

UNSEEN STRUGGLES

SACRIFICING FOR SUCCESS:

The price some parents pay to keep their kids in Pleasanton schools

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Ever feel not wanted in downtown Pleasanton?



Sometimes it's hard to build a few retail stores and apartments in downtown Pleasanton, even on a narrow, unpaved and empty lot a few feet from Main Street that has a history of failed businesses. Still, James Knuppe and his partner, Galen Grant of FCGA Architects, keep trying. They've spent tens of thousands of dollars already to sell their project to city planners and, over the past month, to the City Council with little success.

Last Tuesday, council members turned the project away (not down) for another look. Council members said they liked the architecture (see photo), "though the building's colors need to be subdued."

The 4,000-square-foot building will blend in nicely with nearby Main Street buildings, "although it needs to be set back farther from Spring Street." The mixed use of having apartments and small retail shops in one building is in step with proposed downtown guidelines of more mixed-use developments, "but people who live there will park in the store spaces." Each apartment will have its own two-car garage and driveway, "but that won't be enough places." Bamboo will be planted at the rear of the property to screen the building from the neighbors. ("Really, do you want bamboo? It's a fast-growing weed.")

Even the Pleasanton Downtown Association opposes Knuppe's plan, with executive director Laura Olson saying the PDA doesn't want more downtown dwellers "because they complain about noise from nearby nightlife."

The 0.39-acre property is unusual, consisting of a narrow street front and extending back to the rear fence of a house on Ray Street. A two-story commercial/office building would face Spring Street with a second-floor apartment. Three-story, multi-family residential units would be built along a 20-foot-wide driveway stretching to the north.

Parking is also an obstacle for the developer, even though his plan includes two-car garages and driveways for each of the four apartments. Again, those who objected to the

plan Tuesday night said that won't be enough. Tenants will use their garages for storage and workbenches and park in the driveways, meaning guests or the drivers of third and fourth cars will park on Spring Street and Main Street, adding to already filled and too few on-street parking spaces.

The development will be short seven required parking spaces, meaning that Knuppe will have to pay \$19,117 per space into the city's in-lieu parking fund. That fund, which has been charged for years to downtown businesses that lack their own parking, has been used to acquire the once-county-owned railroad corridor between Main and First streets and to pave other available properties.

Knuppe submitted his application to build on the Spring Street property in May 2014. He and architect Grant held a number of meetings with the city's planning staff related to land-use compatibility, aesthetics, architectural styling and consistency with the Downtown Specific Plan. Thinking the two parties had ironed out all of their differences, Knuppe, with the planners' agreement, submitted his formal development Planned Unit Development Rezoning and Development Plan, a multi-page detailed document with architectural drawings and land-use information.

An informal work session was held Aug. 26, where planning commissioners added more comments and suggestions for changes. At the request of planners, Knuppe hired a firm to install story poles on the site for a better look at the placement and height of the buildings. A full public hearing was held Dec. 9 with the commission voting 3-2 to approve the project.

The proposal moved to the City Council Jan. 19, but the hearing was postponed to last Tuesday after a majority of council members expressed reservations about the project. Last Tuesday, still not supportive, Knuppe's bid was postponed for a later council hearing, when he can go through all of it again.

For now, downtown shoppers and store employees can keep parking on Knuppe's dirt lot for free. ■

About the Cover

Gabina Sanchez, 33, holds a letter written to her by her son, which reads in part, "I like you because you take care of me but I know you work a lot." Sanchez cobbles together several part-time jobs in order to afford her Pleasanton apartment so she can keep her son in the Pleasanton Unified School District. Editor's note: The boy's photo has been blurred to shield his identity. Photo by Meredith Bauer. Cover design by Kristin Brown.

Vol. XVII, Number 2

Got Listings?

I Have **6** New Listings Coming This Month!

Ponderosa Neighborhood

5 Bed, 3 Bath, 2,813 Sq Ft
Updated on Large Lot

Price: Coming Soon

Valencia Neighborhood

4 Bed, 3 Bath, 1,926 Sq Ft
Walk to BART

Price: Coming Soon

Vintage Hills

4 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,245 Sq Ft
Corner Lot with Pool

Price: Coming Soon

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Car rides? I love them. Let's go. Walks? We'll work out together, just you and me. You have little humans around? I've lived with them before. I hate being away from you - so it'd be better if you're home a lot. I also would prefer not to have other pets around - I want you all to myself.

I'm Eddie. I'm an 9 y/o Jack Russell terrier mix with a playful disposition and perfect bathroom habits.

Let's talk. Contact my agent, Sheila at 774-219-4763 or daripino@maddiesfund.org



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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What is the last book you read, and would you recommend it to others?



Antoinette Spadaforo
Caregiver

Ugh. I just finished one of those self-help books on child-rearing and appropriate forms of discipline at children's different ages and stages. I don't even want to mention the name of it because I would totally and absolutely not recommend it to anyone else. Nothing, not one thing this books suggests, worked even the tiniest bit.



Jon Toney *Tennis coach*

I most recently read "The Eloquent President," which is about how President Lincoln's speeches evolved over time into very articulate, powerful messages. His final speech advocated people having an attitude of "malice toward none, and charity for all." It was such a great book that I feel it should be compulsory reading for everyone.



Larry Messer
Builder

I read the Bible and I recommend it to everyone. It teaches so many eternal life lessons. The one that resonated with me the most is that we should all work every day as though we are working for the Lord as opposed to working for ourselves.



Michael Bedard *Financial controller*

I'm still in the middle of it, but it's a great book and I'd totally recommend it. It is "The Girl in the Spider's Web." The author of this book has taken over for the recently deceased author of "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" series of books. He is remaining very true to the original author's style of writing as well as the characters he developed. It is a pretty seamless transition.



Cathy Pantaleo
Marketing consultant

I just finished the fourth book in the "Outlander" series of novels. It's called "Drums of Autumn," and it was so compelling and engaging that I could barely put it down. I would highly recommend it to anyone looking for a really good read.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jenny Lyness

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DIGEST

Summer exchange

The Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association is recruiting students and families interested in taking part in the organization's annual summer exchange program with students from Mexico.

An informational presentation for students and parents is scheduled for Feb. 16 at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Office, 777 Peters Ave.

To participate, students must live in Pleasanton (or the greater Tri-Valley), be in high school with two years of Spanish language courses or equivalent experience and must have a desire to immerse themselves in a new culture, association officials said. Families must also be willing to host a visiting Mexican student.

For more info, call student exchange director Margo Tarver at 846-8456 or visit www.ptsca.org.

Dublin superintendent resigning

The Dublin Unified School District will be searching for a new superintendent this spring after superintendent Stephen Hanke announced his retirement late last month.

Hanke, who has been Dublin superintendent for 10 years, will step down June 30.

"This decision is a difficult one for me to make and has been on my mind for a time. After much discussion with my family, we have decided the time is right to take this step," Hanke said in a release.

The district has grown significantly in size and achievement since Hanke started as school leader, and the city of Dublin is currently one of the fastest-growing cities in the state. The Dublin school board was scheduled to decide Thursday whether the district would hire a search firm or use in-house services.

Navigating chemo

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation is hosting a free community event tomorrow in downtown Pleasanton titled, "What to Expect During Chemo and Radiation and How to Handle the Side Effects."

The nonprofit organization's event will run from 10 a.m. to noon, with check-in at 9:45 a.m., at Alain Pinel Realtors, 900 Main St., Suite 101.

The event will include presentations from registered nurse Kay Alison Ruocco and chief radiation therapist Bryanna Ballard — both of Epic Care, a private oncology practice.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required by visiting tinyurl.com/chemoradiation. For more details, visit the foundation website at www.Healing-TherapiesFoundation.org. ■

Lund Ranch referendum petitions due at 5 p.m. tonight

Opponents complain to City Council about signature gatherers' tactics

By JEB BING

Opponents of placing a measure on the June ballot to overturn the City Council's approval of a 43-home development in Pleasanton's southeast hills complained vigorously Tuesday night about what they called strong-arm tactics by those seeking signatures to hold the referendum.

"What have we created here?" asked former Councilwoman Kay Ayala after 14 speakers addressed the City Council meeting.

Proponents of the referendum have until 5 p.m. tonight to gain

signatures from 10% of the city's registered voters — 4,124 people — and turn the petitions into city clerk Karen Diaz.

At Tuesday's council meeting, residents complained that they had been verbally accosted by signature gatherers at street corners, outside supermarkets and even on the Hearst Elementary School campus.

Particularly troubling, speakers said, were the paid workers who sought their signatures on the proposed referendum that would stop the plans by Greenbriar Homes to build the houses on Lund Ranch,

a 194-acre site it owns. As part of the agreement, Greenbriar would donate 177 of those acres to the city as open space, which would be kept free of any future development in perpetuity with hiking trails to be added.

One couple told the council that they were disappointed with the referendum leaders for using paid workers from outside Pleasanton to collect the needed signatures.

"It's a black eye for our city," they said.

Another woman, who lives on Junipero Street where traffic would

increase with the development, said she was afraid to allow her children to go to Raley's supermarket on Sunol Boulevard or even to walk to Hearst Elementary, which they attend, because of the overly aggressive signature solicitors.

"My father, a Vietnam veteran, was yelled at by one of these outsiders," she said. "My kids can't go to the park or library when they are around."

Another woman said she was subjected to verbal abuse.

"I am angry and I want to know

See **REFERENDUM** on Page 6



MEREDITH BAUER

From the heart

Kelly Thielen, an eighth-grader at Hart Middle School, works diligently on a card to send to a soldier serving overseas, as part of a service project in her school's art class.

Hart art teacher Jane Maker said her students make between 500 and 600 cards per year, which each have a heartfelt message on one side and a drawing on the other, to send to servicemen and servicewomen in Afghanistan and Iraq. Members of various military branches have written back to the class, saying the cards help boost morale, according to Maker.

School board discusses superintendent survey results

Search firm hears from 253 people during community outreach

By MEREDITH BAUER

In a brief public meeting Tuesday night, the Pleasanton school board heard an update on responses to a public survey about qualities the community would like to see in the district's next superintendent.

A survey was sent out to various stakeholders on the matter, five public forums were held and members of the search firm McPherson & Jacobson met with community groups to get varying opinions. All told, the search firm received 253 responses, which

search firm member Don Helms said was larger than he usually receives.

During a roughly 45-minute public session Tuesday, search firm representatives Don and Molly Helms went over the responses, which the board members will consider when narrowing down candidates. No action was taken on the matter, and board members went into closed session after the responses were read to discuss contracting matters.

The district is searching for a new permanent superintendent to

take the reins this summer. Former Amador Valley High principal Jim Hansen is serving as interim superintendent this year in the wake of former superintendent Parvin Ahmadi resigning last spring to move to the Castro Valley district.

In general, the survey responses were unsurprising, according to the consultants and some board members. The survey found the school district has strong ties to Pleas-

ton. The express lanes will span 14 miles in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore.

They would be free to access for carpools, vanpools, public transit, motorcycles and eligible clean-air vehicles while other solo drivers could pay a toll to use the lanes from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The lanes would be open free-of-charge all other times.

"Express lanes increase the efficiency of our transportation system for commuters, transit and freight by taking advantage of existing infrastructure," Lengyel said.

All express lane drivers must have their FasTrak Flex toll tag mounted and visible on the windshields of driver's cars.

See **PUSD** on Page 9

See **EXPRESS LANE** on Page 9

Local CPA chief installed as chairman of Pleasanton Chamber

Chamber honors board members, business leaders at Ruby Hill club luncheon

By JEB BING

Matt DePretis, a Pleasanton business consultant and tax adviser, has been installed as this year's chairman of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.

In a ceremony held during a sold-out luncheon at Ruby Hill Golf Club, DePretis was sworn into his new position by Mayor Jerry Thorne.

DePretis has served on the chamber board of directors for the past five years and has been active on the chamber's Economic Development and Government Affairs committees and its political action arm, known as BACPAC.

He succeeds James Paxson, general manager of Hacienda, who continues to serve on the chamber's board.

DePretis has over 25 years of

experience providing business consulting and tax advisory services to high net worth individuals and privately held companies in a variety of industries, leading a team of certified public accountants at DePretis CPAs in Bernal Corporate Park.

Also honored at the luncheon were Dave Stark, public affairs director at Bay East Association of Realtors, and Pam Hardy, senior manager of Land Planning at Ponderosa Homes. They stepped down after 13 years of combined service on the chamber's board.

"They're stepping down, but thankfully not stepping away," DePretis said. "Both will remain active on committees representing the interests of business to government and advancing policies in

Pleasanton 2020."

New to the chamber board in 2016 are Sara LeBrun-Scott from the Marriott Pleasanton Hotel, Randy Brown, PMZ Real Estate and Herb Ritter, Ritter Investments.

Returning directors include Danielle Fratellone of Fratellone Family Chiropractic; Janice Phalen, Diablo Meridian Realty; Ed Westmoreland, Eddie Papa's American Hangout; Brian Gentry, Fremont Bank; Scott Gregerson, Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare; Todd Moberg, Insignia Designs; Mike Peel, Venture Sotheby's International Realty; Harold Roundtree, UNCLE Credit Union and Heather Stanek, ClubSport Pleasanton.

"This is the one time during the year we turn our attention inward and say thank you to the count-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mayor Jerry Thorne installs Pleasanton business consultant and tax adviser Matt DePretis as this year's chairman of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.

less individuals and businesses who bring their time, talent and resources to the table year in and year out for the greater good of our community," chamber CEO Scott Raty said.

Awards were also given to cham-

ber volunteers.

Ken Norvell of CMIT Solutions, was named Ambassador of the Year for the second year in a row. He serves on the chamber's Ambassador Committee, which is the public relations arm of the organization.

The Carol Bush Award for outstanding volunteer of the year went to Fratellone for her leadership of the Pleasanton Young Professionals over the last two years. She was one of the founding members of the group, served as its chairwoman for its first two years and helped build its membership to 60 individuals.

Paxson presented the Chairman's Award to Moberg of Insignia Designs for his work on the chamber's Ambassador Committee, which included boosting the chamber's membership.

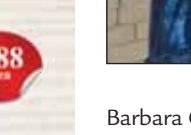
The chamber's foundation chairman Jim DeMersman, executive director of the Museum on Main, presented the Jenny Doehle Leadership Pleasanton award to Donna Colteaux. The annual award honors a Leadership Pleasanton graduate who exemplifies the program's goals for community engagement. ■



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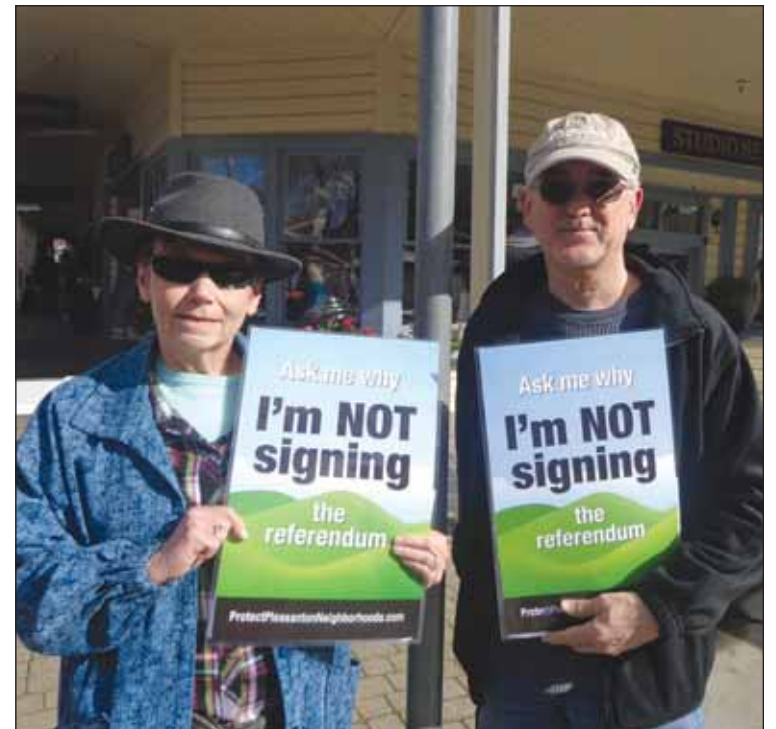
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JEB BING

Barbara Guensche and Richard Bolf, neighbors on Junipero Street, stand together at Farmers Market to urge voters not to sign a Lund Ranch referendum petition

REFERENDUM

Continued from Page 5

who hired these people and what the name of the company is that supplies these kinds of workers," she said.

Referendum backer Allen Roberts told the council that while some of the signature gatherers were being paid, another 50 of them were Pleasanton volunteers.

But when Councilman Arne Olson asked him to identify the firm that is supplying the paid workers, Roberts said he knows the company but declined to disclose that information.

At 5 p.m. tonight, Roberts and others leading the referendum effort must turn their petitions into Diaz. She will make a prima facie (first look) review of the petitions and, if they have the needed num-

ber of signatures, will then forward them to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters, whose office will check each signature against voter registration records and also look for duplicates.

The registrar's office must complete its review within 60 days.

It's that office's final number that will determine if at least 10% of the city's registered voters signed the petitions to call for a referendum.

If they did, Diaz will send that verification to the City Council which could repeal the ordinance it approved Jan. 5 authorizing Greenbriar Homes to move forward on its proposed Lund Ranch development.

Or, more likely, the council within 88 days must call for a special election to ask voters to decide how to proceed. That election would likely be held during the June 7 primary at an estimated cost to city taxpayers of \$250,000. ■

Rainbow over Main Street makes for spectacular photo

Del Prado couple find Pleasanton 'such a picturesque community'

By JEB BING

As Pleasanton merchants and restaurant owners say, it pays to come downtown frequently.

Mark Frazee and his wife Nancy walk Main Street and adjoining side streets five to six evenings every week, both to walk their dog Annie and to seize photo opportunities for their enjoyment.

They were on Main Street last Sunday at 4:45 p.m. after a quick and sudden hail storm came when Mark said they spotted "an amazing full rainbow."

"It was such a vibrant one, with a very dim double rainbow above it as well, that people were getting out of cars and stepping out of shops and restaurants to see it," he said.

Mark, a senior paralegal with IBM Corp., whose hobby is amateur photography, pointed his cam-

era to the north for a spectacular shot at the rainbow.

Although Mark owns a top-quality, highly sophisticated camera, this was a spur of the moment occasion.

"I only had my LG3 smartphone with me to use as a camera," he said. "In order to capture the full arch of the rainbow, I took three side-by-side shots and stitched them together in Photoshop."

The Frazees have lived in the Del Prado neighborhood since 2011, moving here from Danville.

"We always loved Pleasanton and found ourselves spending our free time here, so we decided to move here when we downsized," Mark said.

Always looking for photo opportunities, he said that's easy here because "Pleasanton is such a picturesque community." ■



MARK FRAZE

Pleasanton resident Mark Frazee captured this photograph of a rainbow over Main Street while on a walk downtown with his wife last weekend.

Registration opens for the 2016 Pleasanton Run for Education

Thousands expected to walk/run in April 17 event at Fairgrounds

Registration for the 2016 Pleasanton Run for Education is now open.

The annual event will be held April 17, with runners having a choice of 5K, 10K or 15K distances. For the younger runners, there are two Kids' Challenge courses: 1/2K and 1K.

Runners who register for the event before March 14 will receive a 20% discount off their entry. Runners can register online at www.ppierun.org.

[ppierun.org](http://www.ppierun.org).

In its fourth year, the Pleasanton Run continues to be a popular race and fundraising event with 75% of participants coming from the students, families and teachers in the Pleasanton Unified School District.

Last year's event had more than 2,500 runners and raised more than \$97,000 for Pleasanton schools and students. ■

—Jeb Bing

New Livermore Lab lecture series to focus on women in science

Program starts tomorrow at Bankhead Theater

By JEB BING

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's popular lecture presentations return tomorrow with the focus on women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The free program will offer four lectures on the theme, with identical presentations at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Saturday through Feb. 27 in the Bankhead Theater, located at 2400 First St. in Livermore.

Each lecture will highlight cutting-edge science presented by leading lab researchers who are joined by high school science teachers.

Kicking off the series on Saturday will be "Behold Livermorium: A Quest for New Elements," by lab scientist Dawn Shaughnessy

and teacher Katherine Huang of Dougherty Valley High School.

They will discuss how scientists create new elements, and how their nuclear and chemical properties compare to their naturally-occurring counterparts.

They will also discuss the journey from element discovery to element naming, culminating with the official naming of element 116 as Livermorium in honor of the scientists and research that has been done at the Livermore lab since its discovery.

Other lectures that follow are:

- Feb. 13: "iCHIP: Human Physiology in the Palm of Your Hand," by lab scientists Elizabeth Wheeler and Monica Moya and teacher Erin



FOOTHILL DECA/TYLER WONG

Edward Im and Raymond Peng display awards won by Foothill's DECA program in the Northern California Career Development Conference in San Ramon earlier this month. Among other awards, Im took first in the advertisement campaign category, and Peng won in the marketing management series category.

Foothill DECA takes top honors in managerial competition

Students take home 121 awards in three-day conference

By MEREDITH BAUER

Foothill's entrepreneur program, DECA, won high honors at a recent San Ramon career skills competition.

Foothill students secured six first-place awards, four second-place awards and seven third-place awards in the Northern California Career Development Conference in San Ramon from Jan. 15-17.

Overall, the team brought home 121 awards in the competition that tested students' skills

in marketing, advertising, sales and hospitality management, among other categories.

"My favorite part of this conference was feeling the electricity of our team spirit fill the room, as our students cheered on one another with undeniable Falcon pride," Foothill DECA adviser Tami Raaker said.

The team competed against about 1,600 high school students in 40 categories, and the competitions included a combination of presentations, written projects

and a comprehensive industry exam.

Foothill's first-place winners were Tanvi Antoo, Sofia Moskalenko, Edward Im, Ananth Kumar, Rithvik Sunku, Mihir Weling, Ardin Lo, Raymond Peng and Praveen Ravisankar.

Lo, the DECA president, said he "loved being able to compete and truly apply all of our classroom learning to real-world situations."

DECA is now preparing for the State Career Development Conference in San Diego in March. ■

See **LECTURE** on Page 9

PUSD opens donation closet, new media center at Village High

BY MEREDITH BAUER

As the ribbon was cut on Pleasanton Unified School District's new donation closet last week, Debra Miller cheered.

The donation closet was more than a place for low-income residents to get free clothes, although that is a huge aspect. It's also a place where special-needs students like Miller's son can get ready for retail jobs one day.

"It gives our kids a purpose, and everyone needs a purpose," Miller said.

The district officially opened its donation closet for low-income residents and Village High's first media center at a joint celebration Jan. 28.

The move means Village High will have a library and a dedicated area for its students to do online

research. In addition, Village High will be the host space for the new donation closet, which will be open to Pleasanton Unified families and others in the community who need access to donated clothes.

The Hangar, the name of the new donation closet, will be staffed by Pleasanton Unified special-education students, who will learn job skills such as how to stock a room, fold clothes and shop for others.

Students started handing out clothes in December after a soft opening, and so far 239 bags of clothes have been given away, district spokesman Patrick Gannon said.

"I know that he feels really good about being able to help and to have the training," Miller said of her son, Ajay. "At the same time,



MEREDITH BAUER

Koji Tamasu, parent of a Village High student, peruses the books at the school's new media center. The media center, which opened last week, includes a library and computer stations for online research.

they're helping needy families."

Special education director Marla Silversmith said allowing special-needs students to run the room will improve their self-confidence and give them marketable skills that they can use after graduation.

The closet will be open to "anyone who has a need" and will be filled with clothing, shoes and other items for adults and children, she said.

"We have everything from baby

clothes to suits to rain coats," she added.

The opening of Village High's media center means students will have access to a library and Chromebooks for online research, principal Dana Chavez said.

Up until now, students at Pleasanton's alternative school had to use Pleasanton's public library when they needed to check out books for research.

"We're one of the few sites that

doesn't have any sort of library or media center, so the district felt in terms of equity, we have that resource," she said. "It's important for our students to have an experience here that mirrors what they were getting at Amador or Foothill as much as possible."

The media center is in its first phase, which means it's being set up in a former classroom, and administrators hope they'll be able to expand it as funding allows. ■

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A smart, reliable choice

Local Girl Scout troop collects coats for homeless

Fairlands Elementary scouts raised more than 500 winter coats

Fifth-grade Pleasanton Girl Scout Troop 31497 organized a coat drive for homeless individuals in Oakland over the holiday season.

The girls worked with One Warm Coat, a national coat drive charity, to get their project off the ground. The troop presented their community service idea to students at Fairlands Elementary, distributed more than 900 fliers and made posters to inform the community about their project.

More than 500 coats were donated by the public for this community service project, which the troop delivered to the East Oakland Community Center. The center provides resources to homeless people of all ages.

Parent volunteer Kelly Enright said the troop wanted to connect with the people they were helping by delivering the coats themselves.

"The biggest impact was felt by the girls when the coats were delivered in person to the shelter in Oakland. There were several homeless people at the facility who were grateful and overwhelmed with the donation," she said. "The girls had a very different mental image of what a homeless person looks like and didn't realize how far-reaching the homeless problem is."

She said one of the greatest impacts was when the troop met a young single mother with two



COURTESY OF TROOP 31497

Fifth-grade Pleasanton Girl Scout Troop 31497 raised more than 500 winter coats last month to donate to homeless people in Oakland.

children at the shelter. Enright said the girls left with the realization that "not all communities are like Pleasanton."

Enright said the young scouts were glad they were able to make someone's winter a little easier.

"Hand-delivering the coats to the homeless in Oakland was quite an eye-opening experience for them. They were not used to seeing bars

on the windows, security doors and people from all walks of life," Enright said. "The staff made everyone feel comfortable by asking about sports and laughing with our troop. Think the whole experience gave the children a new perspective."

Her daughter, Sophia, said she felt "glad to help people that may be cold over the winter." ■

—Meredith Bauer

New TV30 series features Tri-Valley advantages

Marshall Kamena hosts Visit Tri-Valley's Barbara Steinfeld

By JEB BING

"About the Tri-Valley," TV 30's new series on people, events and organizations in the region, is now airing on Comcast TV Channel 30 and AT&T U-verse via Channel 99.

The programs highlight the valley and feature Marshall Kamena, president of the TV30 Foundation, as host interviewing Barbara Steinfeld, president of Visit Tri-Valley, a destination marketing organization serving Danville, Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton.

"So much is happening here locally it seems a likely time to expand community television's production scope," Kamena said. "The program will embrace many interesting themes and time periods about all things Tri-Valley."

These will include topics related to history, science, vintners, the arts, children, entrepreneurship, recreation and quality of life.

"Our first new show of 2016

features two natural partners," he added. "About the Tri-Valley is one and Visit Tri-Valley is the other."

Visit Tri-Valley is the new name of the Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, serving the four cities and headed by Steinfeld, who joined the local organization in 2013 after serving for 16 years with Travel Portland, where she was vice president of Tourism-Sales. Prior to joining the Portland tourism organization, Steinfeld worked as the international tourism manager at the Tampa Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau for eight years.

"The Tri-Valley may be known for its world-famous wines, but these days vino isn't the only beverage drawing crowds here," Steinfeld said. "The 'Tri-Valley Beer Trail' is a growing collection of 16 craft breweries, taprooms and restaurants from Danville to Livermore."

The current marketing efforts of Visit Tri-Valley are focusing on pro-

moting shopping and dining, visiting the quaint downtowns, hiking and biking, attending weekend sporting competitions, promoting the wine country and the beer trail.

In the first episode of "About Tri-Valley," it is pointed out that for Joyce Scardina Becker, nothing compares to weddings.

"Here in the Tri-Valley, there's no shortage of those, thanks to a booming local wedding scene," Kamena said.

Becker is the author of "Count-down to Your Perfect Wedding," and the TV30 program talks about how the Tri-Valley offers a lovely wine country experience without the high price tag or restrictions of California's other wine country areas.

"It's also a more economical alternative for guests traveling to a wedding, since hotel room rates are typically much lower here," Steinfeld added. ■

PUSD

Continued from Page 5

anton's community, and any new leader will take on the empowering and the challenging aspects that come with that responsibility.

However, Don Helms said he was surprised how emphatic responders were about diversity issues in the city. He said most of the district's minority population is the Asian community, and members of that community want a leader who will recognize and respect their needs, too.

Molly Helms said other community members also wanted to make sure high-achieving students got the extra boost they needed, and others emphasized making sure low-income students weren't left behind the pack.

The district survey was broken into four parts: the strengths of the city, the strengths of the district, the challenges the next superintendent should be aware of and qualities the community wants to see in the next school district leader.

In general, members of the public said Pleasanton's strengths are

that it is a great place for families, it is safe, it has a highly educated population and it is a well-maintained municipality, among other qualities.

When asked about the district's strengths, stakeholders said it has strong parent involvement, it has high-quality teachers, it has strong instructional coaching and it has many programs committed to diversity, among other qualities.

Some of the challenges mentioned were the ongoing debate about the district's instructional calendar, administrative turnover, the district's consideration of a bond measure and challenges with Common Core transition.

Community members said they want a superintendent who is transparent, a strong leader, an ambassador for the school district and highly present in the community, among other traits.

Don Helms said stakeholders said they want a leader who is "out there and talking and listening to everyone."

In other business Tuesday, the school board appointed Josh Butterfield as an interim vice principal at Foothill High and Beth Patock as a part-time interim vice principal at Mohr Elementary. ■

Local water board members confirm re-election bids

Three Zone 7 board seats are up for grabs in June

While many voters will be focusing on the presidential primaries in June, a local race is also set to take place during late-spring elections.

Three Zone 7 Water Agency board positions are up for re-election on June 7, the same date as Democratic and Republican primary elections in California.

Board members Sandy Figuers, Angela Ramirez-Holmes and Dick Quigley plan to run for re-election on the seven-member board, which handles water distribution and flood protection policy matters for the agency.

Zone 7 is a water wholesaler for much of the Tri-Valley, selling the water it buys from the state to

Pleasanton, Livermore, Cal Water's Livermore division and Dublin San Ramon Services District. Zone 7 is also tasked with flood prevention, so it is in charge of maintaining man-made channels that funnel water through cities, among other duties.

While some voters might not have heard about Zone 7 when scanning down their presidential primary ballot in June, voting for the agency's board members is important on a local level. The board approves the agency's budget, decides when to implement rate increases that affect cities' water costs and makes other decisions about how the agency should run.

For example, the board votes on the annual water rate, which affects how much communities such as Pleasanton pay for water. Increases mean the city of Pleasanton will likely charge its customers more for water.

The Zone 7 board decided late last year to increase the rate from January forward. The board stated in deliberations that the increase was long overdue, and financial advisers stated the district would be hard-pressed to avoid financial ruin if it continued with funding construction projects and maintenance without passing a rate increase to bring in additional revenue. ■

—Meredith Bauer

LECTURE

Continued from Page 7

McKay of Tracy High School.

- Feb. 20: "Harnessing Fusion: Creating a Sun on Earth," by lab scientist Tammy Ma and teacher Tom Shefler of Granada High School.
- Feb. 27: "From Basketball and Medicine to Climate: Understand-

ing the World through Statistics," by lab scientist Ana Kupresanin and teacher Richard Newton of Tracy High School.

The lectures and demonstrations, sponsored by the Livermore Lab's Science Education program, are targeted to middle and high school students. Seating is on a first-come basis. There is no pre-registration.

The lecture series will be available at a later date via the lab's YouTube channel. A student worksheet outlining each talk also will soon be available on the Science on Saturday website <http://education.llnl.gov/students/science-on-Saturday>.

For more information, go to that website or contact Joanna Albala at 422-6803 or by email at albalal@llnl.gov. ■

EXPRESS LANE

Continued from Page 5

"FasTrak Flex is a new type of FasTrak tag that must be set to 2-3 or more passengers that allows drivers to designate if they are driving solo or carpooling,"

Lengyel said.

Drivers who plan on using the express lanes in the future are encouraged to purchase the FasTrak Flex toll tags at Costco, Walgreens or Safeway stores in the Tri-Valley area. Drivers can also purchase their mandatory FasTrak Flex toll

online at bayareafasttrak.org.

Along with purchasing the required toll tag to show while traveling in the new express lanes on I-580, East Bay drivers need to register their toll tag and create an account online on the Bay Area FasTrak's webpage. ■



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **Vesting Tentative Map 8257/ Pamela Hardy, Ponderosa Homes II, Inc.**
Application for a Vesting Tentative Map to subdivide an approximately 4.2-acre property at 3430-3450 Cornerstone Drive into 30 lots for 25 new single-family homes (approved under PUD-111) and five common area lots. Zoning for the property is PUD – MDR (Planned Unit Development – Medium Density Residential) District

Youth Commission

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Library Commission

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

- Please visit our website at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov to view information for these meetings

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES RECRUITMENT

The City Council is accepting applications for the following:

- Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee**
1 Member
- Economic Vitality Committee**
1 Member from each of the following categories:
Commercial Real Estate Development
Environmental Industry
Medical Technology
Non-Profit Community Based Organization
- Planning Commission**
1 Member
- Youth Commission**
3 Middle School Members
2 High School Members
1 At Large Member
2 Alternate Members
- Altamont Education Advisory Board**

The City of Pleasanton is recruiting for a member to participate on the Altamont Education Advisory Board. The representative chosen by the City Council must be a Science, Environmental Education or Vocational Education teacher from the Pleasanton Public Schools.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, March 4, 2016

Interviews will be held on March 31st and April 1st
Apply at <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/application.asp>
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POLICE BULLETIN

Man robs local Arby's drive-thru at gunpoint

Pleasanton police are seeking a man who robbed Arby's restaurant on Owens Drive near Hopyard Road at gunpoint Saturday night, making off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

At around 9:30 p.m., police said a man drove up to a drive-thru window, pointed a black semi-automatic type of pistol at the cashier and demanded money. No one was injured during the robbery.

Pleasanton police said that once he got the money, the man drove off. He was last seen driving north on Chabot Drive.

The gunman was described as a Hispanic man in his mid-20s, wearing a red hooded sweatshirt and a black baseball cap. He was driving a dark green, older-model minivan with a license plate number beginning with 6HY, police said.

He had not been captured as of Wednesday morning. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Pleasanton police at 931-5100.

In other police news:

- A man posing as a customer robbed a Valero gas station in Pleasanton last week.

Police said the male robber went into the station in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road at 12:35 p.m. on Jan. 26. He pretended to make a purchase but pushed the cashier away from the register as soon as the drawer opened before fleeing the scene on foot heading south with an undisclosed amount of money, police said.

Witnesses told investigators that the robber ran to a red sports car nearby.

He was described as a black man with a thin build, between 6 feet and 6 feet 3 inches tall. He was wearing black jeans and a black shirt with the words "Straight Outta Cali" on the front in white lettering, according to police.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to contact police.

- Pleasanton police have sent out a warning to urge residents to not "Be Like Bill" and share personal memes online due to security risks.

Shannon Revel-Whitaker, community services officer at the Pleasanton Police Department, was browsing through her personal Facebook site and noticed the "Be Like Bill" postings on her newsfeed.

The meme itself is a stick-figure caricature that mocks everyday social media habits with satirical comebacks, and it has gone viral in recent weeks. She decided to try the meme for herself but quickly noticed the security risks that came with making a custom meme.

"On a personal level, I went through the 'Be Like Bill' meme, and you take it and it gives you a warning and a policy. I didn't end up sharing the meme on my Facebook page because I didn't like what the warning and policy stated," Revel-Whitaker said.

Blobla, the meme's creator, states in its terms and conditions policy that people who participate in the meme's game and sharing "will allow us to use, edit your content with our service permanently, no limit and no recover."

Social media users who engage and use the "Be Like Bill" meme content could be at risk of the meme causing a virus on their computers and tracking and attempting to steal bank account numbers or credit card information, police said.

"Although the memes are fun to see, it is not worth the security risk," Revel-Whitaker said. "Read the fine print and make sure you are OK with the terms. To share a chuckle is not worth the frustration."

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

—Meredith Bauer and Isabella Ohlmeyer

Information from Bay City News was used in this report.

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 31

Vandalism

- 7:39 p.m. in the 4000 block of Stoneridge Drive

Commercial burglary

- 7:04 p.m. on Santa Rita Road

Auto theft

- 3:37 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

Rape

- 12:47 p.m. on Rosewood Drive

Jan. 30

Theft

- 12:18 p.m. in the 500 block of Dolores Place

- 2:13 p.m., 800 block of Abbie Street, theft from auto

- 7:34 p.m., 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, shoplifting

- 8:56 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive, shoplifting

- 10:41 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Jan. 29

Robbery

- 7:28 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Auto theft

- 7:55 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Jan. 28

Theft

- 7:41 a.m., 5500 block of Springhouse Drive, theft from auto

- 4:22 p.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue, shoplifting

- 5:45 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

- 7:29 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

- 7:48 p.m. in the 4400 block of Del Valle Parkway

- 10:23 p.m., 5500 block of Springhouse Drive, theft from auto

- 11:04 p.m. in the 7800 block of Creekside Drive

Fraud

- 1:57 p.m. in the 2100 block of Alexander Way

Vandalism

- 7:35 a.m. in the 700 block of Summit Creek Lane

Jan. 27

Fraud

- 7:50 a.m. in the 2100 block of Cameron Circle

- 3:13 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

- 3:38 p.m. in the 3200 block of Belvedere Court

Commercial Burglary

- 1:27 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

Theft

- 9:11 a.m., 3600 block of Washington Street, theft from auto

- 10:54 a.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, shoplifting

- 2:49 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, shoplifting

- 6:05 p.m., 4800 block of Chabot Drive, theft from auto

- 6:50 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, theft from auto

Jan. 26

Graffiti

- 2:20 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Sex Offenses

- 8:59 p.m. on Holland Drive

Theft

- 9:23 a.m. in the 1300 block of Germano Way

- 9:45 a.m., 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, shoplifting

- 10:28 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

- 3:22 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

- 3:24 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, shoplifting

- 6:50 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, theft from auto

- 9:57 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Vandalism

- 7:03 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Jan. 25

Fraud

- 5:37 p.m. in the 3200 block of Curtis Circle

Rape

- 1:38 p.m. on Trenton Circle

Theft

- 4:59 a.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road, shoplifting

- 1:49 p.m. in the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Honoring the late Jean Jones



JEB BING

House at 309 Neal St., the longtime home of the late Jean Jones.

The City Council agreed Tuesday to wrap up final affairs for Jean Jones, who died last year in her home at 309 Neal St. where she had lived since 1932 and wanted it preserved as a city historical site.

The house, still filled with many of her lifelong furnishings, including a rusting car in front of a deteriorating backyard garage, was given to the city of Pleas-

anton, a gift that came as a total surprise when her will was read after her death in January 2015. In another surprise, Ms. Jones designated local attorney Peter MacDonald as trustee of her estate, who said he had befriended the woman but barely knew her.

As the beneficiary of Ms. Jones' entire estate, the city could receive assets in the range of \$1.3 million when the house

is sold. Ms. Jones stipulated, however, that she wanted the house and property to be used as a public museum, much like the Museum on Main that is part of the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society. That put the city in a bind with neither the city, the Museum on Main nor Ms. Jones' neighbors on Neal Street wanting another museum, especially not on a street in Old Town Pleasanton.

Tuesday's action ends the city-assigned work by MacDonald to satisfy the will's stipulations. A commemorative plaque will be installed at the home, detailing its history. Whoever buys the house will have to follow the guidelines of other owners in the historic neighborhood by preserving the front facade of the home.



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

An endowment will be set up with the Museum on Main with the assets from Ms. Jones' estate, including proceeds from the sale of the home and including the direction that Ms. Jones be acknowledged at the downtown museum. The endowment will be kept by the city with its funds to be used only by co-agreement between the city and the museum.

Jean Jones was a graduate of Amador Valley High School, where she met her future husband Bud Jones. She had a successful career as an engineer at Pacific Bell. She and Bud, also now deceased, enjoyed their years in Pleasanton. Giving back to the city they loved was a selfless act well deserving of the lasting tribute the City Council has given them in return. ■

LETTERS

We stand with Muslim Americans for peace and for mutual respect

As clergy of the East Bay, we speak out against fear of Islam and fear of Muslims.

We rebel against hateful acts defaming mosques and disrespectful comments in the media maligning Muslims.

We are pleased to be neighbors with peaceful people in our communities who practice Islam, and we stand in solidarity with them against terrorism and violence of any kind. We defend the right to freedom of religion in this nation, and we welcome refugees and immigrants of any religion who come to this country seeking safety and peaceful existence.

Our ancestors sought peace and opportunity in this nation, and we are proud to live as neighbors with others who come also seeking new life. We believe that we can only achieve peace in the world by gaining understanding about the religions of the world. We therefore welcome interfaith dialogue and community projects that bring people together across religious differences.

May we find unity and appreciation in our diversity, as we long for a world that embraces the brotherhood and sisterhood of all humankind.

Submitted on behalf of Ministers Sunny Ahn, Ron Dunn and Luke Ham (San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Alamo), Ministers Diana Bohn and Heather Leslie Hammer (Lynnwood United Methodist Church, Pleasanton), Ministers Chelsea Constant and Kim Risedorph (Asbury United Methodist Church, Livermore), Minister Dan Sturdivant (Grace United Methodist Church,

San Ramon) and Minister Jonathan Tarman (Castro Valley United Methodist Church).

—Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer

City of Character?

Dear Editor,

The city of Pleasanton advertises itself as a "City of Character." A recent experience I had certainly questions that premise.

I received a mailed notice that indicated my latest water bill payment (due Jan. 7) was delinquent, and that at 8 a.m. Jan. 28, our water service would be disconnected and there would be a significant cost to have service re-established.

This, certainly, was quite a surprise to me, since in nearly 25 years as a Pleasanton resident, I have never been delinquent with any payments. As many others do these days, I use my bank's "Bill Pay" function and have funds taken directly out of my account. I checked with my bank, and they reassured me the funds were taken and electronically wired into the proper city account. In fact, they supplied me with a copy of the actual wire transfer record.

When I visited the city's Utility Billing Department on Busch Road, they handled my query very promptly and told me, "Oh yeah, we changed banks at the beginning of the year and there have been issues with getting the funds credited properly. All is well now, and your account is current."

So, does this sound like the actions of a "City of Character," when they change processes that result in billing issues and the very first thing they do is tell customers they are going to disconnect their service? Not the

actions of a "City of Character" in my mind, and actions do speak more than words.

—Edward Janas

Deceptive ads

Dear Editor,

My family has lived on Junipero Street for over 20 years. Last week, I saw a full-page ad that compared a photo of the undeveloped Lund Ranch property to some of the Dublin sprawl. The ad touted that the Lund Ranch II issue is about Measure PP, when it really is an issue about traffic flow.

Our lovely hillsides are already protected from blight, thanks to Measure PP!

After many public council meetings that addressed concerns from all Pleasanton residents, the Pleasanton City Council approved a plan that divided traffic from the 43 proposed homes between the two neighborhoods. One neighborhood accepts this decision. The other neighborhood is unwilling to accept the city's decision and is attempting to overturn it with a referendum.

Out of NIMBY self-interest and without regard to other communities in our city, some individuals launched a deceptive campaign of full-page ads in local newspapers along with paid signature gatherers for the purposes of a referendum. Their petition stops construction of the connector road into one neighborhood, thereby forcing all traffic from Lund Ranch II into the other.

So, has the art of compromise, as shown by the Pleasanton City Council, been replaced by the rules of those with more financial means, or shall we as a city determine what is

best for the community and not just one neighborhood?

Do not sign the petition, because doing so sets a dangerous precedent for the outcomes of future issues here in Pleasanton.

—Robert Comito

Decline to sign

Dear Editor,

The recent Lund II referendum, introduced by a small group of special interest neighbors, has exposed the good citizens of Pleasanton to a dizzying array of state and local issues ranging from making abortion available to minors without parental consent to legalizing marijuana and of course the Lund II issue.

The paid signature gatherers leading the effort to gain support for these initiatives are invited in by special interest sponsors to specifically confront our citizens at local business and retail establishments and gain their signature to support the Lund referendum. Their representation of the Lund issue is often terribly misleading and leads to headache inducing confusion.

For example, when asked to describe the purpose of the referendum, they state it is to reverse the "land grab" by the city to build 42 mansions or if asked to describe the location of the Lund property, they become confused and point in the general direction of our western hillside.

I urge each member of our community to decline signing any petition prior to researching the issue. Recognizing and rising above this unfortunate distortion these "gatherers" create is best for our community.

—Bill Spain

Unseen struggles

The price some parents pay to keep their kids in Pleasanton schools

Story and Photos by Meredith Bauer

The average household income in Pleasanton was \$145,000 in 2014, and the median single-family home was \$732,000.

Many believe everyone who lives in Pleasanton is as rich as these U.S. Census Bureau statistics indicate or is on their way to becoming so.

Erica, though, is aware she and her family do not fit into this picture painted by statistics, as she buys another bag of discounted rice and tallies out how much money will be left after rent has drained two-thirds of her monthly income.

Erica, a 41-year-old undocumented resident who asked her last name not be used, is among a small community of Pleasanton residents who live below the poverty line but save and sacrifice for one purpose: to send their kids to the Pleasanton Unified School District.

It's within this suburban Bay Area town that Erica has formed a life, one much different from her childhood — one where her chil-

dren can play in parks without fear and have a guarantee of an education that will get them ready for college and careers.

It's a much different life from the residents around her in this town of entrepreneurs and tech workers. A single mother of four, she cleans multimillion-dollar homes and clears others' entrees at downtown restaurants.

"I went to Amador (Valley High) one day for a conference, and I heard from one Latino lady. She lives like us. She said, 'It's not impossible to be someone,'" Erica said. "She said, 'It's the best district ever.' I'm thinking, 'I need to be here, no matter what.'"

A total of 1,034 Pleasanton Unified students are considered socio-economically disadvantaged, about



Gabina Sanchez bends down to listen to her youngest son. She and two of her sons live in a two-bedroom Pleasanton apartment and rent out one bedroom. Sanchez lets her sons have a bedroom to themselves, and she sleeps on a mattress in the living room, seen at the right.

7% of the district, according to district spokesman Patrick Gannon.

Many are Hispanic and hail from Mexico, and some are undocumented. Some have a high school education or greater, but others never got past middle school. Nearly all of their children are citizens — and many were born and raised in Pleasanton.

A sought-after community for Silicon Valley and San Francisco commuters, Pleasanton's home prices and rental market have exploded in recent decades, pricing out many of the city's lower-income residents.

In 2000, the median value of a home was \$435,000, according to U.S. Census data. By 2014, it was \$732,000.

Likewise, the average monthly apartment rent in Pleasanton

climbed from \$1,200 in 2000 to \$1,700 by 2014 and rising every year, Census data showed. In 2015, market rate for a one-bedroom unit was between \$1,750 and \$2,050, according to the city of Pleasanton.

Some families like Erica's have resisted gentrification's pull to other areas, instead deciding to dedicate more income to rent and less and less to everything else — vacations, after-school activities, clothes and food — to secure the requisite Pleasanton address that guarantees their children entrance to high-achieving public schools.

Yes, Erica knows, she could move to a cheaper part of the Bay Area. She isn't exactly stuck in her rented apartment with donated furniture and discount-store food. Yes, she could go to Richmond or Modesto and save her money, buy a better car and get a nicer apartment.

Or she could stay put and bet her investment will mean her children will have a better chance at thriving careers.

To make ends meet in a \$2,600-a-month apartment, Erica and her family rent out two of the three bedrooms to other residents. At the moment, seven people live in their apartment, and they're hardly the only ones who opt for such an arrangement.

Gabina Sanchez, a 33-year-old single mother of a preteen who attends a PUSD school and a 4-year-old who will start kindergarten soon, rents out one bedroom in their two-bedroom apartment. She sleeps in the living room on a mattress so her boys have the other bedroom to themselves.

"My kids are everything for me. They're my life," she said. "They're what keep me going. I just want to give them a better life."

Pleasanton Unified's 95.7% graduation rate, frequent Ivy League college acceptances and amalgam of students honored for national science, technology and music achievements often elicit comparisons to public and private schools on the Peninsula.

Nearby Livermore Valley Joint Unified, San Ramon Valley Unified

and Dublin Unified are similarly high-achieving, but the cost of living is about equal to Pleasanton. A significant decrease in cost of living would mean moving to Tracy (89.9% graduation rate in 2014), Hayward (80.1% graduation rate), Oakland (60.5% graduation rate) or a similar town.

The crime rate in Pleasanton, and the Tri-Valley in general, is also significantly lower than surrounding communities. Last year marked the first homicide in Pleasanton since 2012.

Miguel Ornelas, who runs monthly community support meetings at Hearst Elementary School for English-language learners, said he's thought about moving his family elsewhere, but then he thinks about other children in his family who ended up getting involved in gangs.

Ornelas, 47, said he advises families to try and find a Section 8 or rent-controlled apartment so their children don't have to live among strangers. But many of the families he helps have no other option.

He pays \$2,300 a month for their two-bedroom apartment, choosing not to rent rooms so his kids can have their own space. But it takes up almost all of his disability payments and his wife's part-time income, as well as draining years of savings.

"I've applied (for affordable apartments), but I've been on the list for a couple of years," he said.

A lifelong deficit of opportunities in Mexico led Erica, Ornelas and Sanchez to pursue a life in the U.S. At first, they ran to escape abuse, crippling poverty and gangs that permeated their towns.

Now, they said, there are days when they feel like they're running in place, barely able to keep from falling behind.

Ornelas, who is now a citizen, said he rarely has to look farther than the kitchens of Main Street restaurants or the cleaning staff and landscape workers of hillside mansions to find people who are struggling.

"I'm going to push all the way



Miguel Ornelas and wife Maria said they are "basically surviving" after a work injury that has kept Miguel out of a job for three years. Maria's income from a part-time job as a Pleasanton Unified cafeteria worker only stretches so far, but they say they're intent on staying in their apartment because their two children consider it home.

because this is the best town. The schools are the best here. They have the education I want for my kids," Ornelas said. "That's the only reason why I'm still here."

'A safer city'

When Sanchez was 14 years old, she left school in Mexico to work as a maid to help her family earn extra money. Getting away from abuse from family members was a silver lining, but she found little relief.

"I would have to live in poverty," she said of her former hometown. "There's days where there's no running water."

After years of abuse by a boyfriend, she hired a guide in 2002 to help her illegally sneak into the U.S. She spent eight hours climbing the mountains of Southern California before hopping the train that would take her to Los Angeles.

She later visited Pleasanton to see her brother, but she was struck by the peacefulness of the town. The downtown, with its small shops lined up on Main Street, gave the area an idyllic feel.

"I decided to stay here because it's safer; it's a safer city," she said.

Now, she's the mother of four boys, two of whom live with her in Pleasanton. She's received a visa, one granted to survivors of violent crimes who assisted the police, and her new work permit gives her access to jobs otherwise out of reach.

Sanchez works as a restaurant waitress, spending her free time searching for another job after work dried up at one position.

She sublets one bedroom to some strangers, and she's searching for renters for the bedroom her boys currently sleep in. The mattress that lays in their living room is her bedroom, but the boys let her have their closet for storage.

Her 11-year-old son William, who was born in Pleasanton, has gone through elementary and now middle school in town. He'll come home jabbering about Egyptian Pharaohs and paleontology.

"He wouldn't have an opportu-

nity to learn in Mexico," she said.

With help from friends

On a chilly December day, Erica invited her neighbors inside as kids ran inside and out and in again.

A friend looked at the pile of Christmas presents under her tree and laughed. Erica pointed to the gifts, one labeled "underwear" and others marked based on age of recipient, and said she'd send her friend home with some of the packages.

"I'll share with you," she said.

Two Pleasanton schools and their local Catholic church, St. Augustine, had donated most of the items under their tree. Erica said she's grateful for the regular help during holidays. At Thanksgiving, PUSD gave Erica a turkey so she wouldn't have to serve chicken and rice as a substitute.

When Erica came to Pleasanton 14 years ago, she said, she wasn't sure how long she was going to be able to stay in town.

Then, a stranger introduced her to Valley View Elementary's dual-immersion program, where students are taught in English and Spanish. For English-speakers, it's a way to develop fluency quickly. For Spanish-speakers, like Erica's oldest son Kevin, who is now studying nursing at Chico State, it was a way to level the playing field.

Years went by, and Erica and her small family lived in their apartment living room so they could rent out all of the rooms.

It was an accomplishment when she had saved enough money to afford the deposit on a three-bedroom apartment. That way, she and her younger three children could have one bedroom to themselves, and they rent out the other two.

When it's time for bed, her 11-year-old scampers into the top bunk of a bunk bed, her 12-year-old daughter pulls out a mattress from under the bunk bed to sleep on and Erica curls up with her 5-year-old son on the bottom bunk.

While space inside is tight, her kids spend most of their free time



Miguel Ornelas, who runs a community support group for English-language learners, often finds himself helping others with immigration or work visa paperwork. He received citizenship in 1997 and said he knows living in Pleasanton on a tight income can be tough.

at home running around in the grassy areas of their apartment complex — at least, when they aren't studying or participating in free after-school programs.

"It's kind of comfortable, once you get used to it," her 11-year-old son Angel said.

"We have a big backyard," Erica said, pointing to a communal grassy area in the middle of the complex where dozens of kids run around every day.

She works five part-time jobs to bring in about \$3,000 a month, including positions as a nanny, house-cleaner and restaurant buss-er, sometimes working late into the night and on weekends.

Erica's kids say they've never felt poor because in a way, they aren't. They may not have thousands of dollars in disposable income, but her children say they have never

been left without something they actually needed, such as food, books for school or college tuition.

"I feel fortunate to be here, but at the same time, I feel unfortunate that I can't give them a better space," Erica said. "It's too much, but I'm happy because every day when I wake up, I look at my kids and say, 'I can do this one more day.'"

Dreaming bigger

By attending schools that offer clubs for everything from robotics to entrepreneurship and spending weekends talking with friends' parents who run Silicon Valley companies, children from low-income families start to believe that they can achieve these goals, too.

Sanchez's 11-year-old son wants to be a paleontologist and name a dinosaur after himself. One of Erica's sons wants to be an entrepreneur.

Children from rough neighborhoods don't always get that privilege. Kids who grow up in an overburdened school system or a neighborhood spotted with crime might not hear the words, "You can do anything." Or worse, they might not believe it when they grow up.

When survival is the primary motivator, dreams become impractical fiction. Erica said she doesn't ever want her kids to think that way.

Standing by her kitchen fridge covered with her children's drawings, Erica reminisced about her oldest son's high school graduation, remembering how loud she screamed when he walked across the stage.

"I'm so proud. Now he's in university, and I think nothing is impossible," she said, "no matter how much I need to work." ■



Erica's 5-year-old son holds a picture he drew of his mom next to a big house. His family rents out two of their bedrooms, and his mom works several part-time jobs to make ends meet.



Erica and her 5-year-old son sort through Christmas presents given to them by several Pleasanton Unified schools and their local Catholic church. Erica handed out some of the gifts to her neighbors and friends who had little under their own trees.

Repertory company presenting 'THE LITTLE MERMAID'

Production is pulling out all the stops for special effects

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Little Mermaid" has arrived at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre (PCRT) is kicking off 2016 with the Disney musical that has captured hearts with the story of Ariel and songs including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl" and "Part of Your World."

"This is a great coming-of-age story with a strong feminist character. While she deviates from her father's wishes, like many of us have in our own lives, she ultimately earns his blessing," said PCRT co-artistic director David Judson, who is directing this production. "She looks outside her world to find happiness — and she does not let appearance or beliefs bother her, but rather she searches for one with a genuine heart like hers."

The show opened last weekend and continues through Feb. 14 at the Firehouse Arts Center with evening performances on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays.

Tomorrow's matinee also offers a chance to have a picture taken

with the cast.

"The Little Mermaid" is based on a tale by Hans Christian Andersen. Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter, wishes to pursue the human Prince Eric in the world above and bargains with the evil sea witch, Ursula, to trade her tail for legs. But the bargain is not what it seems, and Ariel needs the help of her colorful friends — Flounder the fish, Scuttle the seagull and Sebastian the crab — to restore order under the sea.

"Ultimately, all the creatures, under and above the sea, come together and accept one another," Judson said. "Wouldn't that be nice in the world we live in?"

Judson is directing this show while PCRT's co-founder Pat Parr is serving as music director. The professional production team is led by Brittany Danielle, choreographer; Pat Brandon, scenic designer; and Mike Oesch, lighting designer.

Judson said his family discovered the delightful mermaid while on vacation.

"My three kids were the very first children to ever ride The Little Mermaid ride at Disneyland,

Under the Sea

What: Disney's "The Little Mermaid"

Who: Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre

When: Now through Feb. 14

Where: Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

Tickets: \$18-\$39.

Go to www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848, or purchase at the theater box office.

and were featured in a 'cutting the ribbon' news story," he recalled. "We (PCRT) are privileged to be first out of the gate to produce this show professionally here."

The production design team is "pulling out all the stops," he added, with bubble and fog machines, black lighting, high-definition projections, and new special effects LED lighting "to help transport our guests under the sea."

In addition, the talented cast was chosen after hundreds auditioned to supply the right mix for the show.



PCRT

Catherine Williamson stars as Ariel in "The Little Mermaid."

Bay Area actress Catherine Williamson stars as Ariel. She was also in the PCRT's "Chicago." Nathaniel

Rothrock appears as Prince Eric, Noel Anthony plays King Triton and Allison F. Rich is Ursula. ■

An evening with an opera star

Special fundraiser to feature Frederica von Stade

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Opera fans only have to go to Las Positas College to enjoy "A Night at the Met."

Metropolitan Opera star mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade will perform onstage and will also mingle with guests at a special event that begins at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow, co-hosted by the Las Positas College Foundation to benefit Livermore Valley Opera.

"This special event promises to be an unforgettable evening," said Jim Schmidt, president of Livermore Valley Opera. "We are most grateful to Ms. von Stade, who, in addition to singing, will speak of her professional life experiences, as well as her current involvement with the Young Musicians Choral Orchestra, whom she mentors. A small contingent of these special students will take the stage with

Ms. von Stade."

Young Musicians Choral Orchestra provides year-round music training, academic tutoring and personal guidance for talented, low-income students ages 9 to 18.

To set the mood for this event, the spacious theater lobby at the Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts at the college will have decorations that invoke the feeling of "a night at the Met." Prior to the performance, guests will enjoy wines, including some produced by the Las Positas College Viticulture and Winery Technology department, and Posada Restaurant hors d'oeuvres. Following the performance, von Stade will attend an audience reception that includes cheeses and desserts.

The stage portion of the evening will end with a single Fund-a-Need auction item to benefit Livermore

Valley Opera as well as von Stade's Young Musicians Choral Orchestra.

"This event aligns with the goals of LPC's growing music arts program, which now exceeds 30 courses spanning the topics of jazz, harmony, orchestra, piano, guitar, voice and much more," said LPC Theater Arts Department Coordinator Titian Lish. "It also illustrates to our students the importance of philanthropy by the artist, as demonstrated by Frederica von Stade's commitment to young talent."

Von Stade began her career at the top when she received a contract from Sir Rudolf Bing during the Metropolitan Opera auditions. Since her debut in 1970, she has sung nearly all of her great roles with that company. She has also appeared with every leading American



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade

Tales of a Tuskegee Airman

Firehouse set for 'An Evening with Gen. Davis' next week

BY JEREMY WALSH

The historical speaker series "An Evening with ..." returns to downtown Pleasanton next week with an interactive presentation by scholar James Armstead portraying Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the commander of the Tuskegee Army Airfield during World War II.

Led by then-Col. Davis, the Tuskegee Army Airfield were the only U.S. Army Air Corps black fighter group during the war, taking over the European skies with their "Red Tail" P-51 Mustang fighter planes.

Davis, who died on Independence Day 2002 at age 89, ended his military career as a four-star general and decorated American war hero.

Renowned history scholar and former Naval War College professor Armstead will bring Davis' memory to the Firehouse Arts Center stage on Tuesday by portraying the late general as part of the Museum on Main's annual Ed Kinney Speaker Series.

The presentation will include Armstead's monologue as the historic military figure, followed by in-character question-and-answer



COURTESY OF MUSEUM ON MAIN

Scholar and retired professor James Armstead will portray Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. during an interactive historical presentation on Tuesday.

session with the audience.

Doors open for the event at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and the presentation starts at 7 p.m. at the theater, 4444 Railroad Ave. For tickets and other information, visit www.museumonmain.org or call 462-2766. ■

'1,000 Books Before Kindergarten'

Library program aims to introduce kids to reading at early age

BY ISABELLA OHLMEYER

Local infants and toddlers will have an opportunity to hear hundreds of stories before they enter kindergarten through a national early-literacy program offered through the Pleasanton Library starting next weekend.

The purpose of the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" initiative is to encourage families of participating toddlers and infants to expose their children to reading early on in their lives, according to library officials.

"Shared reading time is one of the greatest gifts you can give to a child," Sandy Silva, acting library director, said in a statement. "Having been read to as an infant and toddler has been identified as one of the strongest predictors of success in school."

The kick-off event is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 13 at the library on Old Bernal Avenue. It will begin with an opening presentation during

which families can sign up for the program and learn more about the early initiative literacy program and its purpose. Shortly after the opening presentation, there will be a musical presentation by singer-songwriter Amy Wigton.

"Reading is an enjoyable activity and strengthens the connection between the child and the reader," Silva said.

The mission of the 1,000 books initiative is to provide children with a strong foundation of literacy prior to entering kindergarten, officials said. During the event, the participating children will leave with a free canvas tote bag and a reading log for families to keep track of the books they have read with their infants and toddlers.

The city of Pleasanton and the Pacific Library Partnership have supported the event through grant contributions. ■

OPERA

Continued from Page 14

opera company, including the San Francisco Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Los Angeles Opera.

In Europe, she had new productions mounted for her at Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, the Vienna State Opera and the Paris Opera. She is invited regularly to appear with the world's leading orchestras and has starred in PBS specials and "Live from Lincoln Center" telecasts.

"The Las Positas College Foundation is honored to co-present with the Livermore Valley Opera a caliber of talent such as Frederica von Stade," said Stephanie Beasley, chair of the LPC Foundation Board of Directors. "Our intent is to identify Las Positas College with a broad range of high-quality fine arts performances such as this that will enrich both our students and the Bay Area public."

Tickets are \$125 per person. For more information or to purchase, visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com. Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore. ■

Winemakers fundraiser for museum

Food and wine to be paired at Castlewood

Love is in the air as Museum on Main prepares for its ninth annual Wines & Valentines wine-maker's fundraiser at Castlewood Country Club beginning at 6:30 p.m. next Friday. This year's event will feature wines from the Boisset Collection from the Boisset Family Estates.

This family-owned collection of wineries spans some of the world's most prestigious wine-growing regions, including Sonoma and the Napa Valley. Jean Claude Boisset, who was born in Burgundy, France, fell in love with California

and started several wineries here to reflect the Franco-American heritage by uniting the best of the old world and the new into one world of wine.

At the dinner, wines will be paired to complement each of the four courses created by Castlewood Country Club. The menu will be ahi tuna on a wonton crisp and Greek olive tapenade on crostini, Hacienda salad, and a choice of pan-seared Corvina sea bass, grilled filet mignon, or vegetable risotto. The meal will finish with a chocolate molten

lava cake.

"Many guests return year after year for the great food and wine," said museum executive director Jim DeMersman. "But they also love the 2-bit auction, a fast-paced live auction where guests can win prizes for the equivalent of 2-bits, equal to one quarter."

Tickets are \$85 per person and may be purchased online at www.museumonmain.org, at Museum on Main during regular operating hours, or by phoning the museum at 462-2766. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Exploring texture and color

Joanna Crawshaw's abstract art, which explores texture and color, is being shown at Wente Vineyards in an exhibit that features a series of paintings she created for its small lot Artist Series. The rest of the display highlights common threads that can be found in Crawshaw's recent and past work. The show runs through the month of February. Crawshaw, whose work is in collections nationwide, has studio space in downtown Livermore. For more information, call 922-2536.





PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Falcons tie for second in EBAL girls basketball

Early college sign-ups underway

The Foothill girls basketball team pulled into a tie for second in the East Bay Athletic League with a pair of wins last week.

In their first game of the week, on Jan. 26, the Falcons jumped out early on rival Amador Valley, taking a 15-7 lead, and they never looked back, posting a 46-34 win.

Leading the way in the win were Caroline McMorro, Sophia Brown, Audrey Goodman and Madison Baxter — all scoring double figures.

Three days later, the Foothill girls cruised to a 56-35 win over Livermore. This time, the Falcons used a 23-6, third-quarter margin to blow open a close game.

Brown and McMorro led the way scoring 14 and 13, respectively, but it was a game where the Falcons got great performances from the entire team.

Foothill boys basketball also won a pair of games last week.

Starting off the week, Foothill topped Amador 54-35 in a game where the Foothill defense was the key to the contest. The Falcons led 30-11 at the half. Sam Novitske had 11 in the first half, with Josh Llanos scoring four for the Dons.

Amador came out strong in the third quarter and cut the lead to nine, but the Falcons rallied for the last nine points in the quarter — 3-pointers from Novitske and Michael Climent keyed the run — and basically iced the game.

Novitske finished the game with 17 points, including five 3-pointers, to lead Foothill. Garrett Wrenn added nine points and Seth Cobb had seven points for the Falcons. Amador got solid play from Mitch Benson, Peter Ernst and Tommy Kramer, but the halftime deficit was too much to overcome.

In their second game of the week, the Falcons took out Livermore on the road by a 64-55 final. Cobb had 22 points and Wrenn added 15 as the two seniors led the scoring. Novitske, only a sophomore — but in his second year of varsity play — finished with 10 to wrap up his big week.

Soccer

The Foothill girls team suffered a tough go of things last week, dropping a pair of games.

In the first game of the week, the Falcons faced the always-tough Monte Vista Mustangs. The Falcons turned in a strong game, but dropped a tough 1-0 final.

The Mustangs came out of the gate very strong, pressing the Falcons all over the field and finally



MARTHA BROWN

Haley Isaacs initiates the Foothill offense during the Falcons' win over Livermore.

scoring an early goal against the Falcons in the ninth minute of the match.

From the midpoint of the first half forward, the Falcons were able to slow down the Mustangs attack and battle toe-to-toe for the remaining portion of the first half.

The second half went scoreless for both squads as the Falcons continued to show a strong work rate by holding down the Mustangs for the most part. However, the Falcons attack continued to struggle maintaining possession and creating scoring chances.

Two days later, the Falcons suffered their biggest loss of the season, falling 4-0 to Cal High. The game started poorly for Foothill, as the Falcons gave up all four goals in the first half, digging a hole they could not climb out of in the second half.

College sign-ups

Local athletes began signing their letters of intent to play in college last week.

Following are some of the local girls' college choices, all in soccer: Sophia Brown (Foothill), Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, NCAA Division I; Julia Densmore (Foothill), North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D.; NCAA Division I; Sophie Santos (Amador), Saint Mary's College, NCAA Division I; Bryanna Schreiber (Foothill), Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash.; NCAA Division III. ■

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.

AVHS cheer team competes in Southern California

Team heads to California Open this weekend

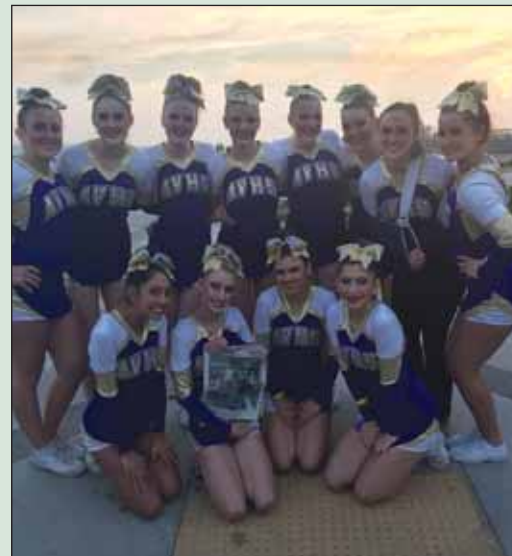
By MEREDITH BAUER

Amador Valley High cheer team took its school spirit to the Regional USA competition in Yorba Linda in Orange County last month, finishing fourth in its division.

This was the first time since 2012 the team competed in a regional competition in Southern California, Amador Valley parent Amy Fulmer said. The team placed fourth in the intermediate competition, going up against Whittier, Cypress, Schurr, California and Yorba Linda high schools.

The 12 girls and coach Danielle Butler flew to the competitions with funds they raised during the season.

The team will compete next at the California Open cheer competition by United Spirit Association at UC Davis this Sunday. ■



COURTESY AMY FULMER

The Amador Valley cheer team, celebrating with the Pleasanton Weekly, are (back, left to right): Emily Mercer, Katherine Jackson, Ashely Boxberger, Krista Lewis, Kaitlyn McGarrity, Mary Hinek, Lauren Shohfi and McKenna Shaffer, and (front, left to right): Melia Storey, Kayla Fulmer, Maci Manos and Kaitlyn Letourneau.

Seahawks win division crown at Winter Sectionals

Rooney leads all boys with 4 new individual league records

By JEREMY WALSH

On the strength of dominating relay performances, the Pleasanton Seahawks took first place in the large team division at the Speedo Champions Series CA/NV Winter Sectionals in Southern California.

The event, competed at East Los Angeles College in Monterey Park, is one of four sectionals held across the United States.

The Seahawks finished the mid-December event with a combined score of 1313.5, with 767.5 points for the ladies and 546 points for the boys.

They trailed their rival, the Sandpipers (Nevada), after individual events but excelled in the relays to leapfrog the Sandpipers for a 84.5-point victory.

Maxime Rooney, 17, starred for the Seahawks, breaking four Pacific Swimming records during first-place swims in the 100 and 200 freestyle and 100 and 200 butterfly. He also won the 100 and 200 backstroke en route to earning 192 points overall, giving him the boys high-point award.

Rooney was also part of three strong relay teams, joining Ed Smith, Jonah Cooper and Tyler Lu for a second-place finish in the 800 free relay and third place in the 400 free relay. Rooney and Cooper also teamed with Lyon Zhang and Chris Jhong to take third in the 400 medley relay.

Christy Chong and Miranda Heckman led the way for the ladies, each earning 128 team points for the Seahawks.

Heckman won the 200 free with



COURTESY OF SEAHAWKS

Thirty Pleasanton Seahawks swam for the team during its first-place finish in the large team division at the Speedo Champions Series CA/NV Winter Sectionals in Southern California.

a personal best time. She also took second in the 500 and 1,000 free and earned a personal best in the 100 free.

Chong finished third in the 200 back, fourth in the 1,000 free, sixth in the 500 free and 200 individual medley and ninth in the 100 back.

Daniella Hawkins also posted a strong point total, amassing 71 team points helped by personal best times in the 50, 100, 200 and 500 free.

Jessica He (48 team points), Samantha Howell (30 team points) and Kennedy Truex (24 team points) were among the other top individual female swimmers for the Seahawks.

On the relay side, Heckman, He

and Howell joined Katie Woods to win the 400 free relay. Heckman, He, Hawkins and Danielle Zacharias took second in the 800 free.

For the boys in individual races, Zhang earned 61 team points, helped by personal best times in the 400 IM and 200 breaststroke.

Smith had personal best times in the 100, 200 and 500 free and 200 breast. Cooper posted personal bests in the 100 and 200 free and 100 back.

Calvin Smith added personal bests in the 500 and 1,000 free, Lu posted bests in the 50, 100 and 200 free and 100 and 200 butterfly. Nicholas Skinner had bests in the 100 and 200 back. ■

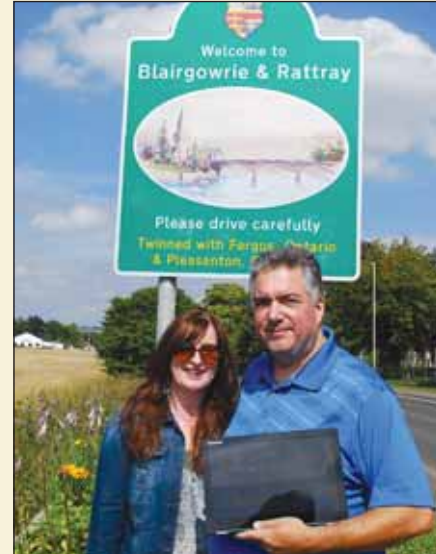
Take Us Along

Submit your photo and trip details to srhodes@pleasantonweekly.com.

Jim and Nancy Wright took the Pleasanton Weekly along to the Free Derry monument in Derry (Londonderry) City in County Derry in Northern Ireland.



Alan and Jean Purves took the Pleasanton Weekly to a whisky tasting class presented by Alan at the Alaska Scottish Games in Palmer, Alaska.



Julie and John DeKoven visited Blairgowrie, Scotland, which is Pleasanton's twin city. The DeKovens visited family and went to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, while reading their Pleasanton Weekly the 21st-century way — on their laptop.



Sofie, Erik and Annalise Jensen took a trip and saw the USS Midway in San Diego, with the Pleasanton Weekly along to see the sights.



Bob Wittig raced from Port Langley on Whidbey Island, Wash., to Port Gardner in Everett, Wash., with the Pleasanton Weekly and former Pleasanton resident John Shepard aboard John's Cal 31 Racer.



Dottie and Bill Berck shared the Pleasanton Weekly with their grandchildren/spouses on their cruise to Alaska.

Our local news comes at a (very low) price.

The Pleasanton Weekly may seem free, but it's really not.

Supporting a staff of local journalists, publishing a weekly newspaper and operating a website with breaking news is an expensive undertaking ... too expensive in an economy where the local businesses we rely on for advertising are struggling.

So after giving you more than 15 years of free news about our town, and creating a website that has become Pleasanton's most popular local online destination, we're asking you to

share some of the costs of producing this journalism.

For as little as 17¢ a day (\$5 a month) you can become a subscribing member of the Pleasanton Weekly. We'll thank you in ads, invite you to special "members-only" events and send you a "Support Local Journalism" bumper sticker.

But most important, we'll be able to keep providing Pleasanton with the award-winning local reporting that any vibrant community needs.

To begin your membership, call us at 600-0840
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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.townecenter-books.com for the current selection.

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.

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY USER GROUP The PT Users Group meets at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The usual format is 2-3 presentations by various presenters. Topics include internet use, email, photos, security, help with Windows 7/8/10, smart-phones, tablets. Cost is \$2-\$2.50. Call 931-5365.

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.

Clubs

AAUW PRESENT ASHLEY WARLICK WITH 'THE ARRANGEMENT' Hear Ashley Warlick discuss her new book "The Arrangement," a novel about famous food writer and founder of the Napa Valley Wine Library, M. F. K. Fisher, at 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19 at The Wine Steward, 641 Main St. Sponsored by the American Association of University Women Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch and Towne Center Books. Cost is \$10, includes wine and appetizers. Get your tickets early as space is limited. Call 846-8826 or go to www.townecenterbooks.com.

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11 at Alisal School's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road. Anita Clevenger, curator of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, will speak on climbing roses. Visitors welcome. Call Bev at 485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS RICHARD FINN Richard Finn and his cousin have spent several years researching hundreds of people buried at the first formal cemetery in the Livermore-Amador Valley, Oak Knoll Cemetery. He will discuss methods used to determine who was buried in the cemetery and how knowledge was gained about these people on Monday, Feb. 8 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. Contact Marilyn Glass and Diane Wiedel, Program Chairs, at program@L-AGS.org.

PLEASANTON COMMUNITY

TOASTMASTERS: GUESTS WELCOME Learn more about public speaking in a fun-filled and supporting environment at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Highland Oaks Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive. Enjoy improving your leadership skills, building confidence and meeting new friends. Call Laurie Erceg, VP of Public Relations, at (510) 305-5111 or go to pleasantontostmasters.com.

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 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. Go to 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

PET OF THE WEEK



TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

5 pounds of sweetness

Gilbert walks well on leash and has lots of spunk for a senior gentleman. He also adores just cuddling on your lap. Gilbert would love to find his forever home. He is available for adoption at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. For more information about Gilbert, call 803-7040.

and friendship. We have a youth and adult exchange program. Call 989-6882 or go to 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.

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.

TOASTMASTERS: SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE Do you find speaking in front of groups challenging? Join at noon every Tuesday for fun using the Toastmasters formula to make it easier at the Bay East Association of Realtors, 7901 Stoneridge Drive, #150. Contact David Walden at 200-1919 or david@dwsalestraining.com.

TRI-VALLEY EVENING ROTARY CLUB Looking for an international service organization where you can make an impact both locally and throughout the world while having fun? Visit the only evening Rotary club in the Tri-Valley from 6:15-8 p.m. every Thursday at Castlewood Country Club and see how you can make a difference. Contact info@trivalleyrotary.org or go to trivalleyrotary.org.

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED PRESENTS PETER FRIEDMAN TVRWF will present Peter Friedman, who has studied and lectured on the threat of Islam to America for over 40 years, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11 at Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore. RSVP by Feb. 8. Contact Linda Krikorian at 426-1474 or krikorianpublishing@yahoo.com.

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.

Events

MUSEUM ON MAIN READING TIME Preschoolers (ages 2-5) and families are invited for books and crafts. The Hooray for Hats theme begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at Museum on Main. Admission is free; no reservations required. Call 462-2766 or go to www.museumonmain.org.

SUNFLOWER HILL COMMUNITY MEETING Join for community focus groups/meetings to hear more information and to provide your input on the amenities in these communities from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. With presentations by Dahlin Architects, MidPen Housing and Sunflower Hill. Register at sunflowerhill.org.

THE HUNT FOR THE GOLDEN FOOTBALL The Hunt For The Golden Football, a scavenger hunt for adults, will be at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6. If you find a football hidden downtown you could win prizes including \$300 cash. Follow the Pleasanton Downtown Association on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Hints to where seven footballs are are hidden downtown will be shared on those social media channels. Each football is color coded and matches a prize. Once you find a football, report to the golden arch outside of Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Prizes include a Debbie Wardrobe painting from Studio Seven Arts, a Towne Center Books gift card, and much more. Call 484-2199 or go to www.pleasantondowntown.net.

WIDOWED MEN AND WOMEN OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LUNCH IN LIVERMORE The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California invite you to join for lunch at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at Strings Italian Cafe, 2205 Las Positas Road, Livermore. RSVP to Gloria at 846-8320 or hskoog@comcast.net by Sunday, Feb. 7.



COURTESY OF PAL

'Imagination Expressed 2016'

"Dancing Puffin" by Ron Rigge is among the artworks displayed in the Pleasanton Art League's "Imagination Expressed 2016" exhibit at the Museum on Main through the end of the month. The museum, located at 603 Main St., is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 18

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 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 or send check to Paws In Need, P.O. Box 3436, San Ramon, CA 94583.

Kids & Teens

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

SUPER SCAVENGER HUNT Children 10 and younger are invited to a Super Scavenger Hunt from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Feb. 6. Pick up instructions, goody bags and their first clue from Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Children have to solve the clue in order to find the next downtown location, where they will be given a fun football themed treat and their next clue. Parents will be given the answers to all of the clues to help children find the treat locations. Call 484-2199 or go to www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Lectures/ Workshops

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY Learn basic digital camera operations, custom settings, and editing and storing digital pictures with instructor Gerry Mooney, a professional photographer who taught at Ohlone College for 25 years, from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Bring your own camera and instructions for hands-on practice. Free. Go to www.aclibrary.org/.

Live Music

AFRICAN VILLAGE CELEBRATION Onye Onyemaechi will bring the joy and soul of African culture, music, and the celebration of village life from 2-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 7 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Attendance limited to 100 people. Free tickets will be handed out 10 minutes before start of the event. Go to www.aclibrary.org/.

Recreation

THURSDAY MORNING BIKE RIDE Join our every Thursday morning bike ride as we tour the trails and vineyards of the Tri-Valley area. We will ride 20-30 miles at a "social" rate of speed with a coffee stop along

the way. You will need a bike, a helmet and a sunny disposition. Call 426-1290 or go to www.meetup.com/Pleasanton-Pedalers/.

Scholarships

SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY Simon Youth Foundation, a national non-profit that provides educational opportunities for at-risk high school students, has begun looking for a graduating senior who lives within fifty miles of Coddington Mall, Santa Rosa Plaza or Stoneridge Shopping Center. Apply online by visiting www.syf.org/. Deadline is March 1.

TRI-VALLEY RETIRED EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP 2016 Up to five scholarships, each worth \$2,500.00, are offered by the Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Foundation offered to high-school graduating seniors and college/university students. Applicants must: be planning a career in education, be residents of the Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin or Sunol area, high school applicants must be seniors planning to attend a four-year college in fall, 2016, community college applicants must be qualified to transfer as juniors to a four-year institution in fall, 2016, 4-year college applicants must be sophomores who will continue as juniors in fall, 2016. Deadline is March 26, 2016. Download the application at div85.calrta.org. Contact 443-6097 or griegno@comcast.net.

Seniors

CHAIR YOGA A fusion of breath work, supported Yoga and relaxation is designed to connect the mind to the needs of the body. This class uses gentle Yoga poses adapted to be done on a chair, identifying areas of restriction and discomfort, from 2:45-4 p.m. every Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Registration required. Cost is \$26 for residents, \$29 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or go to www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

COOKING WITH THE SQUASH LADY The Squash Lady of Perry & Sons returns to the Senior Center as she entertains, educates, demonstrates and shares different ways to enjoy squash and melon. Learn more about the health benefits and take home delicious recipes to share with family and friends at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Call 931-5365.

PEDDLER SHOPPE AT THE SENIOR CENTER The Peddler Shoppe in the lobby of the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., offers the handmade wares of talented local senior artisans. It's a great place to buy gifts. The Shoppe is staffed by volunteers and is open to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Go to www.pleasantonpeddlershoppe.com.

PHOTO CLUB The photo club is open to any senior who enjoys the hobby of photography at any level. It is suggested that you have some form of a digital camera. The group shares photos and makes suggestions how the photos might

be improved. Meetings include occasional speakers and field trips, and are from 2-4 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Cost is \$2 for residents, \$2.50 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

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.

CRYSTAL SINGING BOWL CONCERT Come to a sound-healing concert, played by Shala, from noon-1:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. Everyone's experience will be unique and suited to their own specific needs. \$10 suggested love offering. Call 829-2733 or go to www.unityoftrivalley.org.

ECKANKAR, COMMUNITY HU SONG ECKANKAR, Community HU Song, is a non-denominational prayer activity at noon on Saturday, Feb. 6 at The Parkview, 100 Valley Ave. HU is a love song to God that can help you. Go to <http://eck-ca.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.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT UNITY OF TRI-VALLEY Join the Sunday service with Micah Murdock, interim minister, at 10 a.m. every week at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. All are welcome. Ongoing classes, groups, and activities. Call 829-2733 or go to <http://www.unityoftrivalley.org/>.

Support Groups

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

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 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.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS This 12-step support group for people with eating behavior problems meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore; and at 7:30 a.m. Saturdays in the Middle School Room at The Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore. Free with donations accepted toward room rent. No weigh-ins. Call Nora at 337-9118.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP Formed in 2003 this group provides support and comfort to the Pleasanton families whose loved ones are deployed in the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. The group has monthly meetings and other events such as "pack outs" of comfort and care items for deployed members of the armed forces. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where streamers are displayed with the name, rank and branch of service of Pleasanton military personnel. Learn more at www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org.



Profiles in Business It's Just Good Business!

"Profiles in Business" is your opportunity to tell the story of your business, why it is unique and better than your competitors and about the people who make it successful.

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March 18

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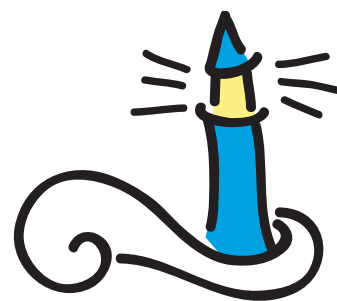
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Bulletin Board

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

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245 Miscellaneous

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Mind & Body

417 Groups

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Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)

Struggling with Drugs?

Alcohol? Addicted to pills? Talk to someone who cares. Call The Addiction Hope and Help Line for a free assessment. 800-978-6674

Xarelto Users

have you had complications due to internal bleeding (after January 2012)? If so, you MAY be due financial compensation. If you don't have an attorney, CALL Injuryfone today! 1-800-425-4701. (Cal-SCAN)

Jobs

500 Help Wanted

House Cleaners

Merry Maids is hiring for House Cleaners. \$11-\$12 an hour. 5480-5 Sunol Blvd, Pleasanton

Technical Leads (Pleasanton, CA)

Analyze RFC change details. Collect data and publish status reports and metrics. Develop and implement test automation strategies using Effecta tool and HP Quality Center. Rev Trac, HP ALM, SAP R/3, SAP CRM, SAP HANA CE, etc. BSCS/ IT/EE or foreign equivalent + 5 yrs expe. Email resume: Prolifics Testing Inc: jobs@prolifics.com. Reference 2097.

560 Employment Information

Drivers: \$2K Sign-On Bonus

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Classified Deadlines:

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601 Accounting/ Bookkeeping

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No job too big or too small. Call Linda at (925) 918-2233.

624 Financial

Big Trouble With IRS?

Are you in BIG trouble with the IRS? Stop wage and bank levies, liens and audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, and resolve tax debt FAST. Call 844-753-1317 (AAN CAN)

Owe Over \$10K to IRS?

Do you owe over \$10,000 to the IRS or State in back taxes? Our firm works to reduce the tax bill or zero it out completely FAST. Call now 855-993-5796 (Cal-SCAN)

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Structured Settlement?

Sell your structured settlement or annuity payments for CASH NOW. You don't have to wait for your future payments any longer! Call 1-800-673-5926 (Cal-SCAN)

636 Insurance

Health & Dental Insurance

Lowest Prices. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 888-989-4807. (CalSCAN)

640 Legal Services

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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 AREA: ROOMMATES.COM

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

845 Out of Area

North Idaho: 55+ Community

North Idaho's Premier 55+ Active Community. Imagine a New Home with a Built in network of Caring friends and neighbors! www.goldenspikeestates.com (Cal-SCAN)



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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

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Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Little Caesars

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 513097

The following person(s) doing business as: Little Caesars, 3283 Bernal Avenue #103, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Panesar Kapila Inc., 1396 W. Lagoon Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation . Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Davinder Pal Singh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 01/04/16. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 22, 29 Feb. 5, 12, 2016)

TEA BREEZE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 513621

The following person(s) doing business as: TEA BREEZE, 4215 ROSEWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 20, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Miao Fen Cen, 16131 Ashland Ave., San Lorenzo, CA 94578; Jing En Pan, 3756 Anza Way, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by a Joint venture. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Jing En Pan, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 01/19/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; 2016)



Need to publish a fictitious business statement in an Alameda County newspaper of general circulation?

Just call
925-600-0840

Deadline: 5 p.m.
the Friday before
publication

Pleasanton Weekly

California real estate economist to speak today in Pleasanton

Leslie Appleton Young to talk at Valley Real Estate Network meeting

By JEB BING

Leslie Appleton Young, vice president and chief economist for the California Association of Realtors (CAR), will speak about prospects for the real estate industry at 8:30 a.m. today at the weekly meeting of the Valley Real Estate Network (VREN).

The local real estate group, which meets at Tommy T's Comedy and SteakHouse at 5104 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton, is part of the Bay East Association of Realtors.

The California organization is a statewide trade association with more than 150,000 members.

Appleton Young directs the activities of the association's member information group. She oversees the analysis

of housing market and brokerage industry trends, broker relations and membership development activities. She is also closely involved in the association's strategic planning efforts and is a well-known speaker in California's real estate community.

Before joining CAR in 1984, she was a consultant with Telesis Inc. in Rhode Island. She also spent several years working as a research associate at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and as an instructor at University of Pennsylvania.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from UC Berkeley and her master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. ■



Leslie Appleton Young

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 30-Jan. 13

Pleasanton (Dec. 30-Jan. 11)

Total sales reported: 10

Lowest sale reported: \$338,000

Highest sale reported: \$3,089,500

Average sales reported: \$982,650

Dublin (Dec. 30-Jan. 11)

Total sales reported: 12

Lowest sale reported: \$345,500

Highest sale reported: \$1,350,000

Average sales reported: \$863,125

Livermore (Dec. 30-Jan. 11)

Total sales reported: 12

Lowest sale reported: \$447,000

Highest sale reported: \$2,025,000

Average sales reported: \$828,250

San Ramon (Jan. 7-13)

Total sales reported: 5

Lowest sale reported: \$400,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,000,000

Average sales reported: \$690,400

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 30-Jan. 13

Pleasanton

4363 2nd Street Kruse Trust to T. & M. Gore for \$634,000

1977 Armondo Court W. & N. Cliff to Furr Trust for \$3,089,500

3002 Badger Drive L. Azcona to D. Bo for \$752,500

7650 Canyon Meadow Circle #B Hillman Trust to K. Maldonado for \$500,000

6043 Corte Montanas T. Howk to Olson Trust for \$737,500

3351 Hartwell Court L. Hertz to H. & S. Hertz for \$900,000

1948 Palmer Drive Poon Trust to J. Gao for \$1,450,000

3422 Smoketree Commons Drive Maskiell Trust to J. Ramsell for \$338,000

2450 Tapestry Way A. Pillai to T. & D. Insel for \$940,000

405 Vineyard Place #A C. Henry to W. Yu for \$485,000

Dublin

7681 Arbor Creek Circle A. Pimper to W. Rei for \$345,500

11991 Carsten Court Pulte Home to J. Janakiraman for \$953,500

3724 Central Parkway T. Molki to B. Emami for \$615,000

7979 Countess Court E. & R. Bosnoyan to E. & A. Shpak for \$660,000

11875 Dublin Boulevard Pulte Home to S. Rawane for \$939,500

4755 Fawn Way S. Gillani to M. Iyyanki for \$917,000

4170 Forest Springs Road Brookfield Trio to V. Bhogasamudram for \$746,000

3882 Highpointe Court William Lyon Homes to A. Mehta for \$1,172,500

3313 Oak Bluff Lane ARNS Inc. to A. & S. Arora for \$1,133,500

7520 Oxford Circle E. Batstone to S. & P. Kathiriya for \$545,000

5149 South Forestdale Circle Kay Trust to R. & A. Miura for \$980,000

5088 Volterra Court G. Suan to S. Gillani for \$1,350,000

Livermore

830 Alexander Street A. & G. Byrnes to Y. Xu for \$578,000

4779 Cross Road Stadler Trust to P. & L. Allen for \$2,025,000

1116 Dana Circle B. & A. Javier to P. & G. Wiltz for \$821,000

547 Humboldt Way D. Allen to R. & A. Rutherford for \$620,000

553 Loyola Way Faix Trust to K. & J. Goulette for \$600,000

1526 Melanie Way S. & M. Frevert to J. Meunier for \$845,000

398 North I Street Westling La Veta to E. Morales for \$447,000

516 Ontario Drive Kucek-Tatum Trust to J. & S. Kucek for \$681,000

3899 Princeton Way Downen Trust to R. & K. Becker for \$644,000

9600 Tesla Road D. Condon to Younger Trust for \$1,625,000

942 Ventura Avenue C. Lepchenske to A. Malaeb for \$505,000

265 Windward Common #4 R. Srinivasan to D. Shue for \$548,000

San Ramon

8985 Alcosta Boulevard #180 T. & D. Dias to Y. Tang for \$400,000

2605 Fountainhead Drive Alamo Associates Real Estate to H. Tam for \$470,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Dublin

2 BEDROOMS

6560 Nottingham Place **\$590,000**
Sat 1-4 Tom Fox & Louise Davis 200-2457

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

4368 Chapman Way **\$748,888**
Sat 12-3 David Morris & Brian Wright
699-0999/580-4524

4 BEDROOMS

1333 Rhone Place **\$2,225,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Collette & Patrick Fracisco 200-6231

5 BEDROOMS

3475 Blakemore Court **\$899,000**
Sat 1-4 Stephany Jenkins 989-3318

3708 Raboli St. **\$2,599,999**
Sat 1:30-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Find more open home listings at
pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

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3 BED, 2 BATH,
1163 SQFT
\$549,900

4368 CHAPMAN WAY PLEASANTON

3 BED, 2 BATH,
1372 SQFT
\$748,888



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5 BED, 4.5 BATH, 4675 SQFT,
4 CAR GAR., 9 ACRES,
\$2,489,000. ADJACENT 5
ACRE PARCEL AVAILABLE
\$697,500

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Offered at \$2,225,000

Virtual Tour: www.1333RhonePl.com

For more information,
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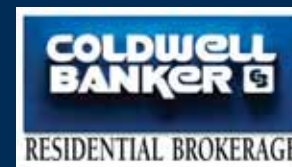
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lovely backyard.
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Country living near Downtown Livermore
that sits on a hill with views all around.
Must See
Nancy Terpening CalBRE #00380392
925.847.2213



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2101 Gabriella Lane
Coming Soon - Private Reserve
Incredible Location in the Private Reserve!
Gorgeous Upgrades, 5 BD 5 BA approx
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Daisy Ng CalBRE #01311067
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5269 Springdale Avenue
Desirable Stoneridge Townhome
Lrg Master w/FP. Bk pat entrnc to
greenbelt, prks, pools. Cls Frwy, awrd
winning Schls, Mall
Kristy Heyne CalBRE #01488364
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4632 Durness Court
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BEAUTIFUL ONE-STORY HOME
Ideal Court loc. New crpt in MB,
Kit has grnite & breakfast br.
Appliances stay!
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Charming Reserve Community!!
Wonderful Reserve Community Home
w/3 BD 2 BA. Open Floor Plan &
SS Appliances.
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PLEASANTON

3708 Raboli St Open Sat 1:30 - 4
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Luxury Mediterranean Style
Luxury Mediterranean style home in
Ruby Hill situated on corner lot with
wonderful views!
Bimla Sabhlok CalBRE#00939221
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SAN RAMON

527 Wycombe Court
\$2,868,000
Magnificent Home!
Loaded w/upgrades-Mahogany
flooring, solid cherry cabinets, library,
wine cellar & much more!
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925.847.2260

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OPEN SATURDAY 1-4

6560 Nottingham Place, Dublin
2 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1,346 Sq. Ft. | \$590,000
Tom Fox & Louise Davis
925.200.2457 | louise@louisedavis.com



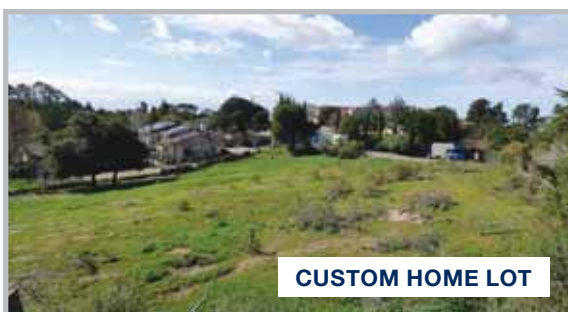
OPEN SAT 1-4 & SUN 12-3

3870 Great Salt Lake Court, Fremont
3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1,335 Sq. Ft. | \$825,000
Melissa Pederson
925.359.9606 | melissapederson.com



OPEN SATURDAY 1-4

3475 Blakemore Court, Pleasanton
5 Bed | 2 Bath | 2,078 Sq. Ft. | \$899,000
Stephany Jenkins
925.989.3318 | stephanyjenkins.com



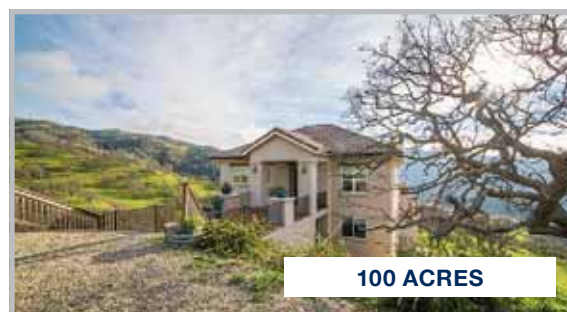
CUSTOM HOME LOT

Picea Court, Hayward Hills
.99 Acres | Lot w/Partial Bay View | \$325,000
Brad & Ann Walker
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5 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 3,716 Sq. Ft. | \$1,699,000
Anni Hagfeldt
925.519.3534 | anni@venturesir.com



100 ACRES

10651 Mendenhall Road, Livermore
5 Bed | 4.5 Bath | 4,573 Sq. Ft. | \$2,995,000
Lisa Sterling-Sanchez
925.980.9265 | trivalleyrealtor.com



VINEYARD ESTATE

7795 Cedar Mountain Road, Livermore
7 Bed | 6 Bath | 6,671 SF Sq. Ft. | \$3,750,000
Donna Garrison | Susan Schall
925.980.0273 | 925.519.8226 | FabulousProperties.net



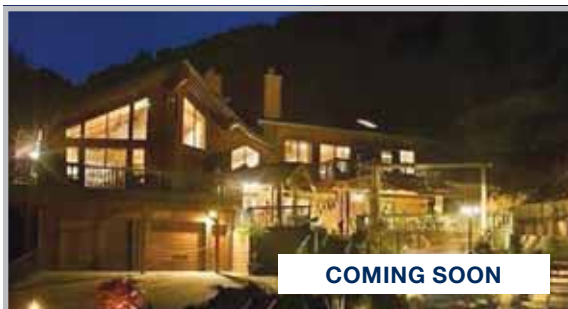
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152 Heligan Lane #7, Livermore
2 Bed + Loft | 2 1/2 Bath | 1,505 Sq. Ft. | \$600,000
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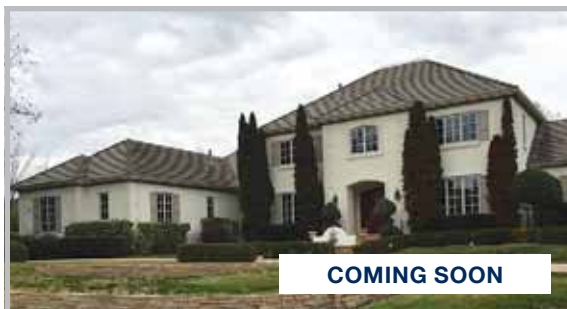
COMING SOON

4594 Lin Gate St., Pleasanton
3 Bed | 2 Bath | \$875,000
Phyllis Weiner | Peter McDowell
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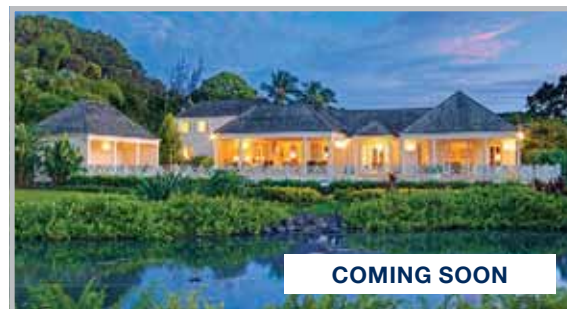
COMING SOON

21600 Eden Canyon Road, Castro Valley
Main House: 5 Bed | 4 Bath | 4,459 Sq. Ft. | \$1,995,000
2 Guest Units: 2 Bed | 2 Bath & 2 Bed | 1 Bath
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5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 4,598 Sq. Ft. | Call for Pricing
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COMING SOON

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5 Bed | 7 Bath | 6 Acres | \$14,500,000
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3385 Dublin Blvd #202 | 2bd 2ba
Jo Ann Luisi | 925.251.1111
By Appt



LIVERMORE \$870,000

1278 Asti Ct. | 5bd 2ba
Kris and Tyler Moxley | 925.251.1111
By Appt



LIVERMORE \$575,000

4277 East Ave | 3bd 2ba
Christine Stark | 925.251.1111
By Appt



PLEASANTON \$1,289,000

3143 Paseo Granada | 4bd 3ba
Tim McGuire | 925.251.1111
By Appt



PLEASANTON \$769,950

3628 Carlsbad Way | 3bd 2(1)ba
Jo Ann Luisi | 925.251.1111
By Appt



LIVERMORE \$1,299,000

2193 Gabriella Ln | 5bd 4ba
3878 sq ft 10799 lot
Linda Futral | 925.251.1111



LIVERMORE \$648,000

406 Humboldt Way | 3bd 2ba
1130 sq ft 6914 lot
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