

Pleasanton Weekly

2015 Holiday Fund concludes

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2016

PLEASANTON **OUTLOOK**

Good times are back

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

After the recession



JEB BING

Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho says the community continues to be well-positioned to sustain and grow its economic base.

As we look forward to another banner year for Pleasanton in this week's cover story, it's also fitting that I write about City Manager Nelson Fialho's report on how similarly robust events shaped 2015. For sure, based on his findings, the city's economy has made a full recovery from the recent recession.

Last year, median home prices were roughly \$1 million, or nearly 10% greater than they were in 2005 — the highest pre-recession year for Pleasanton home values. The unemployment rate was 3.7%, down from a high of 8.8% in 2010. Office vacancies are 9.1%, down from 18.5% in 2011. Industrial vacancies are 3.2%, down from 8.8% in 2012.

Fiscal year 2014-15 was positive for the Pleasanton commercial office market. As of the end of the third quarter for 2015, the office vacancy rate was 9.1%, compared to the 12.8% vacancy rate at the same time in the prior year.

Australian-based Electroboard Solutions, Inc., a global education-focused technology company, acquired three more condominiums for its U.S. operations on Boulder Court, where it now owns five of the six condominiums that comprise that office/flex building. Britannia Business Center III on Stoneridge Drive, comprised of three office buildings, sold for \$35 million, or \$184 per square foot, for a capitalization (CAP) rate estimated at 6.5%.

Clothing retailer Gap, Inc., paid approximately \$40 million for the 181,495-square-foot building it had been leasing in the repositioned Rosewood Commons, establishing a long-term commitment to the city. This added to Rosewood Commons' mix of inked deals with firms such as ServiceMax and SmartZip Analytics, joining Ellie Mae and Astex Pharmaceuticals that had moved there in 2014.

Other commercial areas fared equally well. John Muir Health Care redeveloped its recently pur-

chased 92,000-square-foot building for outpatient medical services in partnership with San Ramon Regional Medical Center, owned by Tenet Healthcare. New leased space in Bernal Corporate Park went to an expanding Shaklee Corp. and TriReme Medical Inc.

Shopping centers across the city benefited last year from investments by property owners and tenants. One notable example was the sale of Bernal Plaza for \$11.6 million (\$330 per square foot). Stoneridge Shopping Center added national retailers Swarovski, Build-A-Bear Workshop, Aetrex and Kids Foot Locker.

Downtown Pleasanton also shared in the post-recession growth last year. The current retail vacancy rate is less than 5%, with only a few Main Street locations available at year's end as the street continues to attract retailers and restaurants. Starbucks moved into the new Pastime Plaza building with McKay's opening across the street to immediate success.

Pleasanton also received several accolades over the year. To accompany the city's 31st-place ranking on Money Magazine's "America's Best Cities to Live," Pleasanton was ranked ninth on the publication's list of "Top Earning Towns" with a median family income of \$144,132.

Similarly, the San Francisco-based consumer/finance web company Nerdwallet.com ranked Pleasanton on its "Top Best Cities for Northern California," and Apartmentlist.com ranked us the second-best city in California for raising kids and No. 27 on its national list. And, in a survey of Pleasanton's commercial community, 91% of the respondents rated Pleasanton as an excellent or good place to do business.

With such a breadth of activity across all sectors, Fialho says Pleasanton continues to be well-positioned to sustain and grow its economic base, just as our "Outlook 2016" cover story predicts. ■

About the Cover

Aerial photo looking west above I-580 shows Hacienda Business Park that will play a part in Pleasanton's continued economic growth in 2016. Photo by Mike Sedlak. Cover design by Kristin Brown.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What do you tend to think about on Martin Luther King Jr. Day?



Peggy Shoemaker
Retired

I think about how glad I am that Martin Luther King is remembered each year because he was a great humanitarian and activist. Observing a special day for him each year helps to make everyone understand that, as human beings, we are all part of one large family.



Robert Hamm
Retired

Well, I grew up in the South, so I am grateful for Martin Luther King Day. It is an opportunity to promote equality for all, and to recall that Dr. King was all about achieving positive change through the use of peaceful, nonviolent protests. This is something that is so important to remember in today's increasingly violent climate.



Mark Gillaspie *Park ranger*

Well, I have to admit that I have to think about what I'm going to do with my daughter because she has no school on Martin Luther King Day. I think I will spend some time trying to explain the sacrifices and the impact that Martin Luther King made on the civil rights movement, in a fairly simple and straightforward way that she can understand and appreciate at her tender age.



Marilyn Morse
Homemaker

I think about his great accomplishments in promoting equality among all people, and I wish we had more people like him in the world. I appreciate that we did have him for as long as we did because he set such a positive example for so many people.



Bob Byrd
Retired

I think about Martin Luther King Day being a very legitimate holiday to commemorate the enormous contributions he made on the civil rights movement and the great strides he made for everyone through his powerful speeches and his peaceful protests.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

AVHS principal resigning

Amador Valley High principal Tom Drescher will be leaving the school June 30 to pursue another career opportunity.

Drescher made the announcement Monday in an email to faculty, saying he is sharing the news now “to ensure there is adequate time to find a new principal and allow a smooth transition in leadership.”

“Amador Valley High School is unequivocally one of the finest schools in the country and it has been an honor and a privilege to work with a remarkable school community these past three years,” Drescher wrote. “Please know I will be fully engaged as the instructional leader of AVHS for the remainder of the school year.”

In a follow-up interview, Drescher declined to elaborate on what “new career options” he is pursuing. He has been the principal at Amador Valley since June 2013 and was previously a principal for five years at a Mill Valley high school.

Emergency prep

With El Niño storms at Pleasanton's backdoor and other dangers on the public's mind, East Bay leaders will hold a free emergency preparation workshop for residents.

The workshop will be hosted by U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin), the Alameda County Fire Department and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the county Office of Emergency Services, 4985 Broder Blvd. in Dublin.

The event will cover how to prepare for natural and man-made disasters, including storms, earthquakes and active shooters. Emergency responders will go over how to prepare one's home, neighborhood and workplace for such disasters.

To RSVP, call 460-5100 or 510-370-3322 or visit <http://bit.ly/1kJTKKV>.

Exemplary program

The Las Positas College early childhood development-math learning community program is set to receive the “2016 Exemplary Program Award,” which recognizes outstanding community college programs, from the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges on Wednesday.

“Although the initial goal of the program was thought to be student success in math, in reality, the ultimate goal of the program may be its contribution to society by providing a supportive and successful program to educate those who will teach our children,” said Las Positas president Barry Russell, Ed.D. ■

Howell named school district's new assistant superintendent of HR

Board also talks audit report, pay increases for substitute teachers

BY MEREDITH BAUER

Pleasanton's school board appointed Dianne Howell as permanent assistant superintendent of human resources Tuesday night, meaning nearly all of the district's management team is now in place.

Howell came out of retirement in June to become the interim assistant superintendent of human resources to replace Bill Faraghan when he retired after 27 years in education.

Her appointment from an interim to permanent cabinet position is

the second such appointment in recent weeks after Micaela Ochoa was selected as deputy superintendent of business services in December.

Howell's contract lasts until June 2017, and Ochoa's contract lasts until 2018.

The appointment of Howell leaves district superintendent as the only upper management posi-

tion not filled on a permanent basis. Jim Hansen is serving as interim superintendent this school year while the district works to find a permanent person.

The board also discussed financial reporting mistakes discovered by an audit firm hired by the district, adjusted substitute teacher pay and revamped their definition of diversity during Tuesday night's regular meeting.

Audit firm Gilbert & Associates found five financial reporting mistakes, all of which are in the process of being resolved by district

staff, that led to more checks-and-balances in the district.

The financial mistakes were double-reporting certain costs, which appears to have occurred for years, two instances where expenditures should have been incurred but were not, a case where a hearing didn't take place within a specific deadline and a district requirement to monitor audits related to a special partnership that wasn't properly fulfilled.

The mistakes didn't affect the

See **PUSD** on Page 6



Dianne Howell



Hart Middle School English teacher Jamie Smith tells her students about the life of Martin Luther King Jr., his family and his legacy of peaceful social change in a lesson Tuesday. America will recognize King's contributions during a national holiday on Monday.

MEREDITH BAUER

Using King's legacy to teach leadership, peace

Pleasanton students learn about Martin Luther King Jr. in advance of holiday

Listening to the hardships and sacrifices Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders endured for their cause, students in Jamie Smith's eighth-grade English class got to thinking about inequality in the world today.

“We've made some progress, but we still have a way to go,” the Hart Middle School teacher said.

Students nodded their heads knowingly. They'd spent Tuesday's class period talking about leadership and how a good leader is kind to all. Some students talked about peaceful Sikh men being mistaken for violent men; the Occupy movement was brought up, referencing racial tension still alive 50 years after King's “March on Washington.”

Pleasanton youth will soon be enjoying a three-day weekend, courtesy of the national recognition of King's legacy. But teachers like Smith want to make

sure students understand that the day is about a step toward unity and peace brought about by the civil rights movement — and the steps that still need to be taken — rather than just an extra day to hang out with friends.

“I think (the civil rights movement) is relevant to our lives because as a world, we need to stand together on the issues that try to divide us,” said 13-year-old Kyle Armstrong.

One student, 13-year-old Rishabh Raj, raised his hand. He sat just in front of classroom posters that described historical and literary examples of “tolerance” and “kindness.”

“It's toward any sort of race,” he said, making parallels between society in the 1960s and today, “Muslims, especially.”

Throughout this week, Smith has been teaching her sixth- and eighth-grade students about how King was the son of a pastor and

what his life was like growing up, drawing on that humanizing lesson by asking her students about influential figures in their lives.

“I think it's really important to learn about a variety of really strong leaders,” Smith said. “Unfortunately, sometimes kids only look to superstars as their heroes ... It's really amazing that when I go over his life, it's the first time some of them have had a lesson about his life.”

She also uses King's “I Have a Dream” speech as an example of persuasive writing, and students will later analyze speeches by Winston Churchill and then write their own persuasive speeches.

“I want them to see the power of words — since it's an English class,” she said.

Toward the end of the session, Smith looked at her students and implied a challenge.

See **KING** on Page 8

BART strike legislation

Baker's ban bill defeated; Glazer vows own proposal

BY JEREMY WALSH

Local Assemblywoman Catharine Baker's initial attempt to halt future BART strikes in their tracks failed last week when Assembly Democrats voted down the first-term Republican's proposed legislation in a party-line committee vote.

But a Democrat-led effort to prevent BART work stoppages may return to the state legislature soon, with the Tri-Valley's State Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) expected to introduce a strike-ban bill of his own.

Baker's Assembly Bill 528, introduced last February, aimed to prohibit BART employees from striking after their contract expires if the BART board maintained compensation and benefit provisions of the expired contract and if both sides agreed to a no-strike clause in that original contract. BART workers who took part in work stoppages would have faced dismissal.

The Assembly's Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security Committee completed its deliberations on Baker's proposal Jan. 6 and voted it down, 5-1-1, with all five committee Democrats opposing — one committee Republican in support and the other absent.

Baker (R-San Ramon) reflected on her bill's defeat later that day, lamenting the partisan decision and vowing to continue her push to prevent future BART work stoppages like the pair of four-day strikes in 2013 that wreaked havoc on Bay Area transportation.

“In June 2017, the current BART

See **BART** on Page 8

New principal prompts excitement, questions about leadership turnover

Walnut Grove parents meet school's interim leader at community forum

BY MEREDITH BAUER

Parents and guardians gathered into a Walnut Grove Elementary auditorium last week to hear about the school's future following an announcement earlier in the week that the school has another new principal.

About 40 people came to meet Chris Connor, the school's interim principal and previously a local vice principal, at a community forum on Jan. 7. Some attendees asked district leaders why the school has had three principals in about as many years.

Walnut Grove's most recent former principal, Jan Steed, left the school this week after she was promoted to assistant director of adult and career education, a new position created since the district's adult education classes will come back this year after being cut due to funding issues. Steed had been principal at Walnut Grove since May 2014.

Some parents appeared cautiously excited about Connor, who told the crowd he had spent his first few days visiting every classroom and trying to learn each of his students' names.

Interim superintendent Jim Hansen said he hopes Connor's

interim title will be temporary and that he will be the school's new permanent principal.

Connor, who has been an educator for 11 years in the U.S. and Scotland, previously worked as a vice principal at Mohr and Fairlands. He told the group of parents that he hopes to stay as the school's leader and has no ambitions of moving up to the district level.

"No offense, but that is not me," he said. "I'm committed to Walnut Grove with my heart and soul."

At the same time, some parents said they were uneasy about the leadership turnover at the school.

"As a parent, I want concrete direction," said Jen Fried, parent of a Walnut Grove third-grader.

Fried echoed several parents' concerns, stating the district as a whole has a perception of high principal turnover during the past few years.

At the start of the 2015-16 year, four new principals and one interim principal started at Pleasanton schools. In November, Pleasanton Middle School's principal Aileen Parsons was promoted to a district-level job, and Harvest Park's interim principal Jill Butler was chosen as her replacement. Harvest Park

now has two temporary principals.

Part of the turnover is the domino effect of promotions of principals to district-level jobs after some district leaders left to pursue other opportunities this summer.

Walnut Grove's turnover is unique in that it has also endured instability due to controversy. The principal before Steed, Jon Vranesh, was removed by the district from the school in 2013 after accusations of improper conduct — which led to a drawn-out administrative hearing that ended in the district's favor in August.

Hansen acknowledged parents' concerns about longevity in schools, saying it's his hope the newly selected principals will be long-term leaders.

He pointed to Donlon Elementary — a school that has had about five principals in five years — and its new principal, Sebastian Bull. Bull has children in the district, his wife is a Pleasanton public school teacher and he's stated he's committed to the school.

"(Donlon) is like Walnut Grove. They've been through a lot of principals," Hansen said. "He's there for the long haul."

"We want someone who's going



MEREDITH BAUER

Chris Connor started as Walnut Grove Elementary's interim principal last week.

to be here for the long run," Hansen said. "So we're going to test-drive Mr. Connor."

One parent said her third-grade son had been coming home every day talking about the new principal's Scottish accent and how Connor has promised to bring in a rugby ball so he can teach the kids how to play the sport.

Connor asked the parent whether a specific child was her son. He was right.

"I can't even believe you knew my child's name," the parent said. ■

PUSD

Continued from Page 5

district's overall budget, Ochoa said.

"Although we did have these findings, management and the audit committee really took them seriously," said Jamie Matthews, certified public accountant with Gilbert & Associates, "and were quick to provide responses on what they were going to do."

The district's audit committee, which consists of two board members and one community member, met with the firm three times over the process to make sure they understood all the finances and what needed to be done next.

The board also decided to increase the district's pay for short-term substitute teachers from \$110 a day to \$120 a day. The pay increase will be for substitutes who work 1-10 consecutive days, which took effect Wednesday.

The district also adjusted its official definitions of "equity and diversity," specifying that equity and equality are both essential for student success. The resolution states equity must be measured by access and outcomes, and recognizing equity is a matter of fairness.

The resolution lays out a few district goals for increasing equity, such as examining policies that lead to over-representation of students from some ethnic groups in special education and under-representation in gifted or honors courses. ■

Say Goodbye to Nerve Pain



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

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

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

Autonomic nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

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

Damage to motor nerves may produce the following symptoms:

- Weakness
- Muscle atrophy

- Twitching, also known as fasciculation
- Paralysis

Sensory nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

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

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

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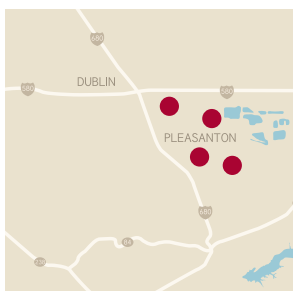


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Practices operated by University HealthCare Alliance.

eBay Foundation awards Hope Hospice \$10,000 for volunteer program

'Volunteers provide extra care to patients, families,' CEO says

By JEB BING

Hope Hospice has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the eBay Foundation Corporate Advised Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

The grant was recommended by eBay Foundation's employee-volunteer-led San Jose Bay Area Global Impact Team. These funds will be used to support Hope Hospice's volunteer program, which makes a substantial difference in the lives of patients and families, said Jill Biggs, a registered nurse and director of volunteers at Hope Hospice.

"Their compassion and commitment make it possible for us to provide a wide range of non-medical support," she added.

Biggs said that the volunteers'

work includes patient visits, companionship, art at the bedside, healing therapies, comfort through music, video biographies, handyman services, pet visits, haircuts and cosmetic services so patients can feel their best. They also provide caregiver relief and keep a vigil at the bedside.

"I have been a home visit volunteer with Hope Hospice for more than two years," said Scott Baldwin, a Hope Hospice volunteer and an eBay employee. "In that time, I have been assigned to more than 20 patients and have spent hundreds of hours building relationships with them as they approach life's end. I've come to love many of the people and care very much for all of them."

Hospice care focuses on keeping patients comfortable and able to enjoy what matters most to them once their doctor has determined that the underlying disease can no longer be treated or cured.

Bob Boehm, Hope Hospice CEO, agreed.

"Our volunteers provided extra care to our patients and families to help them spend their remaining days the way they want, at home, surrounded by loved ones and with self-respect and dignity," he said.

"This generous grant from eBay will certainly help support the wonderful work of our volunteers," he added.

Hope Hospice began as a grassroots effort of local volunteers who wanted to help families care for



COURTESY OF HOPE HOSPICE

Scott Baldwin (left), Hope Hospice volunteer and eBay employee, presents \$10,000 check from eBay to Jill Biggs, RN, Hope Hospice director of volunteers and Bob Boehm, Hope Hospice CEO.

their terminally-ill loved ones in the comfort of their home by providing emotional and medical support. It is celebrating 35 years of

caring as a community-led, non-profit organization. Learn more about Hope Hospice's volunteer program at HopeHospice.com. ■

Looking to volunteer? This fest is for you

Annual Make a Difference Festival features nonprofit groups

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

If you've always meant to do some volunteering, tomorrow's Make a Difference for Pleasanton Festival was designed for you.

More than two dozen nonprofit groups will set up booths in the community room of the library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to explore with interested adults, families and teenagers how they can offer their services to help others.

Some of the opportunities include helping prepare and serve meals to neighbors in need, tending public gardens and driving elderly neighbors to medical appointments. Others are comforting dogs and cats awaiting adoption, assisting someone in learning the English language or helping visitors learn about local history.

The event is produced by Make a Difference, Today & Always; the Pleasanton Public Library; the Community of Character Coalition and ACCUSPLIT Make A Differ-

ence Programs.

Visitors also will be encouraged to sign the 50/50 Pledge:

"I pledge to spend at least 50 hours in community service, and to spend 50 more hours with my family in the next year."

They can also sign the historic banner from the first local Make a Difference Festivals, which were sponsored in the 1990s by the Pleasanton Unified School District.

"We used to try to tie in with the national Make a Difference Day, which is held in October," recalled W. Ron Sutton, founder of Make a Difference, Today & Always. "But here in Pleasanton that date has long been reserved for the Foothill High School Band Review, so we changed to the date closest to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which has become a global service day."

"Also, we felt that people should make a commitment to community service on more than one day per year. That is why we came up with the 50/50 Pledge and the slogan, 'Get Connected, Stay Connected,'" Sutton added.

For more information or an updated list of participants, go to www.MakeADifferenceForPleasanton.org. ■

BART

Continued from Page 5

contract expires," said Baker, whose district includes Pleasanton. "We should never be subject to BART strikes again. My colleagues on the Assembly PERS Committee disagree and voted down AB 528 on a party-line vote."

"This is just the first step in the fight to protect us from BART strikes, and I will keep pursuing solutions that will prevent the entire Bay Area from coming to a grinding halt in the face of another strike," she added.

Committee chair Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) opposed Baker's bill in a vote of support for protecting workers' rights, according to Skyler Wonnacott, communication director for Assemblyman Cooper.

"BART is currently working with its various employee groups to repair and rebuild relationships so that work stoppages do not occur in the future," Cooper said in a statement last Friday. "Having the legislature intervene in that process now by eliminating a key right that workers have would not be helpful to that process."

Glazer is expected to revive the debate by introducing a bill to ban BART strikes "in the coming weeks," according to Steven Harmon, spokesman for Glazer's office. He declined to reveal additional details about what Glazer's proposal will look like.

BART work stoppages were key campaign issues for both of the Tri-Valley's state legislators. Baker vowed to prevent future BART strikes while running for the Assembly in 2014, and she followed up on her campaign promise by making AB 528 the first bill she introduced after her election.

Glazer also strongly opposed BART strikes when competing against Baker and two fellow Democrats in the 2014 Assembly race before finishing outside the top two in the June 2014 primary. He again took the same strong stance en route to winning the State Senate special election last May. ■



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **Public Hearing:** PUD-109, H. James Knuppe – Consider a certificate of appropriateness to demolish a 910 sq. ft. single-story commercial building, and introduction of an ordinance approving PUD Rezoning to rezone property located at 273 Spring Street from the C-C (Central Commercial), Downtown Revitalization, Core Area Overlay District to PUD-C-C (Planned Unit Development – Central Commercial), Downtown Revitalization, Core Area Overlay District, and to construct 4,074 sq. ft. two-story commercial/office building with an attached 1,225 sq. ft. second-floor apartment unit, and four 2,015 sq. ft. three-story multi-family residential units

- Update on drought and water conservation

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Presentation and Discussion regarding Zoning Code Update

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KING

Continued from Page 5

"I wish we would have some people who would step up" as leaders, she said.

Some students said they wanted to be that change one day.

"When I grow up, I want to make a difference," said 13-year-old Jonathan Nunez. "Martin Luther King Jr., I admire him very much, and I want to do what he did." ■

—Meredith Bauer

Save Pleasanton's Hillsides



Is this a Ridge?

Of course it is. But three of Pleasanton's Councilmembers say **NO**. They say **NO** because yes would hinder the development plans for Lund Ranch II. The Council specifically declared this wasn't a ridge even when the City's own definition said it was. This development should not have been approved and Measure PP is threatened by its approval. Please sign the referendum petition so you can tell the Council you still support Measure PP to protect Pleasanton's remaining hillsides and ridges.

**Sign a Petition so you the VOTERS can decide
if this is a good project for Pleasanton**



**Violating PP
Hillside Sprawl**

www.savepleasantonhillsides.com

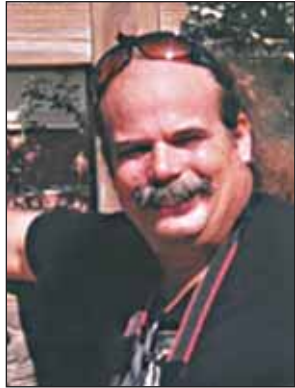
Community Pulse

Rick Taylor

January 30, 1952 - January 9, 2007

Hi Baby! I thought I would express my feelings in some lines from a Don Williams song - Some Broken Hearts never mend, some memories never end, some tears will never dry and my love for you will never die. I miss you so much.

Until we meet again, You will live in my heart, Love your wife Mary



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6 to 11 p.m.

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Ticket Price: \$135

For tickets and more information go to:

www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org

Visit

Lasting Memories

An online directory of obituaries and remembrances. Search obituaries, submit a memorial, share a photo.

Go to: PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries

POLICE BULLETIN

Jury acquits Livermore soccer coach in child molestation case

A Livermore youth soccer coach was found not guilty last week after being accused of molesting a 10-year-old girl at a summer soccer camp.

A 12-person Alameda County jury acquitted Jesse Schlicker, 28, on Jan. 7 following a four-day trial in Hayward. Schlicker was arrested while coaching a Livermore soccer camp in 2014 on suspicion of committing a lewd act on a child under 14 years old.

Schlicker's attorney, Patrick Clancy of the Walnut Creek-based Innocence Legal Team, said Livermore police failed to conduct a full investigation after the accusation. Clancy argued the officer assigned to the case didn't interview the other children and an adult who may have witnessed the reported incident at the Cabernet Indoor Sports camp.

"This was an extreme injustice to have this case be charged," Clancy said. "The investigation was nonexistent."

Teresa Drenick, spokeswoman for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, said California law states the testimony of a single witness, if believed, is enough to convict a sexual assaulter.

"Cases involving child victims of sexual assault are among the most difficult cases to prosecute because often times, there is no corroboration to the victim's account of the crime. By their very nature, these crimes are often committed when no eyewitnesses are present," she said. "The victim in this case is an incredibly brave young girl who did everything she should have in this situation."

Clancy said scores of people from Livermore's soccer community attended the trial as witnesses to state Schlicker was not the type of person who could hurt a child.

The jury deliberated for about an hour and a half before reaching its not guilty verdict, Clancy said.

In other police news:

- Police arrested three 13-year-old Pleasanton boys Saturday

after they allegedly entered a Pleasanton home to retrieve one boy's electronic charger.

The boys got into a home in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue at about 1:10 p.m. through a rear sliding glass door, according to police. The homeowner, whom the boys didn't think was home at the time, heard a noise in the living room and then saw the 13-year-olds.

When police arrived after a call from the homeowner, the boys told officers they "knew it was wrong" to enter the home, according to a police report.

The boys said they were searching for a speaker charger that belonged to one of the three boys, and the trio knew the homeowner's son, according to police. The police report did not state why the charger was in the Valley Avenue home.

The homeowner told police she felt the boys' intention was to steal money from her son's room.

The back sliding glass door had pry marks by the handle, but it was unclear whether they had been caused the day of the incident or previously, according to police. The boys told police the door had been unlocked, and the homeowner gave a statement that it was not.

The boys were arrested via a notice to appear, meaning they were cited but released to their parents instead of being taken to jail. Police did not release the names of the 13-year-olds because they are underage.

• Pleasanton homeowners returned to town last week to find their house had been burglarized while they were away for two weeks.

A home in the 5900 block of Corte Venado was broken into through a rear sliding glass door, and about \$21,000 in jewelry was reported stolen, police stated.

The burglary occurred some time between Dec. 19 and just after midnight on Jan. 3, when the residents returned, according to police.

While the damage to the door was estimated as \$760, the culprit or culprits took at least 10 pieces of jewelry, some valued at \$5,000 each. A silver necklace, a pair of gold earrings, four gold rings and gold chains were among the items listed as stolen. ■

—Meredith Bauer

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 9

Residential burglary

- 1:14 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue
- 9:48 p.m. in the 800 block of Division Street

Domestic battery

- 4:23 a.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

Jan. 8

Theft

- 8:57 a.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto
- 10:17 a.m. in the 5500 block of Baldwin Way
- 1:39 p.m., 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall; theft from auto
- 3:46 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- 4:48 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Residential burglary

- 8:17 a.m. in the 6500 block of Calle De La Mancha

Jan. 7

Theft

- 1:39 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
- 4:18 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall; shoplifting
- 7:43 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall; shoplifting

Fraud

- 9:22 p.m. in the 5100 block of Case Avenue

Residential burglary

- 3:06 p.m. in the 3400 block of Gulfstream Street
- 7:45 p.m. in the 7900 block of Cherrywood Court
- 7:53 p.m. in the 5100 block of Golden Road
- 8:52 p.m. in the 7400 block of Pecan Court

Robbery

- 7:15 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

Jan. 6

Theft

- 7:21 a.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive
- 9:27 a.m. in the 1500 block of Fairview Court
- 1:33 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 5:20 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall; auto theft

Fraud

- 11 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- 4:47 p.m. in the 3900 block of Bernal Avenue

Commercial burglary

- 4:21 a.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Jan. 5

Fraud

- 5:19 p.m. in the 6700 block of Taffy Court

Residential burglary

- 6:01 p.m. in the 5300 block of Springdale Avenue

Theft

- 6:07 a.m., 5300 block of Owens Court; auto theft
- 6:32 a.m. in the 2500 block of Via Espada
- 8:27 a.m., 3600 block of Andrews Drive; bike theft
- 3:37 p.m., 4100 block of Hopyard Road; auto theft
- 4:37 p.m., 3200 block of Pueblo Way; theft from auto
- 5:14 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall

Jan. 4

Theft

- 12:18 p.m., Stoneridge Mall; theft from auto
- 3:18 p.m., 7000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto
- 7:38 p.m. in the 1300 block of Safreno Way

Residential burglary

- 6:16 p.m. in the 4000 block of Payne Road

Missing person report

- 5:29 p.m. on Alexander Way

Fraud

- 5:08 p.m. in the 700 block of Pietronave Lane

Commercial burglary

- 6:26 p.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane

Jan. 3

Fraud

- 12:14 p.m. in the 3600 block of Terrazzo Court

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

12 nonprofits to benefit from 2015 Holiday Fund

Today marks the close of the Pleasanton Weekly's 2015 Holiday Fund, and it's also a time to say thank you to the 296 contributors whose donations totaled \$65,431. Your contributions will be split among 12 beneficiaries with checks to be presented on Feb. 18 at a luncheon meeting hosted by the Rotary Club of Pleasanton.

Again in this campaign, the Weekly partnered with the Sil-

icon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), which handled all finances related to the Holiday Fund. This allowed donors to take advantage of a tax deduction for the dollars they contributed through the foundation's 501(c)(3) status to the fullest extent of the law. Also again, the Pleasanton Weekly and SVCF handled all costs of the campaign, so every dollar will go directly to the 12 nonprofits with no

administrative expenses.

Your contributions to the Holiday Fund will be distributed to the nonprofit organizations in two tiers, with 65% of all dollars raised going to Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, Valley Humane Society and Stanford Health/ValleyCare Health System.

The other 35% of the contributions will go to Agape

Villages Foster Family Agency, Hope Hospice, the Museum on Main, Resources Education Activities Community and Housing for special-needs adults (REACH), Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley and Sunflower Hill.

Again, thanks for donating to the 2015 Holiday Fund. Through your help, these organizations will be better able to meet the needs of our community in this new year of public service. ■

Letters: Residents weigh in on Lund Ranch

Accept Lund Ranch decision for all Pleasantonians

Dear Editor,

Paid signature gatherers are soliciting Pleasanton residents right now in various locations around the city in an effort to gain signatures for an unnecessary referendum regarding a recent decision by City Council.

Sponsors of this signature-gathering petition, while claiming to be protecting Measure PP (saving hillsides), are really trying to keep Lund Ranch II exiting traffic out of their subdivision. Bridle Creek and Sycamore Heights have known about this exit plan since purchasing their homes, yet are taking a "Not in My Backyard" approach to try to overturn the public process and buy their way out of the planned exit route of traffic from the Lund Ranch II development.

Instead the residents of Bridal Creek and Sycamore Heights would rather push all exiting traffic through already traffic-burdened neighborhoods of Ventana Hills and Mission Park, specifically Junipero Street. A large park in Mission Hills already has children at risk today from existing traffic; any further traffic will only further endanger the children that play at this park.

A referendum on this topic will cost Pleasanton residents up to \$350,000 and is an unnecessary taxpayer expense when the City Council has already done their job and made a sound decision. Please be aware of all the facts before signing any petitions to have a referendum go to the voters. Our City Council has done their job and their decision should stand.

—Vicki LaBarge
Mission Park

PP is threatened

Dear Editor,

After campaign promises were made to follow Measure PP, the council majority ignored their own definition of a ridge and voted to remove a ridgeline protection because it was inconvenient for the Lund Ranch II project.

The council also approved a road and significant grading in an area they had earlier established as "open

space." Council ignored the definition of a structure in the city municipal code, instead making up a new definition of a road as "infrastructure." How can such steps give residents confidence of hillside protection in the future?

Although I applaud the Pleasanton Weekly for finally acknowledging PP as a positive step, I wish I could share the Weekly's optimism that our hillsides and ridges are now safe from development. The approving council members stated each hillside project in the future would face different interpretations of PP.

Developers create development plans, EIRs and public hearings without knowing what the PP rules are until the final hearing by the City Council. Pleasanton residents must come argue on every project to have their PP upheld. Haven't we learned anything from the five-year turmoil that was Lund Ranch II?

Because of these actions, a group of citizens across Pleasanton have joined to put the project approval on the ballot so everybody can vote and reaffirm we want our hillsides and ridges protected. Our effort is not to force traffic on a different neighborhood, it is about protecting Pleasanton's natural hillside beauty for all. Please sign so you can decide.

—Allen Roberts

No referendum needed

Dear Editor,

After over 20 years of planning for a large development of homes, and more recently a thorough review and approval by Pleasanton's planning staff, Planning Commission and City Council, a much smaller plan of only 43 homes has been approved on Lund Ranch II (PUD-25), land zoned for housing in our General Plan. This small development is located in southeast Pleasanton in the valley, well below visible ridgelines for Pleasanton's residents due to Measure PP.

This is a perfect example of long-term planning, Pleasanton ridgeline protection, careful traffic routing and compromise. Only 31 homes, far less than the 125 originally planned, will gain access through Sycamore

Heights/Bridle Creek neighborhoods (via Sunset Creek Lane), and because of compromise by Ventana Hills and Mission Park residents, 27 homes that were originally planned to go through Sycamore Heights/Bridle Creek will exit via Ventana Hills/Mission Park neighborhoods (via Lund Ranch Road).

Let's not waste up to \$350,000 of our money on a referendum that's not needed. For more information, visit www.ProtectPleasantonNeighborhoods.com.

—Amy Lofland
Ventana Hills

Accept Lund Ranch decision for all Pleasantonians

Dear Editor,

The City Council's Jan. 5 approval of a massively scaled down, 43-home project built on flat land in southeastern Pleasanton is fair. Opponents want to reject it via referendum because they object to where some of the roadway access to the project will be — a 50-yard, inconspicuous extension of a dead-end road to access some of the homes.

The City Council struck a compromise to honor obligations made by previous city administrations to Ventana Hills and Mission Hills residents, and longstanding plans (in writing) for the entire project to be accessed via Sycamore Heights and Bridle Creek neighborhoods. Residents of those latter two neighborhoods want all of you to accept their own personal interpretations of Measure PP.

Their referendum is not about honoring Measure PP (saving hillsides), it's about benefiting their own "Not In My Backyard" self-interests by routing all traffic through the former neighborhoods, currently suffering from cut-through traffic, which will increase once a 350-apartment plus retail complex at Stanley and Bernal is completed.

It will cost all Pleasanton taxpayers up to \$350,000 to put their referendum on the June ballot. Should all Pleasanton residents be footing that bill to benefit a select group of residents' NIMBY self-interests?

All of us should accept the com-

promise, which guarantees 177 acres of protected hillsides and ridges and adds to our property tax base. The compromise benefits all Pleasanton residents and is why I'm not signing their referendum. I strongly urge you not to, either.

—Mark Priscaro
Ventana Hills

Truth about referendum

Dear Editor,

Residents of Pleasanton are being asked to stop Lund Ranch development by signing a referendum at grocery stores and schools. I'm not signing for the following reasons:

1. A small group of residents are paying \$30,000-\$50,000 to an outside firm to collect the signatures. They do not have enough Pleasanton residents that are against the project to collect signatures.
2. This group is telling people that Measure PP is being violated when it is not.
3. It is going to cost the Pleasanton taxpayers up to \$350,000 to put this on the ballot if they collect the required signatures.
4. The road connection from Lund Ranch to Sunset Creek has been planned since 1991.

Let common sense prevail.

—Kay Ayala
City Council member, 1996-2004

Good gov't deserves praise

Dear Editor,

The Lund II development approved during the Jan. 5 Pleasanton City Council meeting has been a long and complex decision process that impacted multiple neighborhoods, included a prominent builder, required the careful consideration of longstanding agreements and the application of a sensitive and valued city initiative.

The Pleasanton City Council carefully considered each of these important factors and delivered a decision that represents a sound compromise that protects our city and provides 177 acres of open space for all of our citizens to enjoy.

Local government often is accused of getting it wrong; this time the mayor and the Pleasanton City Council got it right. Pleasanton was well served — no referendum needed.

—Bill Spain

Outlook 2016

Good times are back for Pleasanton

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JEB BING

With the city's tax receipts projected to be at a record high this year and millions of dollars in new residential and commercial projects underway or planned, good times are back in 2016 for what should be a banner year for Pleasanton.

City revenues have soared past \$106 million and are projected to increase by \$6.1 million, or 6%, in the current fiscal year that ends June 30, and by another \$3.5 million, or 3%, in fiscal 2016-17. These revenues are primarily derived from property, sales and hotel taxes and business license fees, accounting for 83% of total municipal revenues.

Just 15 days into the new year, Pleasanton is looking for a year with a number of commercial, retail and residential developments totaling in the millions of dollars that will also produce more millions in terms of property and sales taxes coming back to the city.

The brisk pace at the start of the new year marks what could be one of the biggest building booms in recent years.

The projects represent multi-million-dollar developments from the city's far east end on El Charro Road to next to the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, where software company Workday plans to build its new headquarters building on Stoneridge Mall Road.

Workday

Workday has all the approvals it needs to start construction at anytime this year on the city's newest and largest office building. Located between I-580 and Stoneridge Mall Road, the five-story glass and steel building will serve as the global software company's headquarters. It will be next to five other multi-story buildings Workday owns in the adjacent office center across from Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Along with the new office building, Workday also will build a five-story parking garage with two levels below ground and three stories on top. The Pleasanton Police Department will open its first substation at Workday, moving into a new station building before Workday starts construction.

Also, as part of the project, are plans for "gateway" paths from the BART station to Workday, the parking garage and to the mall.

CarMax/Stoneridge Chrysler-Jeep

Just east on I-580 in Staples Ranch, work is underway on a CarMax superstore, which will open this spring. CarMax is the country's largest retailer of used cars.

Its architecturally unique building is next to another new business in Pleasanton, Stoneridge Chrysler-Jeep, a dealership that moved here from Dublin late last year. These two car sales companies will bring lucrative sales taxes to Pleasanton starting this year.

Pacific Pearl

Just across Stoneridge Drive, signs mark the location of Pacific Pearl, an Asian-focused community shopping center. Construction will start shortly on this 120,000-square-foot center on 11.5 acres on the southwest corner of El Charro Road and Stoneridge.

The center will be anchored by Marina Food grocery store and will include a variety of 20-30 restaurants, retail and service businesses. Developers plan to open the center in 2017.

Housing/apartment developments

Last week, the City Council approved a 43-home development on Lund Ranch in southeast Pleasanton. That's likely to be the last major housing development in the



MIKE SEDLAK/MIKE@DIGITALSIGHT.COM

Stoneridge Shopping Center, at center of aerial photo, is a major contributor to Pleasanton's growing property and sales tax base in 2016.

near future, certainly in 2016.

Still, new apartment houses that were approved to satisfy state and court orders two years ago are under construction in several parts of the city and will be home to more than 8,000 new residents starting this year.

One of these, a 16-acre, high-density complex of multi-story buildings, is under construction at Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard across from McDonald's. Called Vintage Village, the development by Carmel Partners will offer 345 upscale one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments in a number of all-rental buildings with a 39,000-square-foot retail center at the corner when completed later this year.

Also under construction is a multimillion-dollar development by Essex Properties across from the East Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. This project includes two sites with three- and four-story buildings, one consisting of eight apartment buildings with 250 units on Owens Drive across from the station, and the second at Gibraltar and Hacienda drives, also with eight buildings with 247 units. As part of the development, Owens

Drive will be narrowed this year from three lanes to two to allow for diagonal parking in front of the buildings.

Also expected to start this year is development of part of the turf area of California Center, now renamed Rosewood Commons. This project will include five residential buildings facing the streets and three- and four-story buildings in the back. A retail center is planned for the corner of Rosewood and Owens drives.

Construction of another apartment complex on West Las Positas Boulevard across from Hart Middle School with 177 units and buildings as high as four stories is just starting after the demolition a few weeks ago of a vacant, one-story office building on the site.

Work should be wrapping up this year on another residential project, called Township Square. Located next to Safeway and Gateway Center on Valley Avenue, the development includes 62 three-story townhomes, 35 more traditional two-story homes and 210 apartment units in buildings that will back onto I-680.

Bernal Community Park

The \$16.5 million Bernal Community Park will open in September. This new phase of development of the 318-acre tract of city-owned land that was given to the city of Pleasanton in 2000 by Greenbriar Homes will include 48 acres of oak woodland called a "Grand Meadow" and another 10 acres that will include three lighted multipurpose, all-weather synthetic sports fields, group picnic areas, a children's play area and drinking fountains.

Already, motorists on both Bernal and Valley avenues can see green native grasses, tall field lights and a split-rail fence that replaced the chain-link fencing around the area.

Representatives of Pleasanton's major youth sports organizations have pledged \$2 million as their contribution toward the project, the funding to be raised through fundraisers that will be underway all year.

Johnson Drive

Likely to be the most controversial project in 2016 is the planned creation of the city's first econom-



Construction work continues on CarMax superstore in Staples Ranch off I-580 near El Charro interchange. CarMax, the country's largest retailer of used cars, will open locally this spring.



Sign marks 11.5 acres at southwest corner of El Charro Road and Stoneridge Drive, just south of San Francisco Premium Outlets, where Pacific Pearl will start construction this year on a 120,000-square-foot Asian-focused shopping center.



Stoneridge Chrysler-Jeep, a dealership that moved here from Dublin late last year, is now open. Along with nearby CarMax superstore now under construction off I-580 at El Charro interchange, dealers will bring lucrative vehicle sales taxes to Pleasanton starting this year.

ic development zone on Johnson Drive. The 40-acre site is partly owned by Nearon Enterprises, which bought the property after Clorox moved its research center to a new corporate campus nearby. The research center was torn down, and the property — the oldest industrial-zoned acreage in Pleasanton — is now mostly empty.

Costco has signed a letter of intent to acquire the site if the economic rezoning is approved. The City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on the rezoning plan in March. A definitive environmental impact report (EIR) is scheduled to be completed in July.

Other than a Costco membership store, at least two hotels could be built on the site, which extends from near Stoneridge Drive on the south to Black Tie Transportation on the north.

Downtown Pleasanton

Downtown Pleasanton will also see new businesses, including Inklings, a combined coffee shop and meeting room gathering place and a new two-story restaurant at 725 Main St., where the Union Jack Pub was torn down in 2007.

Kottinger Gardens

In March, Kottinger Place will be torn down and its senior resi-



These purple pipes on vacant land off I-680 are awaiting installation under Pleasanton streets to carry more than 10 miles of recycled water to Hacienda Business Park, Ken Mercer Sports Park and the Tennis and Community Park starting this summer.

dents moved to temporary housing while the first phase of a new 185-unit, affordable-priced housing development for seniors gets underway. Once completed in 2018, work will begin on replacing the nearby and aging Pleasanton Gardens.

Civic center/library

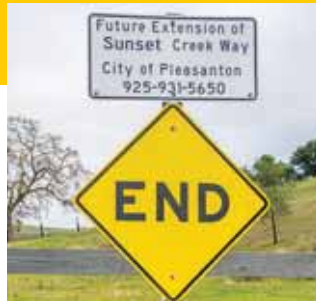
Also scheduled for 2016 is the completion of a task force study on where, when and if to build a new civic center and public library. It's expected that the City Council will take advantage of Pleasanton's new prosperity to replace the current City Hall, which is now the oldest in Alameda County. ■



Another section of improvements at Pleasanton's Bernal Community Park will open in September. This \$16.5 million project will include 48 acres of oak woodland and another 10 acres of lighted multipurpose all-weather synthetic sports fields.

WE'RE NOT SIGNING

A Referendum To Overturn The Approved Lund Ranch II Plan, Costing Taxpayers Of Pleasanton Up To \$247,000



Posted at the end of Sunset Creek Lane



Hydrant connection already in place since 2003 — 210' from Sunset Creek Lane

HERE IS THE TRUTH:

- ❖ The plan approved by City Council for Lund Ranch II DOES NOT VIOLATE MEASURE PP.
- ❖ A referendum of the Lund Ranch II plan in Southeast Pleasanton does not stop development on the land. It throws out THIS sensible plan, opening the door for a new plan with potentially more homes.
- ❖ Measure PP protected the ridge lines, eliminating 100 homes from Lund Ranch II. None of the 43 homes are on hillsides or ridges - development is in a valley.
- ❖ As posted at the end of Sunset Creek Lane, the road connection to Lund Ranch II has been planned since 1991
- ❖ Sycamore Heights and Bridle Creek residents signed documents permitting the road connection to Lund Ranch II.
- ❖ This Lund Ranch II plan gives our community 177 acres of permanent pristine open space and hiking trails.
- ❖ An outside company is being paid \$30,000 to \$50,000 to collect signatures.

WE WON'T BE SIGNING THIS PETITION AND URGE YOU NOT TO.

For more information please visit www.ProtectPleasantonNeighborhoods.com

Paid for by Pleasanton Residents who support Protecting Pleasanton Neighborhoods.



ROBERT SHOLTY/DC SCARPELLI

Left: Sergeant (Joshua Gonzales) encounters three of the major general's daughters, Kate (Morgan Breedveld), Edith (Rebecca Davis) and Isabel (Kirsten Bradford).
Below: Major General Stanley (Scott Kenison) and his gaggle of lovely daughters: (l-r) Rebecca Davis, Aimee Roylance, Kirsten Bradford, Ally Murphy, Gwennivere Cristobal, Kjerstin Krohn, Leslie Lawrence, Brianna Wallace and Morgan Breedveld.

Theater magic

'The Pirates of Penzance' is on course for opening night

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Director Misty Megia knew "The Pirates of Penzance" would be a winning show when Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre held tryouts a few months ago.

"So many amazing people auditioned," Megia said. "We have the best of the best. Then the first day of rehearsal, the pirates came dressed as pirates! They have been phenomenal."

The comic opera was written by Gilbert and Sullivan in the 1800s; an updated version by Joseph Papp premiered in Central Park in 1980, leading to a smash-hit Broadway run. The story follows a band of sentimental pirates as they encounter an eccentric Major General (father to a bevy of beautiful daughters) and deal with dim-witted young lovers and bumbling policemen.

"It's a timeless piece," Megia said. "We are using the Joseph Papp version, but we are keeping the historical pieces in it — and having fun."

Megia, a Pleasanton resident, has a degree in directing from Cal State East Bay, although she started out as a dancer and performer, when she was only 5.

"I was a really shy girl — I used to hide behind my dad all the time — but they put me in theater and dance, and I found the voice I didn't know I had," she said.

Before college she did some directing, and she remembers that she always followed script guidelines. The instructors at Cal State East Bay approached things differently.

"They took everything I knew and threw it out the door," Megia said with a laugh. "At the time they had this guy who was all about the metaphor, asking what you wanted an audience to learn. It was such a different way of directing. It was so enlightening."

Come aboard for some fun

What: "The Pirates of Penzance"
Who: Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
When: Jan. 16-31; 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays with an additional Saturday matinee Jan. 30
Where: Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore
Tickets: \$29-\$43. Visit the theater box office, call 373-6800, or go to www.trivalleyrep.org.

Megia received rave reviews in 2012 for the "Cinderella" she directed for San Leandro Curtain Call Performing Arts in steampunk version, which she called "a mixture of Victorian era meets sci-fi."

"The Pirates of Penzance" tells the story of Frederic (Nikita Burshsteyn), who was mistakenly apprenticed as a child of 8 to a pirate instead of a pilot. He is fond of the pirates but chooses, now that he is 21, to abandon the profession and "lead a blameless life henceforth," dedicating himself instead to getting rid of them.

Then he encounters the Major General (Scott Kenison) and his daughters, one of whom, Mabel (Aimee Roylance), steals his heart. "Pirates" is famous for the tongue-twisting lyrics of the Major General's Song. The Pirate King is played by Peter Budinger; the Sergeant by Joshua Gonzales.

The group has a run-in with the pirates before escaping on the false premise that the Major General is an orphan, a fact that touches these tenderhearted pirates because most of them are orphans themselves and "know what it's like."

Just as Frederic is ready to lead the police to confront the brigands, a secret is uncovered about him that appears to change everything — but of course it all comes out right in the end.

"The fact that the story is based in music is such a fun challenge," Megia said. "There are some pieces that are so lyrically beautiful that we have the cast just stop because we don't want anything to compete with it."

Megia said one challenge for live productions is the fact audiences are accustomed to films, with cameras zooming in on the action.

"When you have all this organized chaos on stage, you have to be selective about what moments you stop the action because you don't have cameras to focus the audience," she said. "But this group is so talented and so sharing — they understand the story and what needs to be communicated."

"They have a big heart for this show and want to make sure they're treating it well," she added. "It's a singers' show. Because the vocals are so difficult, you end up with people who are highly trained."



ROBERT SHOLTY/DC SCARPELLI

"The Pirates of Penzance" opens tomorrow night at the Bankhead Theater to run for three weekends, with producer Kathleen Breedveld, choreographer Christina Lazo and musical director Greg Zema.

"You rehearse, you rehearse, you rehearse with just the people. Then you start incorporating the props — we have swords so incorporating those have been fun," Megia explained. "Then you add in the music, the live orchestration, so that always pumps up the cast. Then you get into the theater, you get the sets, the costumes. Everything inches along."

She noted that in community theater, everyone has day jobs. She herself works in sales and marketing in the technology industry and was just named one of the top 25 women in accounting for the training she does.

"After you work for eight, 10, 12 hours, sometimes you think, 'Oh, my gosh, I'm too tired,'" she said. "Then there's all the music and the singing and the fun that happens at rehearsal — it's called 'theater magic.'"

Megia said although she knows they will be ready for opening night, she is always nervous.

"I sit in the audience," she said. "I sit there, the lights go down, and I hope the audience loves it as much as I do."

"I do it for them to have that little bit of escape from life, to have fun, enjoy it, take a breath and stop for a moment," she added. ■

Why I Am Not Signing the Referendum on Lund Ranch

Dear Pleasanton Voter,

I was one of the authors of Measure PP. We wrote PP to make sure housing developments would have to follow rules that keep houses off of ridges and preserve our scenic views. The people of Pleasanton agreed and Measure PP became law.

I would be the first person to speak out against any project that violates Measure PP. That's why I have followed the process for Lund Ranch closely and attended every public hearing.

The Lund Ranch project is exactly what we hoped to achieve when we wrote PP. It fully complies with Measure PP — and shows that PP works. There are **no houses on ridges**. There are no houses on hillsides. Our scenic views are protected.

Our General Plan allows up to 143 homes on Lund Ranch's 195 acres. By applying the PP rules, we cut Lund Ranch down to just 43 homes, preserving 89.5% of the land for permanent open space and two miles of publicly accessible trails.

I will not sign the referendum to block the PP-compliant Lund Ranch project.



Kay Ayala

Save Pleasanton Hills

One of three original signers of Measure PP

Former Pleasanton City Councilmember

For more information, please visit LundRanchPleasanton.com

Paid for by GHC Lund Ranch LLC

2015 Holiday Fund

Thank you for your generosity

We have now reached the conclusion of the 2015 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. Over the course of the campaign, 296 donors have contributed \$65,431 to the fund. This list includes donations received and reported on or before Jan. 8, 2015.

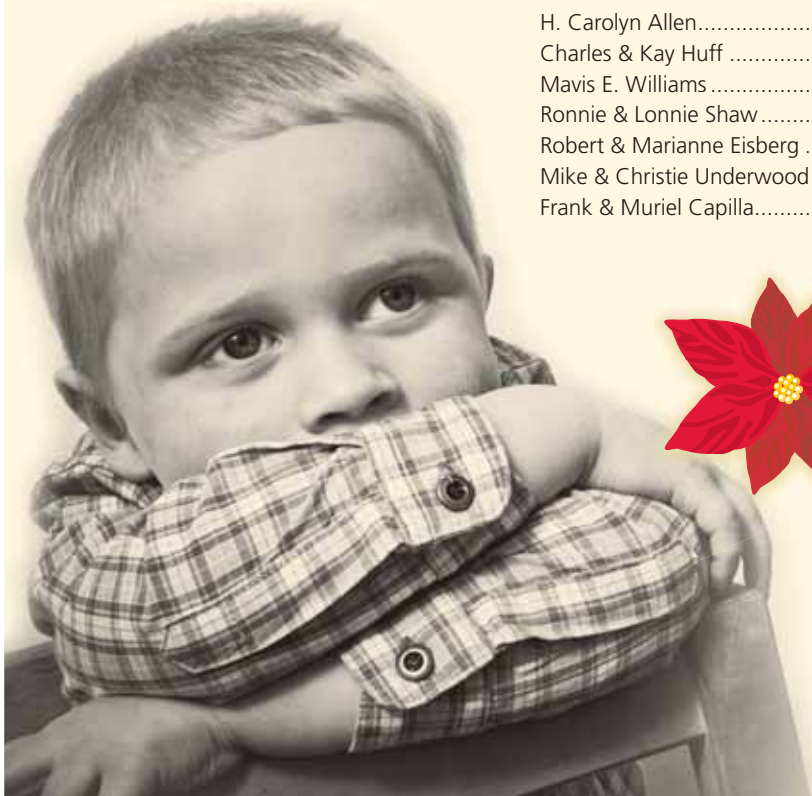
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Agape Villages Foster Family Agency locates stable homes and a loving environment for abused and neglected children throughout 14 counties in Northern California.

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.



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Sports



BY DENNIS MILLER

PLEASANTON PREPS

Dons wrestling rolls over Monte Vista

Foothill girls split pair of soccer games to keep season on course

The Amador Valley boys wrestling team started its East Bay Athletic League season off with a bang, rolling over Monte Vista 60-12 last week.

Tyler Self had a pin at 113 pounds, as did Gabe Alviar at 138, when he pinned his opponent in just one minute, 24 seconds.

Jacob Lum scored a technical fall in his match at 160 pounds, Thom-

as Pak had a convincing 13-4 win, James O'Brien got a pin in 3:30 at 220 pounds, and Jake Perlman scored a 7-5 win at 182 pounds.

Foothill had some strong performances, but still dropped a tough 46-28 match to an always strong Livermore team on the same night, Jan. 6.

The highlights for Foothill included a pin by Alex Nielsen, just a freshman, in 3:51 of his match. At 145 pounds, Cameron Ghodoucy produced a convincing 9-0 win against his opponent.

Luke Hazen scored the other win on the mat for the Falcons, pinning his opponent in 2:49. Dustin Dukleth received a forfeit win for the Falcons at 195 pounds, as did Justin Phillips at 120 pounds.

Then last Saturday, the Falcons

TAKE US ALONG



Cheering at Cal: The Amador Valley cheer coaches brought the Pleasanton Weekly to UC Berkeley for UCA Camp. Shown: Samantha Franco, junior varsity coach for the sideline spirit squad; Linda Montoya, varsity coach; Danielle Butler, competition team coach; and Cortney Merrigan, freshman coach.

sent a team to the Mat Classic at Granada. Ghodoucy placed second, with Phillips finishing third.

Boys basketball

Last week, the Foothill boys team opened the EBAL season with a pair of defense-inspired wins.

The first game of the week was a 53-28 win over Livermore on Jan. 5. The Falcons used an up-tempo, harassing defense to keep the Cowboys off balance.

Senior Seth Cobb led the Foothill offense with 16 points. Sophomore Sam Novitske had nine points, with Garrett Wrenn and William Lewis adding eight each.

The second game of the week last Friday saw the Falcons hold California scoreless in the first quarter on the way to a 49-28 win.

Junior Rod Allen had 11 points to lead Foothill to the win, with Cobb and Wrenn chipping in 10 points each. Shaun Kienhofer and Michael Smith played hounding defense throughout the game.

Girls soccer

Foothill split a pair of games the week of Jan. 4 to keep the Falcons' solid season on course.

On Jan. 5, the Falcons won their

sixth straight game, thumping California 3-0.

The match was a tale of Foothill starting slowly each half, feeling the pressure of the Cal attack. But as each half went on, the Falcons controlled the flow of the game and were able to capitalize.

Tami Kwong scored an unassisted goal in the 25th minute of the match to make the halftime score 1-0. After another slow start to the second half, Julia Densmore finished off a feed from Kwong to net the Falcons' second goal in the 62nd minute. Kwong finished the scoring on another unassisted goal in the 89th minute.

With four players missing due to state team commitments, the Falcons' winning streak came to an end Jan. 7 when they dropped a hard-fought 2-1 game to Carondelet, the top ranked team in the state.

Foothill fell behind 2-0, but cut the deficit in half when Kwong scored her third goal of the week. But despite pressuring the Carondelet defense throughout the rest of the game, the Falcons were unable to draw even. ■

Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact Miller or submit local high school sports scores and game highlights, email acesmag@aol.com.

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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.

THE SPECIAL CONSENSUS:

BLUEGRASS WITH ATTITUDE 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.

Events

SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOLS Todd Gary, parent of a special needs child and special education advocate, will provide tips on how to achieve a successful partnership in special education through collaboration 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/JanSNC>. For questions or to request an ASL interpreter, contact snc@pleasantonpta.org. Please send interpreter requests by Jan. 20.

Film

'TOY STORY 3' Enjoy a free showing of "Toy Story 3" at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3500 Hopyard Road. With coffee and hot chocolate. Please bring a donation of non-perishable food for local food pantries. Call 462-4802 or go to stclarespleasanton.org.

THE LOTTERY OF BIRTH Episode One of the "Creating Freedom" series explores the meaning of freedom in our daily lives. How free are we really? How does our environment, family, religion, and media affect freedom? A potluck will begin at 6:30 p.m., the film will follow at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23 at IBEW Hall, 6250

Village Parkway, Dublin. Free, \$3 donation appreciated. Contact 462-3459 or flickknight@gmail.com.

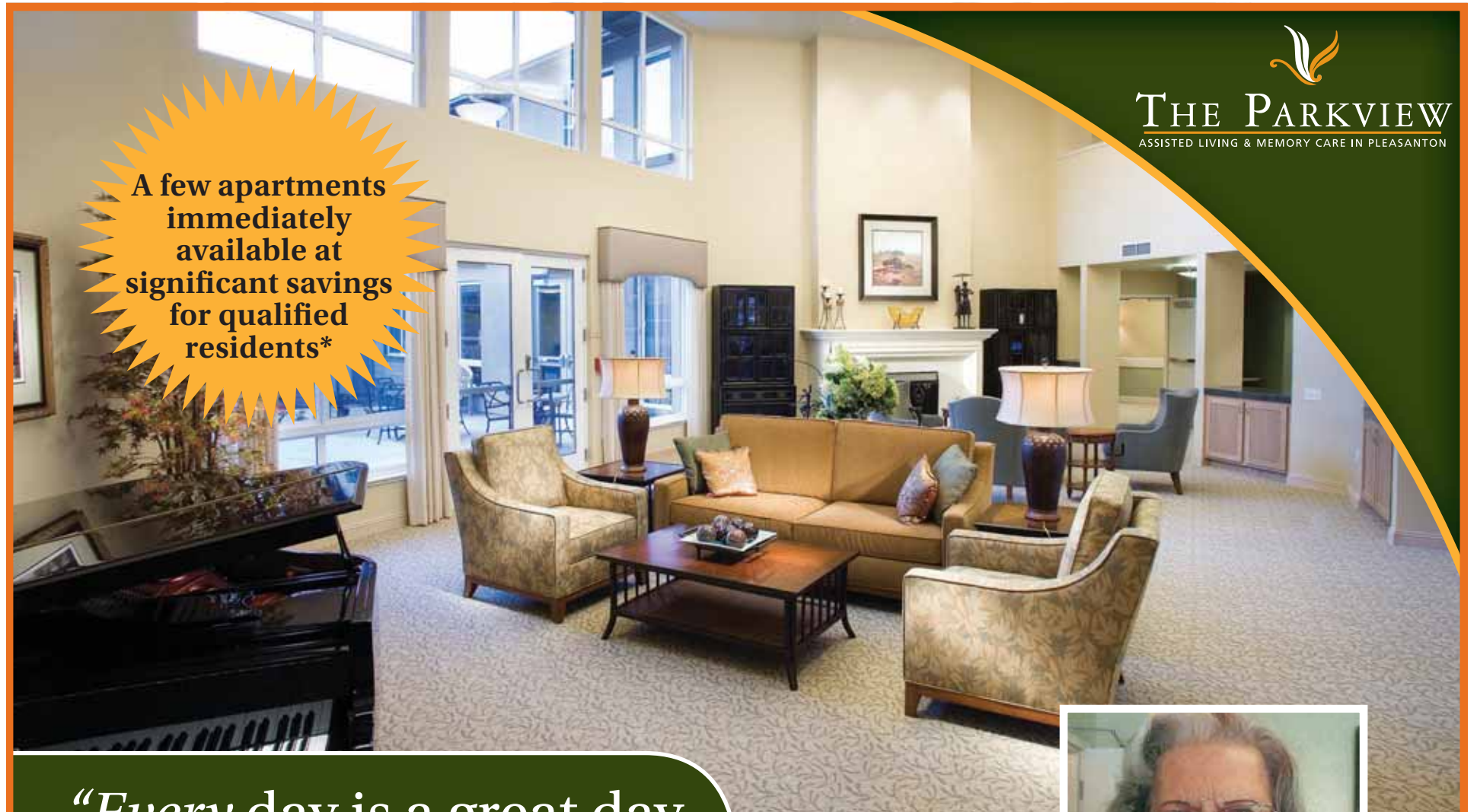
Fundraisers

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 sup-

ported 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.

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.



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"Every day is a great day at The Parkview."

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* Below Market Rate Program, sponsored by the City of Pleasanton and Bridge Housing. Residents must meet program qualifications. Please inquire for more details.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

Pregnant? Considering adoption? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (CalSCAN)

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

Medical Office Assistant Medical billing skills in demand! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Online training can get you job ready! HS Diploma/GED and PC/Internet needed! 1-888-424-9412. (Cal-SCAN)

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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

235 Wanted to Buy

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Jobs

500 Help Wanted

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751 General Contracting

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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!

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809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

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PET OF THE WEEK

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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)

Most Americans want to own a home, study shows

But uncertain economic future, stagnated wages keep renters from buying

By **JEB BING**

Although only half of surveyed households believe the economy is currently improving, nearly all young renters eventually want to buy a home and a convincing majority still view home ownership as part of their "American dream."

This was the finding in a new national consumer survey by the National Association of Realtors.

Additionally, the study of the financial outlook of households found that compared to earlier this year, an increasing number believe their personal financial situation will improve in the months ahead.

NAR's survey, entitled "Housing Opportunities and Market Experience (HOME)," tracks real estate trends, including the views and aspirations of current renters and homeowners regarding home ownership, whether it's a good time to buy or sell a home and their expectations and experiences in the mortgage market.

The survey data reveal that an overwhelming majority of current renters who are 34 years of age or younger want to own a home in the future (94%). Overall, 83% of polled renters have a desire to own, and 77% believe home ownership is part of their "American dream."

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said

the survey's findings debunk the notion that young adults aren't interested in buying a home.

"Despite entering the workforce during or immediately after the worst of the financial and housing crisis, the desire to become a homeowner appears to be a personal goal for a convincing majority of young renters," he said. "Furthermore, there appears to be a sizable, pent-up demand for buying that currently remains untapped because of a variety of economic and personal reasons impacting many households."

The top two reasons given by renters for not currently owning was the inability to afford to buy (53%) and needing the flexibility of renting rather than owning (19%). When asked what would likely be the main reason for buying in the future, renters cited lifestyle considerations such as getting married, starting a family or retiring (33%) and an improvement in their financial situation (26%).

"A combination of factors such as rising rents and home prices, limited supply, repaying student debt, and getting married and having children later in life has more to do with the currently under-performing share of first-time buyers than the idea that buying a home is not as desirable as it used to be," Yun added.

Households lukewarm about the future of

the U.S. economy topped the list of concerns. Among all households (renters and homeowners) in the survey, the results highlight a split between those who agree the U.S. economy is on the right track and those who disagree. Only half of respondents believe the economy is currently improving, and 44% think the economy is actually in a recession.

Renters were only slightly more optimistic about current economic conditions, with 57% believing the economy is improving. Regardless of their confidence in the U.S. economy today, 76% of those who don't think the economy is improving still want to eventually buy a home.

"The promising stretch of job creation in several parts of the country in recent years has the housing market in 2016 on track for its best year of sales since the downturn," Yun said. "However, that only half of surveyed households believe the economy is improving can be attributed to the fact that some areas have been slow to recover and wages have yet to grow in a meaningful way for far too many families."

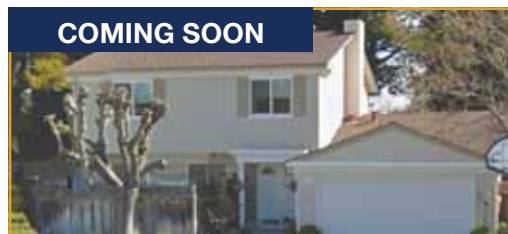
Despite uncertainty about the economy's current performance, at least 84% of all households within all surveyed age groups and education levels believe owning a home is a good financial decision. When asked if they believe this strongly or moderately, 76% who believe

it's a good decision feel strongly about it.

Additionally, at least 85% of surveyed households in each age category as well as across all education levels believe home ownership is part of their personal American Dream. The most appealing aspects of home ownership cited by those with this feeling include a place to raise a family (36%), owning their own place (26%) and a nest egg for retirement (14%).

NAR's survey found that more homeowners (82%) than renters (68%) during the polling period believe that it's a good time to buy a home. Furthermore, of those who thought it was a good time to buy, 64% felt strongly about buying. Among current owners, 61% believe it is a good time to sell a home, of which 53% felt strongly that it was a good time to sell.

According to the survey, roughly two-thirds (65%) think it would be very or somewhat difficult to obtain a mortgage. Furthermore, there are differences among income brackets. Renter households making between \$30,000 and \$40,000 were the most likely to be declined a mortgage (10%), while 51% of those who make more than \$50,000 a year have not tried but feel confident they would succeed in getting a mortgage. Overall, 5% of renters have recently tried and failed to obtain financing for a home. ■



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SOLD

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Pleasanton Market Update - Quiet December

2015 closed out pretty much as expected, with falling inventory and sales. Both behaved pretty normally through the year, rising into the summer and then declining through the winter. The median sales price ended the year right where it has been all year. For nine of the past twelve months, the median sales price was between \$920,000 and \$950,000. The price per square foot flirted with \$500 in September (\$\$99) before falling back some since then.

Inventory fell for the fourth straight month, with homes priced under \$1 million being in shortest supply – and highest demand.

Pending sales continued on the downward path they have been on since May and posted the lowest number of the year with only 27 sales going to contract in December. That was still three more sales than a year ago. Inventory fell 13 units to end December with 36 homes available for sale. AS with sales, there was more inventory at the end of the year than there was at the end of 2014. A 1.3 month supply relative to pending sales on the market at the end of December, ...
Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.



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Pleasanton

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4 BEDROOMS

3848 West Las Positas Blvd. **\$925,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Tom Fox 872-1275

3035 East Ruby Hill Drive **\$2,195,000**
Sun 1-4 Fran Cunningham 202-6298

6 BEDROOMS

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

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COMING SOON

3,500 SF, Custom Home in Ruby Hill, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, pool
4,500 SF, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, pool in one of South Livermore's favorite neighborhoods

WANTED

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The Armario Venema Homes Team

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