**3439 Finnian Way** B. & R. Fathi to B. Salamat for \$655,000  
**5304 Garces Court** Chun Trust to S. Venigandla for \$805,000  
**3823 Highpointe Court** William Lyon Homes to Q. Jin for \$1,228,500  
**4823 Perugia Street** P. Ho to J. Velivela for \$660,000  
**7757 Ridgeline Drive** A. Ma to L. Meng for \$1,223,000  
**4921 Royal Pines Court** G. Smith to X. Wan for \$1,280,000  
**4422 Tarcento Lane** C. & L. Kossack to S. Alex for \$940,000

#### Livermore

**1811 Broadmoor Street** C. Peralta to C. & Y. Sanchez for \$608,000  
**787 Catalina Drive** S. & J. Sherman to E. & M. Passaglia for \$655,000  
**5862 Cedarwood Common** P. Maggi to B. & G. Remington for \$685,000  
**826 El Rancho Drive** B. Daggett to J. Zinke-Zagarella for \$591,500  
**631 Everglades Lane** K. Jaynes to L. & L. Franklin for \$575,000  
**1042 Glenn Common** T. Rainwaters to D. & R. Lai for \$420,000  
**5568 Goldenrod Drive** C. & N. Allen to T. & G. Sanmiguel for \$830,000  
**4236 Grove Court** Kacensky Trust to F. & R. Cordeiro for \$1,025,000  
**1236 Hibiscus Way** US Bank to N. Bandelow for \$480,000  
**1510 Hollyhock Street** Y. Yoakum to J. Sears for \$485,000  
**221 Lloyd Street** R. & S. Shelar to D. Sanchez for \$625,000  
**1001 Murrieta Boulevard #40** A. Raykhman to S. Valiente for \$308,000  
**224 Nadine Street** B. & A. Eikenberry to L. & Y. Leroy for \$655,000  
**810 North M Street** M. Curtis to J. & J. Garcia for \$556,000  
**1378 Peachtree Common** K. & N. Kellersberger to Y. & E. Bocharov for \$470,000  
**4114 Pinon Way** D. & D. Williams to Kurtzer Trust for \$522,000  
**2858 San Minete Drive** Irwin Trust to J. & J. Wirowek for \$1,062,000  
**1733 Sardonyx Road** Ponderosa Homes to M. & S. Christie for \$1,161,500  
**194 Selby Lane #1** Y. Ko to K. & W. Ho for \$528,500  
**269 Sonia Way** G. & K. Beattie to N. & K. Graham for \$842,000

#### San Ramon

**9602 Belle Meade Drive** S. Eckel to A. Bedoya for \$895,000  
**2925 Calais Drive** J. Belanger to Sylvan Investments for \$507,000  
**9635 Camassia Way** S. & M. Bennett to S. & A. Jakher for \$880,000  
**49 Canyon Green Court** RC Fine Homes to S. & J. Offner for \$892,000  
**430 Constantine Court** K. Chairez to D. & L. Fabris for \$717,000  
**205 Copper Ridge Road** G. & T. Tuttle to D. & A. Straface for \$540,000  
**3296 Estero Drive** Freitas Trust to A. Srivastava for \$730,000  
**38 Grand Canyon Lane** R. Gordon to S. & J. Quan for \$1,085,000  
**327 La Paz Court** J. & A. Carlyle to A. & K. Cleary for \$665,000  
**2861 Millbridge Place** T. & K. Dufosse to A. Kalaycioglu for \$833,500  
**212 Norris Canyon Place #A** Maclaren Trust to S. Diep for \$520,000  
**401 Old Ranch Court** Welch Trust to R. Pollack for \$988,000  
**8328 Saturn Park Drive** L. Kim to Chin Trust for \$1,028,000  
**115 Scarboro Place** M. Holden to B. Li for \$865,000

Source: California REsource

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## EXISTING-HOME

Continued from Page 20

to afford it, according to the association.

“The Federal Reserve’s decision this month to raise short-term rates is the first of many increases over the next couple of years,” Yun said.

“Although this first move will likely have minimal impact on mortgage rates, additional hikes will push borrowing costs to around 4.50 percent by the end of next year. With home prices expected to continue rising, wages and new home construction need to start increasing substantially to preserve affordability,” he added.

Foreclosures and short sales rose to 9% in November, up from 6% in October but unchanged from the prior year, according to the NAR report. Foreclosures and short sales each sold for an average discount of 15% below market value.

### Regional breakdown

Existing-home sales in the West dropped 13.9% to an annual rate of 990,000 in November but were 4.8% lower than a year ago, according to the NAP. The median price in the West was \$319,700, which is 8.3% above November 2014.

November existing-home sales in the Northeast declined 9.2% to an annual rate of 690,000 but were still 1.5% above a year ago. The median price in the Northeast was \$254,800, which is 3.2% above November 2014.

In the Midwest, existing-home sales fell 15.4% to an annual rate of 1.10 million in November, 2.7% below the prior year. The median price in the Midwest was \$169,300, up 5.3% from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the South decreased 6.2% to an annual rate of 1.98 million in November and were 5.7% below November 2014. The median price in the South was \$189,400, up 6.3% from the prior year. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

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**574 Dovecote Lane #4** Call for price  
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**1151 Farmington Way** \$899,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Linda Traurig 382-9746

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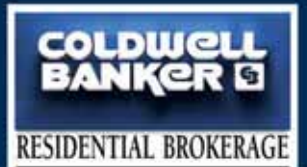
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