

VETERANS MEMORIAL OPENS SATURDAY AT PIONEER CEMETERY



TRIBUTE TO HUNDREDS
BURIED THERE PAGE 12

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



TRACY DUNNE

Recently appointed to positions of Pleasanton Teen Poet Laureate are (from left) Kyler Juarez and Nithya Swaminathan, both students at Amador Valley High School, and Irene Sha and Kyle Mular, students at Foothill High.

4 students now city's Teen Poet Laureates

According to the free encyclopedia Wikipedia, the honor of being selected poet laureate dates back to the classical age of 1315 and the Italian Albertino Mussato. In modern times, the title is most often conferred by a poetry organization or a league or, most recently, by the Pleasanton Civic Arts Commission.

My good friend and neighbor Charlene Vilella was named the city's first poet laureate in 1998. Charlene died in 2005, but not before creating teen poetry workshops, which led to the creation of a Teen Poet Laureate position in 2012. Seven have now served two-year appointments.

Now we have four teens serving as poet laureates, providing specially composed poetry to read at civic events and even before the City Council when they were handed the titles. They are:

Kyler Juarez, a senior at Amador Valley High. She says her writing has been a catharsis, bringing peace during a difficult time in her young life. She was able to channel her emotions into her pen rather than a therapist. This is her second term as a Pleasanton Teen Poet Laureate.

Last year, she organized an event for seniors at Ridgeview Commons, where she and several others from Amador read and discussed poetry with residents. This year, her goal is to oversee a school project where students write poems to honor the military, publish them in a booklet and send them to a base overseas.

Nithya Swaminathan, a junior at Amador, loves to write and help

others. She's been writing stories and poems since she was very young, and has had poems published in a Web magazine called "Teen Ink." She says poetry has helped her find her sense of self as an Indian American.

One of her goals as Teen Poet Laureate is to create a middle school-age after-school poetry club. She also wants to establish a lunchtime poetry club at Amador.

Irene Sha carries a heavy academic load at Foothill High, where she's a junior. She has four Advanced Placement classes, plays sports and is involved in the school's music programs. Even so, she is passionate about writing poetry, which she's been doing since sixth grade. She favors poems that express emotions of anger, sadness, joy and frustration.

Sha also wants to organize poetry nights in Pleasanton, possibly at school sites. She plans to use her poet laureate position to organize poetry readings for hospitalized children.

Kyle Mular, a Foothill senior, moved to Pleasanton recently from New York state. He has excelled in the literary arts in school and has published a collection of dark and whimsical poetry.

A voracious reader who enjoys classic literature, Mular says he wants to organize uncensored, youth-centric slam poetry events to be held at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Teenagers interested in serving as poet laureates should contact Julie Finegan, visual arts coordinator, by email at jfinegan@cityofpleasantonca.gov or by calling 931-4849. ■

About the Cover

This new \$320,000 Veterans Memorial will be dedicated Saturday at the top of Pleasanton's Pioneer Cemetery. With its stately flag poles and bronze sculpture overlooking the graves of more than 500 veterans buried at Pioneer, the memorial serves to honor not only the fallen, but all the men and women who serve the country. Photo by Jeb Bing. Cover design by Kristin Brown.

Vol. XVII, Number 42

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Pleasanton Weekly

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Taylor Mecham
Hairdresser

I would much prefer to lose, playing against stiff competition. It's just so much more fun and competitive than winning easily. An easy win always feels like a pretty empty and hollow victory.



Sam Glasman Sales

I would rather lose. It's just so much more interesting and compelling to play against a tough competitor. And losing helps a person to build character, not to mention become a better player. It's just all around a much more valuable experience to play hard against a tough player than to win easily against a weaker player.



Roberta Meyer
Investment adviser

Honestly, I'd prefer an easy win. Life can be so difficult and so unfair at times, and I don't really seem to have very good luck. So if I'm playing a game and can win easily, I'll take the easy win and feel good about it.



Andre Harder
Marketing director

I'd take a hard-fought loss over an easy win any day of the week. Losing against a better player is a great learning experience. I'd rather have a blow to my ego that helps me to become a better player than to have a meaningless win.



Kerem Toker
Importer

I think as long as it is just a game, and my easy win doesn't injure anyone or cause them any harm, I'll go with the easy win. Because a win, whether it is easy or hard-fought, is always very confidence building.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

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DIGEST

Santa photos

Is your family visiting Santa Claus this year? To have a photo included in our holiday issue, send it with the subject line "Santa photo" to dciardelli@pleasanton-weekly.com by noon Dec. 12.

Photos should be jpeg format and at least 500KB to be large enough to use in the newspaper. Include names of children in the photo, names of parents, where you ran into Santa, where you live, where the children attend school and anything else you think might be interesting in the caption.

We are also interested in photos of pets with Santa.

Holiday meal drive

Open Heart Kitchen has put out a call to Tri-Valley residents and businesses to donate funds for the purchase of frozen turkeys and fixings for local families in need during the holiday season.

More than 1,000 turkeys are needed to meet the need of the region's hungry each holiday season, according to the local nonprofit. Contributions can be made online via www.openheartkitchen.org. All donations are tax deductible.

Local residents can also donate frozen turkeys and holiday fixings to Ridgeway Commons Senior Center at 5200 Case Ave. in Pleasanton.

For more information about food donations to Open Heart Kitchen, contact the operations director at 580-6793. Open Heart Kitchen feeds the hungry every weekday as an interfaith effort, and serves more than 300,000 meals annually. There is no qualifying process to receive meals.

Donations for kids

Two Pleasanton churches are among the handful of collection sites in and near the Tri-Valley for this year's Operation Christmas Child project organized by Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization.

Next week during the effort's national collection week, Pleasanton residents can donate shoeboxes — filled with school supplies, hygiene items, notes of encouragement and toys such as a doll or soccer ball — for Operation Christmas Child to deliver to children in need around the world.

This year, organizers hope area residents can contribute more than 17,400 shoebox gifts toward the 2016 global goal of reaching 12 million children. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

The two Pleasanton collection sites are Valley Bible Church at 7106 Johnson Drive and Graceway Church at 1183 Quarry Lane. For more information, visit samaritanpurse.org/occ. ■

Goodguys 27th Autumn Get-Together opens Saturday at fairgrounds

Horsepower, patriotism for Veterans Day weekend

By JEB BING

The final Goodguys event in 2016 opens Saturday at the Alameda County Fairgrounds for a two-day run with a special tribute to those in the military during this Veterans Day weekend.

The 27th Autumn Get-Together will bring together over 2,500 candy colored and chromed hot rods, customs, classics, muscle cars, trucks and American made and powered vehicles of all years.

The event officially ends the Goodguys car show season for hot rodders all over California and has become one of the "must attend" events on the Goodguys schedule.

Veterans Day weekend is a high-

light of this year's event, with free admission for military (active or retired) on Sunday, a Vettes for Vets parade and a pack out for the Pleasanton Military Families organization.

The Young American Patriots will perform at the show. The Get-Together will offer a special parking area and parade each day for veterans.

On both days of the show, Goodguys will team up with the Alameda County Food Bank for a special food drive promotion. Show-goers who bring two non-perishable food items to the event will receive a \$3-off general admission discount.

In addition, members of the Pleasanton Military Families organi-

zation will hold a donation drive for their pack out program. They will be onsite both days at the Yellow Gate. Through this program, care packages are shipped to military troops overseas.

Highlighting the autumn show will be an indoor display of all types, makes, sizes and colors of trucks. Also, an exhibit in the Hall of Commerce will feature customized, convertible and "tricked out" low-riders. Also there will be Cruiser-Rama, a custom bicycle show dedicated to all things cool with handle bars.

New to the 2016 Autumn Get-Together is a Concours display provided by the Blackhawk Automotive Museum. The exhibit will be housed in the newly renovated

Building Q and will showcase vehicles, including Packards, Cobras and other standout automotive creations, throughout the weekend.

At the show, the Goodguys event season will showcase the AutoCross Shootout Finals qualifying at each event. The Duel in the Desert, the Final Shootout, will take place Nov. 19 at the 19th Southwest Nationals at WestWorld in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The Goodguys 27th Autumn Get-Together gates are open both Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission is \$20 and \$6 for those 7-12. Alameda County Fairgrounds parking is \$10.

General admission tickets for \$17 are available online at www.goodguys.com until midnight Friday. ■



PAT FRIZZELL

Members of the Pleasanton Military Families organization carry banner honoring those who serve during Tri-Valley Veterans Day parade Sunday.

Thousands turn out for Tri-Valley Veterans Day parade

Event dedicated to those who served during Vietnam War era

Thousands lined Main Street on Sunday to watch the 20th annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day parade.

Some 91 marching, walking and motorized units filled the downtown area for the one-hour parade, followed by a festive ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Building, with patriotic music played by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band under the direction of Bob Williams.

The program included a short film narrated by Sam Elliott. Then, Army Maj. (Retired) James A. Taylor, a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient who was the parade grand marshal, presented

commemorative pins to all Vietnam-era veterans who served from 1959 to 1975.

The event is held annually, sponsored by Pleasanton's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298, the American Legion Post 237 and the Maj. Gen. William F. Dean Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

It is held ahead of the actual holiday so that veterans and civic leaders can represent Pleasanton in other celebrations on Nov. 11.

It is also the largest observance in Northern California, featuring military and veteran color guards, marching bands, horses, jeeps,

Humvees and other military vehicles. Marching along the way also were Girl Scout and Boy Scout organizations, Scottish pipe and drum units, the Alameda County Sheriff's Posse, elected officials from Tri-Valley cities and veterans from Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, Korea and even World War II.

This year's parade and post-parade ceremony in the Veterans Hall were dedicated to those who served during the Vietnam War era. It was among more than 7,000 events being conducted across the country to mark the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. ■

—Jeb Bing

HEAD OF THE CLASS

Munsell reaches out at Harvest Park

New principal looks to make middle school fun

By JULIA REIS

As a little girl growing up in San Lorenzo, she already had her sights set on becoming an educator, playing "school" instead of "house" with her Barbie dolls and writing down her intent to become a teacher in first grade.

So it felt fitting for Robin Munsell that she show that note declaring her future career path to the parents and staff of Harvest Park Middle School during her introduction several weeks ago.

"I always loved teaching and learning and helping kids," Munsell said.

Munsell, 34, was appointed Harvest Park principal at the end of September following Ethan Cheever's resignation about three months into his tenure. Munsell was a top finalist after interviewing for the job when it initially opened up in the spring, but after the Pleasanton school district selected Cheever, she returned to her position as assistant principal at San Ramon's Gale Ranch Middle School.

Munsell spent the last four years in that role prior to becoming Harvest Park's principal. She started off her career in education at Castro Valley High School, teaching English there for seven years.

Munsell's passion for education "was always there," she said, recalling how she recognized the

See **MUNSELL** on Page 7

Pleasanton's \$300,000 Cubby's dog park now open

Park named for city's first K9 'officer'

By JEB BING

Pleasanton's new \$300,000 "Cubby's" dog park opened Saturday following a festive ceremony led by Mayor Jerry Thorne.

The park is located at Lagoon Road and Bernal Avenue, with limited parking on-site but ample street parking available on Lagoon Road.

The city's second off-leash dog park occupies 1.5 acres at the staging area of the Marilyn Murphy Kane Walking Trail. It has a fenced dog play area, which includes a place for smaller dogs and a separate place for the larger dogs. There are drinking fountains, shade structures and even agility structures.

The new dog park, officially named Cubby's Dog Park at Bernal, honors the Pleasanton Police Department's K-9 officer Cubby, whose human handler was Officer Jay Graves. The department's K-9 unit was established in 1974, and Cubby was the first to join, serving not only Pleasanton but the entire Tri-Valley.

Graves has retired, but he and his family were at Saturday's ceremony, including his daughter Valerie, who now serves with the police department.

More than 300 entries were received in a naming contest for the

dog park before Cubby made the final cut. Other suggested names were Happy Trails, Paws to Play, Pooch Paradise, Pup-Town Life, Bark Alley, Barking Lot, Bernal Buddies, Pooches Playland, Mutt Manor and Murphy's Tails.

The name Cubby was suggested by Aidan Husejnovic, 10, a student at Mohr Elementary School, who won loud applause from a crowd of about 75 when he was introduced by Thorne.

Cubby is recognized on a plaque and sign posted at the entrance to the park, which is the second dog park to be built in Pleasanton to serve the city's 26,800 licensed dogs. The first is in Muirwood Park, built years ago.

The new park with its play equipment, shaded seating area for pet owners and other amenities, measures up to some of the better-known canine parks in the country, including Houston's Millie dog park, named for Millie Bush, the English Springer Spaniel who shared the White House with George and Barbara Bush.

It's still a bit shy of Richmond's Point Isabel Dog Park, a 23-acre off-leash park that even has a gourmet cafe, appropriately named Sit and Stay. ■



JEB BING

Aidan Husejnovic, 10, a student at Mohr Elementary School, listens Saturday morning as Mayor Jerry Thorne officially names Pleasanton's newest dog park for "Cubby," a name Aidan suggested to honor the Pleasanton Police Department's first K-9 "officer."

Foothill earns Best Delegation at Model UN conference

Falcons also take home 31 individual awards from regional competition

By JULIA REIS

Tri-Valley students took home multiple awards from the 26th annual Contra Costa County Model United Nations Conference, held at Diablo Valley College last weekend.

Pleasanton's Foothill High School earned the Best Delegation award and Dougherty Valley High in San Ramon was presented with the Outstanding Delegation award, according to the Contra Costa County Office of Education, which directed the conference. All told, 225 Bay Area high school students repre-

sented 13 schools took part in the two-day event.

"We are pleased to see so many high school students throughout our county and the Bay Area take advantage of our Model UN program," Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Karen Sakata said in a statement. "The skills they are currently refining with this program will be the same ones they'll use in college and/or their future careers."

Participating students served as delegates each representing a nation and negotiated on that coun-

try's behalf. Delegates debated international issues in 10 committees, discussing topics including eradicating child labor, reducing global food waste and the political participation of women. The event concluded Saturday afternoon with an awards ceremony recognizing the delegates.

Model UN participants were lauded for outstanding committee work, and individual delegates received awards in recognition of their debate and leadership skills, knowledge of the issues and presentation of key resolutions.

Foothill's team, which consisted of 51 participants, earned 31 individual honors. Students from other Tri-Valley schools were also recognized with individual awards: Dougherty Valley, California High in San Ramon and The Athenian School in Danville.

The academic event improves high school students' understanding of the United Nations and its role in global issues and gives them the opportunity to learn about other cultures, according to the Office of Education. It was coordinated by Kevin Felix Chan of Best Delegate along with members of the University of California at Davis Model United Nations Club.

Individual awards are on the Model UN website, www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/supe/events/modelun.htm. ■



COURTESY OF CCCOE

Foothill High School student Amy Zhou (right) and Dougherty Valley High's Eric Choi (left) accepted awards Saturday on behalf of their respective Model United Nations teams from Spencer Phillips, secretary general for the UC Davis Model UN Club. The Foothill team won Best Delegation.



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East Bay Parks waiving fees for veterans on holiday

District also halting fees for everyone on Black Friday

By JEREMY WALSH

The East Bay Regional Park District is waiving admission and parking fees for military veterans this Friday in honor of Veterans Day, and those same fees will be waived for everyone later in the month on Black Friday.

"The Veterans Day waiver is a way for us to thank military veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice," Carolyn Jones, the district's public information supervisor, said in a statement.

"The Black Friday waiver — part of the national #optoutside movement — is meant to encourage the public to hit the trails, not the malls on the busiest shopping day of the year," she added. "Benefits of hiking include exercise, fresh air and time with family and friends in a beautiful natural setting."

The fee waivers do not apply to California state fees such as watercraft inspections and fishing licenses, or to concessions such as the

Tilden steam trains, Jones noted.

The park district offers a range of public parks and trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, comprised of 120,000 acres in 65 parks including over 1,250 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and nature learning.

Jones said some recommended autumn hikes near Pleasanton include Camp Ohlone Trail in the Sunol Regional Wilderness (Sunol), Westside Loop Trail at Brushy Peak Regional Preserve (Livermore), Bayview Trail at Coyote Hills Regional Park (Fremont) and Stream Trail at Bishop Ranch Regional Preserve (San Ramon).

For more information, visit the district's website at www.ebparks.org. ■



COURTESY OF MUNSELL

Robin Munsell was named Harvest Park Middle School principal just over a month ago.

MUNSELL

Continued from Page 5

importance of education as a high school student learning about the correlation between education and literacy levels and prison rates.

"Seeing that correlation was very eye-opening," Munsell said. "How can we help kids so they have a better life?"

Her desire to help students and have a larger impact on a school community led Munsell to the Harvest Park principal vacancy.

'We need to make sure everyone is learning, but we can do that in a fun way.'

Robin Munsell,
Harvest Park principal

"It's a passion of mine to work with teachers, too, in implementation of new standards and technology," Munsell said. "That's why it's really exciting for me to be a principal and to help support students and staff and work with parents as we make lots of changes in education."

Munsell said her biggest undertaking as Harvest Park's new principal has been getting to know everyone. Since the initial introductions, she has been meeting with teachers individually and started book talks with staff and parents around "The Growth Mindset" by Carol Dweck.

As a leader, Munsell said she is energetic and likes to have fun with students and staff.

"We need to make sure everyone is learning, but we can do that in a fun way," she said. "You often ask people to think back to middle school and they say, 'I'd never want to go back.' So how can we make middle school somewhere that's fun, inviting and safe for everyone?"

The Harvest Park community has been welcoming and supportive, Munsell said, adding that the transition has been "a great learning experience."

"Harvest Park has a great reputation in the community," she said. "So many people I meet say, 'My kids went there!' or 'My grandkids went there!' Being able

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New rules in effect as winter 'Spare the Air' season starts

Wood-burning devices now banned in new homes, buildings being constructed in Bay Area

With the Winter Spare the Air season now underway, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is reminding residents in the region about new requirements that have been added to the district's wood-burning rules.

During the Winter Spare the Air season, which ends on Feb. 28, residents are prohibited from burning wood, manufactured fire logs and any other solid fuel

both indoors and outdoors when a Spare the Air Alert has been issued, according to the air district.

Last year, the air district adopted a series of more stringent amendments to the wood-burning rule, which was

originally passed in 2008.

According to the new requirements, anyone whose sole source of heat is a wood-burning device must use a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-certified or pellet-fueled device that is registered with the air district to qualify for an exemption.

Also, residents who begin a chimney or fire-place remodeling project that costs more than \$15,000 and requires a building permit will only be allowed to install a gas-fueled, electric or EPA-certified device, according to air district officials.

In addition, no wood-burning devices of any kind may be installed in

new homes or buildings being constructed in the Bay Area, air district officials said.

"Wood smoke from the Bay Area's 1.4 million fireplaces and wood stoves continues to be the largest source of wintertime air pollution in the region," air district executive officer Jack Broadbent said in a statement.

"The Air District's more stringent amendments to our wood-burning rule serve to further protect public health from wood smoke pollution," he added.

The air district will typically issue

a Winter Spare the Air Alert for the next day when weather conditions trap pollution close to the ground and air quality is forecast to be unhealthy.

Air district officials can also issue an alert for up to three days in advance to keep pollution from building up and exceeding federal standards.

If an alert is issued, first-time violators of the wood-burning rule will be given the option of taking a wood smoke awareness course or paying a \$100 fine. Second violations would be subject to a \$500 fine, with the fines increasing for any violations after that.

Exposure to wood smoke has been linked to respiratory illnesses as well as increased risk of heart attacks and can be especially harmful to children, the elderly and people already suffering from a respiratory condition, air district officials said.

To find out when a Winter Spare the Air Alert has been issued, residents can call (877) 466-2876, visit www.sparetheair.org or www.baaqmd.org, sign up for automatic e-mail alerts or download a Spare the Air smartphone app. ■

—Daniel Montes, Bay City News

'Amendments to our wood-burning rule serve to further protect public health from wood smoke pollution.'

Jack Broadbent,
Air quality district

Budget woes force reduction in Superior Court clerk hours

Most courthouses to close over Christmas holiday week

Budgetary woes are forcing Alameda County Superior Court officials to reduce court clerks' hours beginning in January.

Currently, the clerks' offices at the county's courthouses are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, but beginning on Jan. 3 the hours will be cut to 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, court officials said.

Traffic clerk offices, which had been open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, will be reduced to 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., according to court officials.

In addition, telephone hours in all clerks' offices except for traffic will be reduced to 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Phone hours for traffic clerk offices will still be from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Drop boxes will be available at each clerks' office for filings made between 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. but filings deposited after 4 p.m. will be deemed to have been deposited on the next court day.

The announcement about the reduction in court clerks' hours comes on the heels of the court's announcement last month that it will close all courthouses in Alameda County except the Wiley Manuel Courthouse in Oakland from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 in another cost-cutting move.

Limited staff will be on hand at the Wiley Manuel Courthouse, which is located at 661 Washington St. in Oakland, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 23 and from Dec. 27 to Dec. 30 to accept case filings.

The closed courthouses will offer no court services to the public. Certain cases will be heard at the Juvenile Justice Center in San Leandro, but the JJC will be closed to the public, county officials said.

Alameda County court officials said they started the fiscal year with a budget deficit of more than \$5 million and have engaged in ongoing efforts to balance their budget by reducing costs.

They said those steps include

eliminating a number of vacant staff positions, instituting a "hard freeze" of no less than 12 months of filling other positions and placing a "soft freeze" on all other positions, meaning that any vacant position will be kept vacant for no less than 90 days after it opens up.

Court officials said California's trial courts were subject to severe budget restrictions that during the economic downturn.

They said that although the state's economy has improved in recent years, only a small percentage of that funding has been restored.

Certain courts, including the Alameda County Superior Court, have been deemed to be "donor" courts, which means that large portions of the court's ongoing funding and any new monies restored to the courts through the budget process are diverted to courts in other counties that have been deemed by state court officials to be more under-resourced. ■

—Bay City News Service

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TAKE US ALONG



Greek Islands:

BethAnn Moitoso and Lisa Ramos took their Pleasanton Weekly to several Greek Islands, then to Israel and on to Rome, Florence and Tuscany

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

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pleasanton orthodontist Steve Nerad with Jack McDowell and Halloween candy he donated at Nerad's annual Halloween buy-back event.

Pleasanton orthodontist buys back 1,310 pounds of Halloween candy

Steven Nerad pays \$1 a pound to kids, sends candy to troops overseas

By JEB BING

Pleasanton orthodontist Steven Nerad collected 1,310 pounds of candy last week in his annual Halloween buy-back event.

"It blew the socks off our 2015 record of 600 pounds, Nerad said. "It was a win for the kids, schools and troops."

Nerad and his office staff paid \$1 per pound with a 20-pound limit to school children who brought

their trick-or-treat collection to the practice at Suite 107 at 1024 Serpentine Lane.

Plus, for every pound of candy brought in, Nerad also matched his payout to the two schools whose students delivered the most candy, with a match of up to \$250 to the first place school and \$100 to the runner-up.

The candy that his office bought back is being donated to military troops serving overseas, Nerad said.

"We want to give a big thanks to all those that brought their candy in," Nerad added.

Groups that participated in the candy drive included Veterans of Summerset in Brentwood, Their Angels, Inc in Richmond and Blue Star Moms in San Jose.

For more information on the buyback, visit Nerad's website at www.UrKidsDentist.com or call 846-3336. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'P-Town Race' returns

Pleasanton artist Margene Rivara displays her stained glass creation, "P-Town Race," which is returning to town after her brother bought it in a competitive Sotheby's phone auction. Rivara was commissioned decades ago to create the work of art, which depicts harness racing in Pleasanton, home to the oldest one-mile track in the country. The stained glass graced the front window of the Pleasanton Hotel for 27 years but left town for auction in January 2009. Now, with the help of Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, it is being returned to Pleasanton and will be reinstalled at Handles on Main, a bar and restaurant leasing the location in the historic Pleasanton Hotel.



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Civic Center Update: Consider acceptance of the draft Civic Center/Library Master Plan document and provide direction on future steps for consideration of the Master plan by Pleasanton voters in 2018

Economic Vitality Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.
Operation Services Conference Room, 3333 Busch Road

- Overview of the California Political Reform Act, Pleasanton's Conflict of Interest Code, and inclusion of members of the Economic Vitality Committee as designated positions subject to filing Statements of Economic Interest
- Selection of potential new alternate for the Downtown Specific Plan Task Force

Housing Commission

Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review and Recommendation for an Affordable Housing Agreement with Ponderosa II, Inc. for the Village at Valley Trails Development Located at 6900 Valley Trails Drive (PUD-113)
- Review the 2017 budget for Ridge View Commons

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Karen Ellis Pico

December 14, 1944 – October 13, 2016

A great lady has left this world but her legacy lives on. In her professional life she took on the task of ending child abuse in this world and while the task continues, there are countless children and families that will never know how much she contributed to their breaking the cycle of child abuse. Her life was lived to the fullest. She was solo backpacking in her late 60's and introduced her family and many of her lady friends to the experience. Two major accomplishments were her completion of the 211 mile John Muir Trail, and work to create the Antioch Primrose Sand Dunes Preserve. Her motto was "Don't hold back."



Karen was born in Los Angeles to Louis and Leola Pusina and lived most of her adult life in Pleasanton and Antioch. She graduated from Cal State East Bay and with a Masters degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University. She was a Marriage and Family Therapist and worked for 21 years at Parental Stress Service (Family Paths), a child abuse prevention agency, the last 11 as Executive Director. She is survived by her husband former Pleasanton Mayor Tom Pico Jr., children Adam and Mathew Ellis, step-children Tom Pico III and Jennifer Moy, seven-grandchildren, sister Frances Elsner, brother Jan Pusina, aunt Laura Smith, cousin Barrie Hafler, and former husband Robert Ellis.

Karen was an avid reader, active in local politics, and a seeker of hot springs. She loved traveling in their motor home and traveled extensively overseas. She loved and was deeply loved by her family and circle of friends. She died of a rare brain disease, Progressive Supra Nuclear Palsy (PSP), while at home, surrounded by family and friends. A memorial service and reception will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2016, 5pm, at St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore, CA.

PAID OBITUARY

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Police arrest 6 in separate alleged theft incidents

Pleasanton police arrested six people and recovered a stolen car, mail and drugs in separate incidents that took place less than five hours apart last week.

In the later incident, a citizen on Angus Way called police shortly after 1 a.m. Nov. 4 reporting that he had confronted a woman in his front yard who was carrying a large amount of mail, according to Pleasanton police Sgt. Pat Walsh.

The woman reportedly fled to a waiting car as the citizen called 9-1-1 and provided a suspect and vehicle description.

Within a minute, Walsh said, Officer Rich Trovao located the vehicle leaving the area and conducted a traffic stop. Inside the car, officers allegedly found stolen property, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, and stolen mail and credit cards from residents in Pleasanton and San Joaquin County.

Walsh also alleged the two occupants threw mail out of the car as they fled, as officers followed a trail of mail on the route they took leaving the neighborhood.

Both of the car's occupants — Stockton residents Tiffany Pigg, 30, and Alicia Davis, 28 — were arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail on charges of mail theft and drug possession, according to Walsh.

The other incident occurred at 8:30 p.m. Nov. 3 when, according to police, a Pleasanton officer patrolling the Valley Trails neighborhood spotted a car that had been reported stolen from Hayward on Oct. 26. The car was parked on South Valley Drive near Yellowstone Court.

After watching the car for a period of time, police conducted a probation search at 3552 Yellowstone Court and arrested several people on probation for theft and drug-related crimes, according to Walsh.

Police allege Antonio Ortega, a 27-year-old Pleasanton resident, was in possession of a methamphetamine smoking pipe, had an outstanding warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia and is on probation.

Livermore resident Robert Maynard, 27, had a warrant for stealing a vehicle, was in possession of methamphetamine and is on probation, according to police.

The other two arrested were 25-year-old San Jose resident Joseph Murphy for cocaine possession and 26-year-old Mariana Coons of Livermore for being in possession of stolen credit cards while on probation, Walsh said.

All four were booked into Santa Rita Jail. The investigation into the stolen vehicle is ongoing, and a suspect has not yet been identified, Walsh said.

In other police news

- California Highway Patrol officers arrested a 49-year-old man who led them on a pursuit after he alleg-

edly shot at another vehicle during a road rage incident on Interstate 680 Saturday night in Sunol, according to the CHP.

Around 9 p.m., officers responded to a report of shots fired on northbound I-680, near the Highway 84 onramp, CHP officer Derek Reed said.

The incident was described as a road rage incident in which one vehicle tried to run the other off the roadway, according to Reed.

Officers were able to locate the car that had been fired at and spoke with the driver, confirming that no one was injured during the shooting.

Officers then located the vehicle that fired the shots, described as an orange Mercury Cougar, traveling northbound on the highway at Sycamore Valley Road in Danville, Reed said.

When officers tried to pull over the Mercury, the male driver refused and continued driving northbound on the highway. The driver then exited at Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek and pulled into the nearby BART station, according to Reed.

Once at the BART station, the driver exited the vehicle and tried to flee on foot. Officers however were able to apprehend the driver.

The driver, a Redwood City resident whose name was not released, was arrested on suspicion of failing to yield and possession of narcotics, Reed said.

Details about the gun used in the shooting were not immediately available. ■

—Julia Reis and Bay City News Service

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Nov. 5

Theft

- 1:17 p.m. on the 5100 block of Oakdale Court
- 4:31 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Warrant arrest

- 3:08 a.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Nov. 4

Theft

- 10:35 a.m., 3400 block of Windsor Court; theft from auto
- 2:18 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 3:48 p.m., 5000 block of Case Avenue; bicycle theft
- 3:51 p.m. on the 3400 block of Virgil Circle

Vandalism

- 2:18 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Drug violation

- 9:59 a.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

- 2:56 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Fraud

- 1:21 a.m. on the 3700 block of Angus Way

Nov. 3

Drug violation

- 11:51 p.m. on the 3500 block of Yellowstone Court

Warrant arrests

- 10:57 a.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Owens Drive
- 3:11 p.m. at Stoneridge Drive and Springdale Avenue

Theft

- 10:40 a.m., 4400 block of Oracle Lane; theft from auto
- 12:01 p.m., 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; shoplifting
- 2:46 p.m., 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting
- 11:51 p.m., 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

Graffiti

- 1:43 p.m. on the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

Nov. 2

Vehicle tampering

- 5:30 p.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 10:22 a.m. on the 800 block of Main Street

Robbery

- 7:03 a.m. on the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

Commercial burglary

- 7:20 a.m. on the 400 block of Main Street

Theft from auto

- 7:19 a.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive
- 5:44 p.m. on the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:17 p.m. on the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Nov. 1

Alcohol violation

- 7:50 p.m. at Stanley Boulevard and Bernal Avenue

Theft

- 12:49 p.m., 3700 block of North Gettysburg Court; theft from auto
- 5:12 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 10:42 p.m. on the 1700 block of Beachwood Way

Warrant arrest

- 11:46 a.m. on the 4900 block of Hopyard Road

Animal service

- 6:35 a.m. on the 3400 block of Boulder Street

Vandalism

- 10:14 a.m. on the 4300 block of Black Avenue

Oct. 31

Domestic battery

- 11:08 p.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Vehicle tampering

- 1:58 p.m. on the 4000 block of School Street

Theft

- 1 a.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; commercial burglary
- 5:57 a.m., 1000 block of Serpentine Lane; auto theft
- 6:36 a.m., 5300 block of Owens Court; theft from auto
- 6:44 a.m., 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; theft from auto
- 10:22 a.m., 1000 block of Kottlinger Drive; theft from auto

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY



Aerial view shows 54-acre, \$16.5 million sports fields and part of oak woodland, opened three weeks ago in Bernal Community Park. Once a hayfield owned by San Francisco, it was long considered Pleasanton's "Field of Dreams."

Bernal Park: Our 'Field of Dreams'

After years of planning — from the late 1990s to last Oct. 28 — the Bernal property between the fairgrounds and I-680 has always been our "Field of Dreams." Owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities agency since the 1930s, it's the abundant underground aquifers that San Francisco relied on for part of its water supply.

Then the city by the Bay saw an opportunity. Sell the ground above for homes — 2,000 of them. That brought then-Mayor Ben Tarver and his fellow City Council members to their feet as efforts began to block the proposed development, turn the hay fields into a golf course, a cemetery or find an alternative.

Greenbriar Homes and a partner seized the opportunity to help the city and the developers. In a series of lengthy and sometimes painful deliberations, made more tense by a San Francisco-imposed deadline, Greenbriar bought the 510-acre Bernal property, working a deal with Pleasanton leaders to receive building permits for homes, apartments and (later) retail stores on part of the land while giving the rest — 318 acres of pristine land — to the city of Pleasanton for public use as Bernal Community Park.

On Oct. 28, we dedicated a 54-acre, \$16.5 million project that added a second and most ambitious phase to the park that was given to us. It includes three lighted multipurpose all-weather synthetic sports fields, small grass areas, group picnic areas, an area for children's play equipment and drinking fountains.

The fields are an extension of the two lighted baseball fields built several years ago and include playing areas and bleachers for soccer, rugby, lacrosse, youth football and more baseball fields. Also added was a 40-acre oak woodland with trails and seating areas. Parents can now drop their kids off for a game and go for a leisurely walk just a few yards away.

There's more coming. Phase 3 will include a baseball stadium for club play next to Stanford field and another football field closer to Valley Avenue. A community farm and amphitheater are still in the plans. Also under consideration is the construction of new city facilities, including a new library, police station, city hall and civic center along the Union Pacific Railroad tracks that border Bernal Park.

We once talked about our "Field of Dreams." Now we have it. ■

LETTERS

Salute to Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center

Compliments to the city of Pleasanton and their state-of-the-art Firehouse Arts Center and fine staff.

We've been performing our "Tribute to the Kingston Trio" for over 45 years and this venue has to rank No. 1 on our list. The matinee performance on Sunday, Oct. 23, was sold out weeks in advance and exceeded all our expectations. And, oh, by the way ... the very professional promotional pieces and everyone's efforts really paid off for a very successful show.

Thanks again, city of Pleasanton and the Firehouse staff for the pleasure of performing in the Firehouse Arts Center. The experience was more than "pleasant." We're looking forward to doing it again in the future.

—The County Line Trio

Gomes is well-suited to lead Open Heart Kitchen

I live at Ridgeview Commons in Pleasanton and frequently volunteer in its kitchen operated by Open Heart Kitchen. OHK prepares and sends lunch and dinner to sites in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore providing nourishment to seniors and students in need.

My experience has been wonderful working with the staff from Open Heart Kitchen, including Clare, Lisa, Gunilla, Matt, Shawnda and others. From early morning (7 a.m.) until late afternoon, the staff works diligently, and with good humor, making meals that seniors will enjoy.

The leadership provided by Clare Gomes is perfect; she is always there to advise and assist us and to sometimes supervise the volunteers when needed. There couldn't be a better person to be executive director than Clare — she is fair, compassionate and very dedicated to her job.

Clare makes volunteering a rewarding experience with her hands-on involvement in the whole process. We are all dedicated to making meals the seniors will enjoy so that they come back often. Lots of dedication and fun in the kitchen, always thinking of "our seniors."

My hope is that Clare Gomes will be appointed the next executive director of Open Heart Kitchen. In my humble opinion, there is no one better suited for this very important job.

—Stella Parlante

Rainy season

With summer over and real use for our large white containers we used to transport recycled water, we thought it would be a good idea to collect rain water. The last storm, a few weeks ago, we filled our 350-gallon container in just a few hours. We added fertilizer and used that during the dry spell the third week in October.

Now with the rain coming the end of October, we plan to fill it again and keep the cycle going through the rainy season. With extra healthy plants come the spring, we are hoping they will really survive any possible drought next summer.

—Dianne and Chris Root

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VETERANS MEMORIAL OPENS SATURDAY

TRIBUTE TO HUNDREDS OF

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY JEB BING

A new \$320,000 Veterans Memorial will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the top of Pioneer Cemetery, marking the completion of a two-year project that has been a partnership between the city of Pleasanton and the city's two veterans organizations, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 and American Legion Post 237.

"This memorial will serve to honor not only our fallen, but all the men and women who serve our country," City Manager Nelson Fialho said. "We couldn't have done this without the phenomenal support of our community and veterans groups."

The memorial overlooks the graves of more than 500 veterans buried at Pioneer and the adjoining St. Augustine Catholic cemeteries, located at 5780 Sunol Blvd. At least two of these veterans served during the Civil War.

Plaques placed around the base of the monument honor by name 21 Pleasanton-area residents killed in action in wars since World War II. They include Army Sgt. Joseph D. Peters, the first Pleasanton soldier killed in World War II during D-Day exercises on June 8, 1944. Peters Avenue in downtown Pleasanton was named for him.

The most recent wartime fatality was Army Spc. Jameson Lindskog, who died in action in Afghanistan on March 29, 2011.

The memorial design features a life-size bronze statue of a World War II Marine Corps soldier, kneeling to honor his fallen comrades and facing the cemetery's entrance. The statue was designed and built by Colorado artist and Vietnam War veteran Ron Petit.

Speakers at Saturday's ceremony will include retired Maj. Gen. Nick Tooliatos, Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne and Jim McGuirk, a Pleasanton native and Army veteran who has completed two deployments to Iraq.

Long-awaited improvements to Pleasanton's city-owned Pioneer Cemetery, including a veterans memorial, have been pursued for years by Pleasanton veterans and others who wanted to make the local burial grounds their final resting place.

Those improvements became more likely after the 120-year-old cemetery was purchased, al-

beit reluctantly, by the city from the International Order of Odd-fellows in 2007.

At the time, some members of the council were openly squeamish about the purchase because of the poor condition the cemetery was in. Graves and headstones dating back into the 1800s were sold in a one-time payment plan with no perpetual

care provisions as modern-day cemeteries have. In many instances, families of those buried at Pioneer have themselves died or moved away.

Since then, the Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department and the Rotary Club of Pleasanton invested time and money to cart away litter, repair broken benches and pavement

and spruce up the landscape.

Two years ago, the Pleasanton City Council approved a plan to renovate the cemetery and designated a location for a future memorial to Pleasanton area veterans. Within a month, the VFW and American Legion posts formed a committee to design, fund and build a memorial.

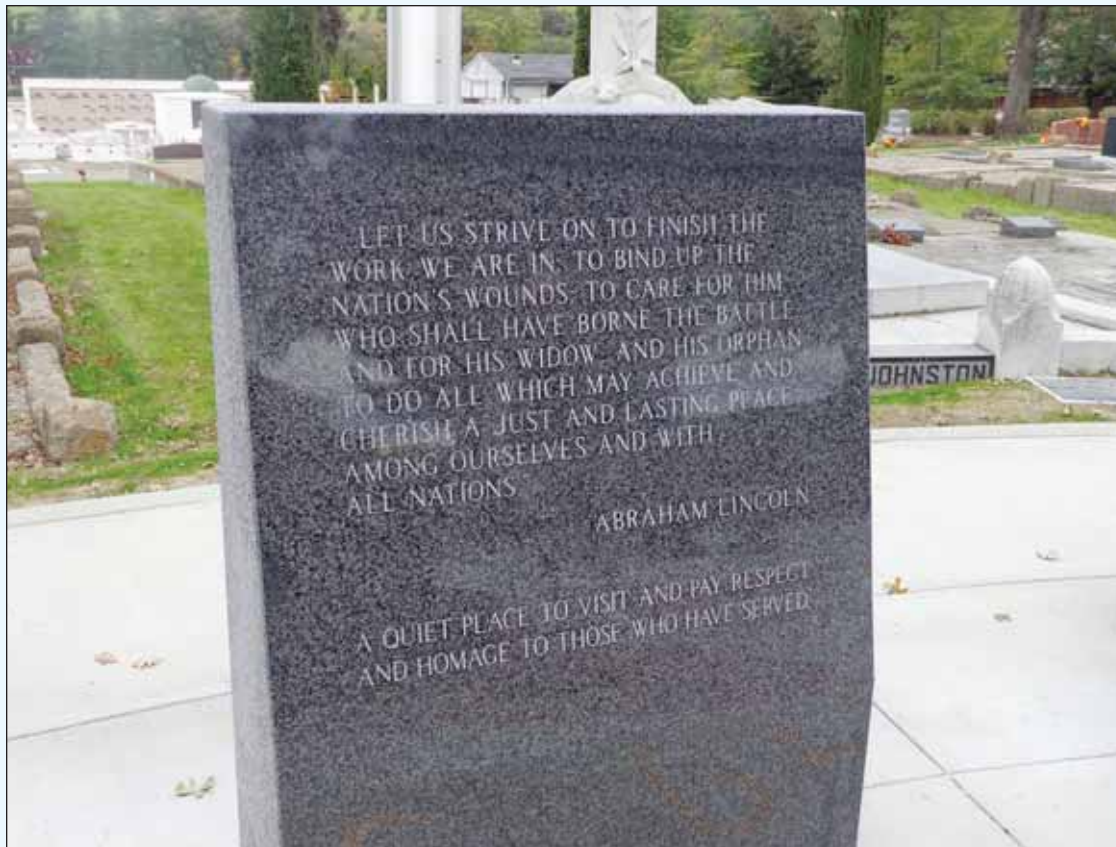
In August 2015, the commit-

tee began seeking approval for the design and site, and three months later the City Council unanimously approved the project. The Pleasanton Veterans Memorial Committee began fundraising on Nov. 4, 2015.

Two local families pledged and later donated a total of \$140,000. Arts contributors Gary and Nancy Harrington pledged \$40,000 in



Life-size bronze statue of World War II Marine Corps member kneeling to honor his fallen comrades was designed and built by Colorado artist and Vietnam War veteran Ron Petit.



President Abraham Lincoln's message urging the public to "bind up the nation's wounds" is etched in granite at the base of the Veterans Memorial.



Colorado artist Ron Petit's bronze sculpture of a Marine kneeling is the centerpiece of the Veterans Memorial off Sunol Boulevard.

SATURDAY AT PIONEER CEMETERY

REDS BURIED THERE

matching funds if the memorial to veterans was built during the design phase, and Bob and Marilyn Weiss pledged \$50,000 and then made an additional pledge of \$50,000 in matching funds. These two families have been designated as “Early Visionaries” for their significant role in the project.

More than 270 separate dona-

tions were received from local individuals, local businesses and community service organizations. More than 60 of these donations were for \$1,000 or more.

But for people like Frank Capella and Doug Miller, who serve on a volunteer cemetery group they formed, much more needs to be done. Some tombstones are still tilting, many can't be read

and a narrow road around the cemetery, located off Sunol Boulevard, is difficult to maneuver, especially by older drivers who go there to visit a loved one's grave.

Along with the Veterans Memorial now being dedicated, Kathleen Yurchak, assistant director of operations services, also has received the council's

approval to form a Cemetery Master Plan Oversight Committee and to spend up to \$50,000 in consulting fees to consider improvements. These may include an irrigation system that the cemetery never had, better landscaping and ongoing maintenance requirements.

Yurchak and others on the city staff said there are no plans to

turn Pioneer into a pristine landscaped cemetery found in other locations, but they agreed that some improvements would help.

Among other improvements under consideration are those suggested by the Harringtons. In their vision of the cemetery, traffic on Sunol Boulevard would be greeted with a creative sign inviting them to visit historic Pioneer Cemetery. Once inside the gates, they would be directed to a staging area where the cemetery's history, the names of early Pleasanton settlers and the more than 500 veterans buried there would be listed with a locator map to their graves. All through the cemetery, markers would provide more historic details.

Clearly, though, one of the first challenges for Yurchak and her committee will be to count the graves. She told the council that no one knows how many are buried at Pioneer beyond the 500 that are military veterans.

For those attending Saturday morning's dedication event, parking will be available at the Pleasanton Senior Center, located at 5353 Sunol Blvd., with shuttle buses providing transportation to and from the memorial site.

After the dedication, those at the ceremony are invited to a reception at Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. ■



of a Marine kneeling where a comrade has fallen faces Pioneer Cemetery's entrance



At twilight, the Marine statue and seven flagpoles at the top of the cemetery provide a striking view of the \$320,000 Veterans Memorial.



Granite markers honor the country's five branches of service, with their flags flying on tall poles behind them.

DON LEWIS Impacting music and lives



CHUCK DECKERT

Pleasanton's Don Lewis was named the 2016 recipient of the Tri-Valley Heroes Arts and Culture award for his contributions to the musical world and community at-large.

By **JULIA REIS**

Growing up in Ohio in the 1940s and '50s, music was a constant presence in Don Lewis' everyday life.

He fondly recalls how his elementary school teachers would lead the class in singing before settling down for a lesson, and how he would picture the performers as he listened to the Metropolitan Opera Company over the radio with his mother.

But Lewis never picked up an instrument himself until he was an adolescent, when a vivid dream left an impact.

"My interest in playing the organ was piqued by a young man playing at our church — I sat behind him and watched him play," Lewis, 75, said. "One evening I went to sleep and had a dream that I was sitting there playing the organ. The feeling I had in that dream, I had never felt anything like it."

The next morning, Lewis told his grandmother he wanted to



JULIE LEWIS

Lewis shown earlier in his career playing the instrument he invented, the Live Electronic Orchestra, a synthesizer system that was an inspiration for Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI).

learn to play the organ, to which she replied that he'd have to learn the piano first.

"I said, 'OK, whatever it takes,'" Lewis recalled.

Over the decades since that fateful morning, the young man from Dayton, Ohio would become known as a musical pioneer for inventing an instrument called the Live Electronic Orchestra (LEO), a synthesizer system that was an inspiration for Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI).

But in and around Pleasanton, his home for more than three decades, Lewis is particularly known for his advocacy work through his talent.

He started two programs to foster music and the arts among youth — Young Expressions, a mentoring opportunity for local student artists, and Say "Yes" to Music!, through which Lewis has performed at school assemblies for thousands of students and teachers. Lewis has also stepped up to encourage the Pleasanton school district to preserve and add to its music offerings amidst recent years of fiscal uncertainty for those programs.

Lewis' contributions to the musical world and community at-large earned him this year's Tri-Valley Heroes Arts and Culture award, which he accepted at a ceremony in Pleasanton last month.

"Music has been my magic carpet ride — it's taken me throughout the world," Lewis said during his acceptance speech. "But it's also taken me into the hearts and minds of people throughout the world."

Lewis' musical journey saw him encountering many unique people and places in his stops along the way to the Tri-Valley. After graduating high school, he enrolled in college as an electronics engineering student at what was then called Tuskegee Institute, where he would also join the Tuskegee Chorus.

Less than 30 miles from where Lewis was attending school in Alabama, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was serving as a pastor in

Montgomery and leading the charge for African-American civil rights, Lewis recalled.

King would visit Tuskegee to meet with college professors, and Lewis would play for his rallies.

"We used some of the old spirituals and gospel work songs, and changed the lyrics to go with the Civil Rights Movement," Lewis said.

Lewis' time at Tuskegee was cut short, however by the political unrest of the time. Rather than being drafted into the U.S. Army, in 1961 he enlisted in the Air Force and served a four-year tour in

Roswell, N.M., as a nuclear weapons specialist for the Atlas missile.

Upon completing his service, Lewis moved to Denver, where at one point he simultaneously worked as an engineering technician, a choir director and a musician playing regular restaurant gigs.

He eventually decided to quit his engineering job to become a full-time professional musician. That decision later led to Lewis' move to Los Angeles, where in the mid-1970s he would design the Plexiglass shell that later became the LEO.

"(The invention) came out of necessity from hauling around all these individual instruments that I could not get complete access to play all the time," Lewis said.

Along with that invention, Lewis can also count among his achievements writing works for the Denver Symphony Orchestra and working with greats like Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson.

As a Pleasanton resident of 35 years, Lewis has also particularly enjoyed bringing his passion for music to schools in the Tri-Valley and beyond through his Say "Yes" to Music! assemblies. While he hasn't done any of late, Lewis continues to perform at local venues and lead the songs at Rotary Club of Pleasanton meetings.

"Music has been the vehicle I've been able to use and continue to use — I'm not finished," he said. ■

'Music has been the vehicle I've been able to use and continue to use — I'm not finished.'

Don Lewis,
Tri-Valley Hero

Hero FYI

- ▲ Don Lewis lives in Pleasanton with his wife, Julie. They have two adult sons, Marc and Paul, who live in other parts of the state.
- ▲ The LEO, the instrument Lewis created, is now on display at the Museum of Making Music in Carlsbad.
- ▲ After moving to California, Lewis performed with The Beach Boys, playing the synthesizer and opening for the band in 1974.
- ▲ He has also created scores for film and television productions, including the "Rainbows End" and "Were You There" series on PBS.
- ▲ His pioneering work is the subject of a documentary called "The Ballad of Don Lewis," set to be released next year.

CRISTINA HILL Teaching technology



COURTESY OF HILL FAMILY

San Ramon native Cristina Hill received the 2016 Tri-Valley Heroes Innovation award for her “Seniors in Touch” program to help seniors improve their technology and social media skills.

BY CATHY JETTER

Technology has always been a part of life for 18 year-old Cristina Hill.

As a member of the first generation who will never know life without a cellphone or Google, the recent California High School graduate has been figuring out how to take advantage of the wired life since she could talk.

“From the time she was 2 or 3, we had cellphones,” her mother, Sylvia San Miguel, said. “She was the secretary for the family — at 3, she was answering the phones in a very professional way.”

Hero FYI

- ▲ Cristina Hill is the youngest of four children.
- ▲ Acting was her first passion — she once played Aurora in “Sleeping Beauty.”
- ▲ A San Ramon native, Hill graduated from California High School in June and now studies at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.
- ▲ She is a member of the Leadership Development Program, part of the Honors Program at Seton Hall.
- ▲ She is heading to Barcelona, Spain for a study abroad program in March.



COURTESY OF HILL FAMILY

While a student at California High School, Hill (right) taught local senior citizens through informative presentations and one-on-one mentoring sessions, with lessons such as creating a Facebook profile, accessing the internet, sending emails, shopping online and using smartphones more effectively.

From there it was on to email accounts and of course, social media. “She’s not intimidated by it at all,” San Miguel added. “Each new thing that comes along, Facebook, Instagram and whatever is the new thing they are doing today, she will be a part of it.”

But not everyone is a natural, as Hill discovered when she was looking for a project to fulfill her requirement for the Girl Scouts Gold Award.

A member of San Ramon’s Troop 32680 since the first grade, Hill and several other troop members set the lofty goal to attain the organization’s highest award when they were still young.

“It’s a huge undertaking,” Hill said. “Only about 5.4% of Girl Scouts achieve it.”

One of the major aspects of the Gold Award is a project, similar to that needed for Boy Scouts to receive their Eagle Scout Award — except, Hill said with a smile, “It’s harder.”

Hill said that coming up with an idea for the project might have been the most difficult part. “I was having a hard time finding something I really wanted to do,” she explained.

“There are a lot of requirements you have to meet before a project is approved. The project requires 80 hours of your own time, and the project has to be sustainable for the future.”

Through long talks with her mother, Hill finally came upon an idea that hit home with her. “My mom was just throwing ideas out there one after another, and something she said made me think about the difference in the relationships I have with my grandparents,” Hill said.

While her father’s parents were active on social media, her mother’s parents were not. “She was much more connected with Owen’s parents,” San Miguel said. “She was able to keep them updated on her life.”

From this, Hill was inspired to create and implement a plan for teaching older adults their way around the internet. Starting with her technologically challenged grandfather, Hill’s project brought her to two local community centers and the Villa San Ramon Senior Living Facility.

“To work with these people and then watch them apply what I taught them, that was pretty phenomenal,” Hill said. “That was my favorite part.”

Hill’s dedication and success inspired San Miguel to nominate her daughter for the Tri-Valley Heroes Award for Innovation.

As a freshman in the middle of midterms at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, Hill wasn’t able to attend the awards ceremony in person, but her father made sure she was a part of it. “My dad FaceTimed me while they were introducing me, and I got to hear my mom’s speech,” Hill said. “She’s always been

my biggest fan.”

Hill has gained a lot of fans since she started her project. Now when people hear about her project, they ask for help. Luckily, her skills will be improving as fast as technology changes; though she entered college as a marketing and management major, a technology class she is taking inspired her to declare a second major.

“Something about the class just clicked with me,” she said. “So now I am an IT major, too.” ■

‘To work with these people and then watch them apply what I taught them, that was pretty phenomenal.’

Cristina Hill,
Tri-Valley Hero

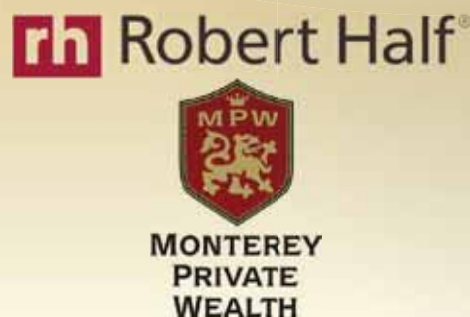


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Sports



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Foothill poised for playoffs after shutout win against Amador

Falcons seeded 6th, travel to Cal High on Saturday

The Foothill varsity football team closed out the regular season with a defensive gem, beating crosstown rival Amador Valley 15-0 in the East Bay Athletic League final game last Friday.

Thanks to the win, the Falcons (6-4 overall, 6-2 EBAL) move on to the North Coast Section Division I playoffs, starting Saturday when they travel to San Ramon to play California.

The loss ended the season for the Dons (3-7, 3-5), who suffered through a campaign rife with injuries.

Foothill is the No. 6 seed, and California is seeded third. The two sides met in the second week of the season, a game that saw Foothill play well early before falling 28-15.

The Falcons have been battling injuries as well this year and will go into the Cal game shorthanded once again. But the team showed its resiliency after battling back from a 0-3 start to go 6-1 over the final seven games.

In addition, the Cal-Foothill rivalry is arguably the most intense in the area, and the Falcons will be looking to even the score in this rematch.

Rounding out EBAL teams that are in the playoffs are Monte Vista (No. 1, D-I), San Ramon Valley (No. 7, D-I), Livermore (No. 4, D-II) and Granada (No. 6, D-II).

Water polo

The Foothill High School boys varsity water polo team finished their season with a 14-7 loss to Las Lomas in the first round of the NCS playoffs Nov. 3 at Acalanes High School.

Defensively, Foothill played a much better, balanced game than their loss to Las Lomas earlier in the season.

Offensively, Foothill had 28 attempts on goal, seven of which were very good looks that didn't convert. Scoring for Foothill were junior Matthew Dotson (three goals), Matthew Kim (one), Aaron Li (one), Nathan Williams (one) and Fabio Salvioni (one).

Leading defensively was Salvioni with four steals and three caused turnovers. Goalie Harrison Carter had 10 saves and a pair of steals.

Volleyball

The Foothill girls varsity team won a pair of thrilling matches

last week and advanced to the North Coast Section Division I playoffs.

The Falcons opened the tournament with a win (25-23, 21-25, 25-18, 25-14) over Maria Carrillo of Santa Rosa.

Foothill setter Kellie Hughes, who will play for the University of Portland next year, had an all-around great performance setting up hitters Andreea Paduraru and Kate Goto.

Amal Peermohammed turned in her usual solid performance as the libero (defensive specialist) for Foothill.

The second round of the tournament — last Saturday at Foothill — brought an even higher level of intensity as the Falcons took on fellow EBAL opponent Dougherty Valley.

The Falcons had already played and beaten the Wildcats four times this season and beating a team five times can be a tall task. And it was, as Foothill had to rally from an 0-2 deficit to pull out the 20-25, 19-25, 25-19, 25-18, 15-12 win.

The night started off with Peermohammed singing the national anthem before the game, but



KARI DUKLETH

Foothill's Jake Simon carries the ball during the Falcons' 15-0 win over rival Amador Valley last weekend. The Falcons visit California in San Ramon tomorrow in their NCS Division I playoff opener.

that was the only thing that went right early, as Dougherty Valley took advantage of a slew of Foothill mistakes to win the first two games.

But a team doesn't run off a 32-6 record without having the ability to figure things out as the game goes on. Behind solid play from Hughes, Goto, Paduraru (headed to Cal to play beach volleyball next year), Peermohammed and players like Natalie McGaughy, Maddy Ward, Amaya Wilson, Alex Cravens and Ekaylah Rampola, Foothill charged back.

After falling behind 4-0 in the third set, the Falcons charged back and took the game to force a

fourth. In that set, Foothill again controlled the flow before closing out the set and sending it to the winner-take-all final game.

Foothill jumped out to a big lead, but the Wildcats stormed back, cutting the lead to 13-12. But a serve into the net was followed by a defensive error from Dougherty Valley and the Falcons had the win to move on to the semifinals. ■

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

TAKE US ALONG



Callippe Niners

The Callippe Niners took the Pleasanton Weekly to their guest day, where they hosted the Discovery Bay Breakers for golf and an early 10th birthday celebration for Pleasanton's premier public golf course, Callippe Preserve.

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Her first NYC Marathon

Allison Inman McCutcheon, a fifth-grade teacher at Fairlands Elementary School, celebrates after completing her first New York City Marathon last weekend. She and husband Sean McCutcheon said they loved their trip to the Big Apple, including the beautiful weather and walking and bicycling around Central Park and the streets of New York.

Theatre

PCRT PRESENTS 'MY FAIR LADY'

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre will present the classic musical "My Fair Lady," featuring songs like "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," "The Rain in Spain," and "I Could Have Danced All Night." The show runs at 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 5-20 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$19-\$40. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

TVRT'S BROADWAY CHORUS PRESENTS 'MUSIC OF THE NIGHT'

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's Broadway Chorus will present "Music of the Night," the music of Andrew Lloyd-Weber, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13 at the Livermore High School Performing Arts Theater, 600 Maple St., Livermore. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors, \$10 for children under 18. Call 462-2121 or go to www.trivalleyrep.org.

Music

SHAMANIC DRUM CIRCLE

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

Talks & Lectures

HOPE HOSPICE PRESENTS

MEDICARE: AN OVERVIEW The federal health insurance plan for people 65 and over and those with disabilities doesn't have to be confusing. Hope Hospice will offer a class to help those trying to understand Medicare-related options, "Medicare: An Overview," from 9:45 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Nov. 12 at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark St., Suite 100, Dublin. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Community Education Volunteer Debbie Emerson at debbiee@hopehospice.com or register online at HopeHospice.com.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Lisa Gorrell will present "German Research: Let's Get Started!" at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. Come hear how to get started in your German research by learning about sources here in the U.S. to help. Lisa is the Recording Secretary for the California Genealogical Society, board member with the Contra Costa Historical Society, and a past president of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society.

Contact Marilyn Glass and Diane Wiedel, Program Chairs, at program@L-AGS.org.

AMADOR VALLEY TOASTMASTERS

Learn how to give speeches, gain feedback, lead teams, and guide others to achieve their goals in a supportive atmosphere at 7 a.m. every Thursday at Black Bear Diner, 5100 Hopyard Road. Breakfast is available to order from menu. Go to www.facebook.com/AmadorValleyToastmasters/.

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.

HOPE HOSPICE HANDLING THE

HOLIDAYS WORKSHOP The holiday season is typically filled with merriment, celebrations and long standing traditions. But many individuals and families who have lost a loved one feel lost, alone and overcome with sadness and anxiety. To help those who have experienced a loss, Hope Hospice is holding a Handling the Holidays Workshop from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15, or 2-4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8 at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin. Registration required. Call 829-8770 or go to HopeHospice.com.

Lessons & Classes

LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY

Members of the Alameda County Bar Association visit the Pleasanton Public Library on the third Tuesday of each month to give free 15-20 minute consultations. Appointments are by lottery. Register from 5:30-5:45 p.m.; names selected at 5:50 p.m.. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

Fundraisers

MONY NOP TURKEY DROP Come to the Mony Nop Turkey Drop benefiting Tri-Valley Haven from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20th in front of Livermore City Hall, 1052 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Drop off a frozen turkey, gift card, or cash donation to help a local family in need. For more information, contact Christine at 667-2707 or Christine@trivalleyhaven.org. To donate to Tri-Valley Haven's Holiday Program, go to www.trivalleyhaven.org.

Health & Wellness

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind will be meeting from 1-3 p.m., second Saturday of each month at

Valley Memorial Hospital, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call Carl at 449-9362.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) TRI-VALLEY

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

PLEASANTON SOLE MATES Join this weekly walking group at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday mornings departing from the Pleasanton Senior Center. Participants must be able to walk 2.5-3 miles and keep a moderate pace with the group. Stop by the Center to pick a monthly walk schedule or call 925-931-5365 for more information.

PLEASANTON PEDALERS If you love cycling, this group is for you. Join at 9 a.m. every Thursday. Rides will be at an easy pace from 15 to 25 miles, with no rider left behind. A signed waiver is required for all riders. Go to meetup.com/PleasantonPedalers.

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR

SUPPORT GROUP If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about this common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us from 10 a.m.-noon on the third Saturday of each month, in the Blackhawk A and B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Contact 487-5706 or eastbayet@comcast.net. Go to www.eastbayet.com.

Seniors

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.

MEN OF BREAKFAST Join the Men of Breakfast or MOB at 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month for a cup of coffee and friendly discussion at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Bring a newspaper and whatever topics pique your interest. Call 931-5369.

Religion & Spirituality

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP Lynnewood United Methodist Church at 4444 Black Ave. offers a friendly congregation where all are welcome. Sunday morning

PET OF THE WEEK

TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

Good Charlotte

Charlotte is a loving and loyal girl who unfortunately was returned to the shelter after seven months because her person could no longer keep her. Her volunteer friends are so hoping she can find a "true" forever home. Charlotte is available for adoption at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. For more information, call 803-7040.



services are at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Childcare provided at both services, and Sunday school is at 10:30 a.m.. Children's choir is at 11:40 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.. At 5:30 p.m. on Sundays the church offers an informal service called "Come As You Are" with music, prayer, and discussion. Contact Rev. Heather Hammer at 846-0221 or office@lynnewood.org. Go to www.lynnewood.org.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT UNITY OF

TRI-VALLEY Join the Sunday service with Reverend Micah Murdock, 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 www.unityoftrivalley.org/.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE Honor those you have loved, who have died, in a special Mass of Remembrance at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. All are invited. If you wish, bring a small picture of your loved one.

MOM2MOM MEETINGS

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

Community Groups

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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Caring for a loved one is challeng-

ing 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.

CLUTTERLESS (CL) SELF HELP

SUPPORT GROUP ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Support Group, for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions, meets at 7 p.m. every Monday at The Parkview, 100 Valley Ave. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not an organizing issue. We are for the Clutterer who is ready to change. Go to www.ClutterLessEastBay.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. Go to pleasantontoastmasters.com.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF AMADOR

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

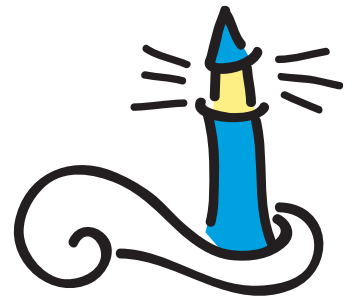
ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

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

PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB

The Pleasanton Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. No dinner will be served. For more information and location, please visit pleasantonlionsclub.org.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Sons in Retirement
Sirs is a social group of retired men who join together to better enjoy their leisure time. Activities include golf, bridge, photography, wine tasting, beet tasting, just to mention a few. The Tri-Valley Branch 34 serves men in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, and all around the valley. The group meets the first Thursday of each month at the San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane, San Ramon at 11:30am. Please read about the group at <http://trivalleysir.org> For more information you can contact Carl Churilo at 925-967-8177

130 Classes & Instruction

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140 Lost & Found

Found - Diabetes testing kit
Testing kit found in Pleasanton near Amador High School. Email me and identify brand.



LOST HOUSE CAT!
Please help us find our beloved Stella, missing from the Del Prado area. She isn't street smart, has allergies and likely scared. She is very sweet and too trusting of other animals. She is a beautiful brown/black maine coon mix, med/long hair, bushy tail, weighing 10 lbs or less. She has a white mouth, chin, front neck and has black and brown striped front legs. If you think you've seen her - no matter when - Please let us know. Thank you! 925-484-0139

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

JRG MOBILE SIGNINGS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 523736
The following person(s) doing business as: JRG MOBILE SIGNINGS, 6260 STONERIDGE MALL ROAD, #110, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Joseph R Garcia, 6260 Stoneridge Mall Road, #110, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 03/08/2016. Signature of Registrant: Joseph R. Garcia. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/20/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 2016)

PACIFIC COAST WINDOW COMPANY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524034
The following person(s) doing business as: PACIFIC COAST WINDOW COMPANY, 3597 NEVADA ST. SUITE C, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BMFL LLC, 3597 Nevada St. Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 07/18/2016. Signature of Registrant: Fred Gotthardt. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/31/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2016)

PIXSELL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 523870
The following person(s) doing business as: PIXSELL, 2088 W. LAGOON ROAD, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marco Angelo Abellera, 2088 W. Lagoon Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 10/01/2016. Signature of Registrant: Marco Angelo Abellera. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/25/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2016)

KIDS WELL CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524002
The following person(s) doing business as: KIDS WELL CARE, 3621 CHILLINGHAM COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jing Zhang, 3621 Chillingham Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Jing Zhang. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/28/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2016)

BEAUTY AND THE BOUTIQUE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524162
The following person(s) doing business as: BEAUTY AND THE BOUTIQUE, 6911 MARIPOSA CIRCLE SUITE #204, DUBLIN, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kisha Prince, 6911 Mariposa Circle Suite #204, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 10/01/2016. Signature of Registrant: Kisha Prince. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/03/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 11, 18, 25, Dec. 2, 2016)

Is your home as childproofed as you think?

Safety advocate urges use of tamper-resistant receptacles for electrical outlets

Nearly seven times a day, some young child is rushed to the emergency room after being burned — or worse — from having stuck something as innocuous as a paperclip into an electrical outlet, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The commission also reported that 89% are under 6 years old; 50% are 2 to 3 years old; and boys are most at risk, regardless of age.

Some parents install plastic outlet caps to protect their children, but that might not be sufficient.

A study conducted by Temple University found that it took less than 10 seconds for 100% of children ages 2 to 4 to remove them from sockets. And, if that isn't concerning enough, those caps pose a choking hazard for small children, according to Brett Brenner, president of the nonprofit Electrical Safety Foundation International, which promotes electrical safety in homes and workplaces.

"And because plastic caps do need to be removed for the outlet to be functional, there's the inherent safety threat of forgetting to recover the outlet when it's no longer in use," Brenner said.

Brenner, as it turns out, also has a problem with the less-popular sliding receptacle covers, saying,

"They're no match for the impressionable minds of children, who can learn to defeat the devices by watching their parents plug objects into them."

Brenner recommends the same technology — called tamper-resistant receptacles (TRRs) — required in hospital pediatric care facilities for more than 20 years. It remained something of a trade secret until its use was finally mandated in all new home construction under the National Electrical Code in 2008.

To look at them, TRRs appear to be ordinary outlets, but they're specifically designed with spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off all openings or slots. Only by simultaneously applying pressure to both sides do the cover plates open to allow standard plugs to make contact with the receptacle contact points.

"Without that simultaneous pressure," Brenner said, "the cover plates remain closed, preventing the insertion of foreign objects and thus protecting children from painful, traumatic electrical injuries."

The best part may be that the added safety will only run you 50 cents more than a standard electrical outlet, though it is recommended the TRRs be installed by a licensed electrician. ■

—NewsUSA



NEWSUSA

Unprotected electrical outlets pose one of the most common household safety risks for young children.

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We're not alone: Peninsula needs 60,000 more housing units

Economic reports cites strong job, population growth as reasons for shortfall

By JEB BING

The Bay Area's Peninsula region is short tens of thousands of housing units because of strong job and population growth over the last nine years, according to an economic report released last Friday.

Housing demands and increased job growth at employment centers in the Tri-Valley have led to major apartment and condo construction projects here, too.

The report by the Joint Venture Silicon Valley's Institute for Regional Studies said the region including San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties is short 60,000 housing units, a problem exacerbated in the last year by the addition of 65,600 jobs and 39,800 residents.

The unemployment rate in the region has also declined, according to the report. In September in San Mateo County, the unemployment rate was 3.1%, well below the state and nationwide averages of 5.5% and 5%, respectively.

The rates in both San Francisco and Santa Clara counties are also below the state and nationwide averages.

"With no end to job growth soon, the region needs to address housing and transportation challenges as soon as possible," said Stephen Levy, director of the institute's Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy.

The shortage of housing relative to population growth is also causing an increase in housing prices and gentrification, which is driving out the middle class, Levy said.

The growth is also causing long commutes, which is a problem for businesses and people. It's hard for businesses to attract workers because commutes are so long and workers cannot afford to live in the area where the jobs are, Levy said.

The full report is available online at www.jointventure.org.

Editor's note: Keith Burbank, Bay City News, contributed to this report.

National foreclosure inventory down 31%

Foreclosure inventory declined by almost a third nationally between September 2015 and September 2016, according to CoreLogic, a California-based corporation providing financial, property and consumer data.

CoreLogic's September 2016 National Foreclosure Report released Tuesday shows the foreclosure inventory declined by 31.1% and completed foreclosures declined by 7% compared with September 2015.

The number of completed foreclosures nationwide decreased year over year from 39,000 in September 2015 to 36,000 in September 2016, representing a decrease of 69.7% from the peak of 118,222 in September 2010.

The foreclosure inventory represents the number of homes at some stage of the foreclosure process and completed foreclosures reflect the total number of homes lost to foreclosure. Since the financial crisis began in September 2008, there have been approximately 6.4 million completed foreclosures nationally, and since homeownership rates peaked in the second quarter of 2004, there have been approximately 8.5 million homes lost to foreclosure.

As of September 2016, the national foreclosure inventory included approximately 340,000, or 0.9%, of all homes with a mortgage, compared with 493,000 homes, or 1.3%, in September 2015.

CoreLogic also reports that the number of mortgages in serious delinquency (defined as 90 days or more past due including loans in foreclosure or REO) declined by 24.8% from September 2015 to September 2016, with 1 million mortgages, or 2.6%, in serious delinquency, the lowest level since August 2007. The decline was geographically broad with decreases in serious delinquency in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

"September's serious delinquency rate dropped by 25% compared to a year earlier, the third consecutive monthly acceleration in the rate of decline," said Frank Nothaft, chief economist for CoreLogic. "This

improvement is continued evidence of the recovery in the housing market, especially given that the decreases were fairly uniform in most cities across the country."

"Completed foreclosures have fallen by a total of more than 100,000 homes during the 12 months prior to September 2016," said Anand Nallathambi, president and CEO of CoreLogic. "The decline in foreclosures is one of the drivers in the drop in vacancies, which is positive for homeowners and communities. Heading into 2017 we see that prices, performance and production — the three most important drivers of the real estate market — are all improving."

Additional September 2016 highlights:

- On a month-over-month basis, completed foreclosures increased by 5.2% to 36,000 in September 2016 from the 34,000 reported for August 2016.
- On a month-over-month basis, the September 2016 foreclosure inventory was down 3.1% compared with August 2016.
- The five states with the highest number of completed foreclosures in the 12 months ending in September 2016 were Florida (53,000), Texas (27,000), Michigan (24,000), Ohio (23,000) and Georgia (21,000). These five states accounted for 36% of completed foreclosures nationally.
- Four states and the District of Columbia had the lowest number of completed foreclosures in the 12 months ending in September 2016: the District of Columbia (186), North Dakota (338), West Virginia (447), Alaska (643) and Montana (701).
- Four states and the District of Columbia had the highest foreclosure inventory rate in September 2016: New Jersey (3.0%), New York (2.7%), Maine (1.8%), Hawaii (1.8%) and the District of Columbia (1.6%).
- The five states with the lowest foreclosure inventory rate in September 2016 were Colorado (0.3%), Minnesota (0.3%), Arizona (0.3%), Michigan (0.3%) and Utah (0.3%).

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3551 Cydonia Court
Backs to the Hills & Open Space!
4 BD/2 full + 5 half BA Only 4 Years NEW! Lovely Hillside Views, Large Kitchen/Family Combo + Living Room Area.
Suzanne Bieser
CalBRE #01355940 925.699.3884



LIVERMORE \$699,000
Open Sat/Sun 1 - 4
930 Verona Avenue
"A Great Value in Sunset West"
4 BD/2 BA Spacious w/Lrg Bonus Rm, Priv. Bk Yrd, Sparkling Pool. Near beautiful dwntrwn Livermore!
Thomas Ivarson
CalBRE #01242205 925.200.3600



PLEASANTON \$2,399,000
Open Sun 1 - 4
4129 Grant Ct
Pleasanton Kottlinger Ranch Beauty!
6 BD/4 BA Kottlinger Ranch Beauty custom built home with pool and spa. Solar heated & Large yard!
Bimla Sabhlok
CalBRE #00939221 408.448.4488

DANVILLE
500 Honey Lake Court \$1,248,000
Gorgeous Home in Shadow Creek
4 BD/3.5 BA Grmt Ktchn w/Hdwd Flrs. Full BDRM/BA on First Flr, Gorgeous Indscpg ent bkyd. Must See!
Terry Kim CalBRE#01363454 925.847.2259

LIVERMORE
2651 Cowan Way \$1,299,000
Livermore Wine Country Home
5 BD/4 BA Elegant & Unique Home that bks to Vineyards w/ Majestic Views, Grmt Kit, Fml DR, FP & More!
Andy Knuth CalBRE#01896749 925.984.3262

PLEASANTON
3627 Vineyard Avenue \$729,500
Spacious Home in Pleasanton!
2 BD/1 BA Spacious Home w/1 Car Grg plus Storage, Crrr Lot-9000 sqft. Hrdwd Flrs, Eat-in Kit & DR.
Nancy Sutorius CalBRE#00628232 925.847.2314

TRACY
851 Sequoia Avenue \$299,000
Don't Miss Out! Great Opportunity
3 BD/2 BA Great Opportunity~1st time Buyer or Investor. Very Clean, Lrg Bk Yrd, Cls to Prks & Shping!
Dennis Serrao CalBRE#01251442 925.876.3756

DUBLIN
11446 Marwick Drive \$1,295,000
"Large Lot- View ~Atchd In-Law Apt"
6 BD/3.5 BA Gorgeous Remodeled Home w/Valley Views on Priv Lot. 2 BD APT as In-Law/Income Producing.
Suzanne Bieser CalBRE#01355940 925.699.3884

1688 Bluebell Drive \$555,000
A MUST SEE IN LIVERMORE!!
2 BD/2 BA 1 Story Beauty w/An Open & Spacious Flr Plan & Btfl Lndscpg w/Palm Trees in Frnt/Bk Yrds.
Sean Leggat CalBRE#01280186 925.847.2216

SAN RAMON
4051 Reedland Cir \$958,000
Just Listed! ~ Portola Gale Ranch
4 BD/3 BA Loc in SRVUSD Features Vol Ceiling, Spac LR/DR, Nwr Int/Ext Pnt, Lam Flr & BD/BA Dwnstrs.
Tae Terry Kim CalBRE#01363454 510.299.6844

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PLEASANTON

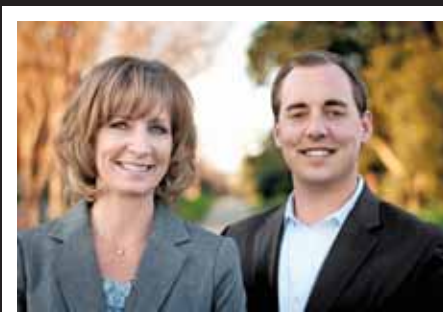
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knoxley@apr.com

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ALAIN PINEL REALTORS
925.519.9080

BRE# 00790463



900 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566

MOXLEY REAL ESTATE TEAM



4092 GRAHAM STREET, PLEASANTON

This is the home you have been waiting for — with 2,010 sqft. Located in the heart of Pleasanton in one of the highly sought after Jensen/Amador neighborhoods. A spacious & private master suite has been added to the upper level offering a dressing area, generous closet and storage space. On the main level is the original master suite with an adjoining full bath. The original wood floors are featured throughout the main level. A Family room is also in the home, not often seen in home in this neighborhood. LISTED AT \$995,000



6300 LAURA LANE, PLEASANTON

Country living and close to downtown — 1.26 acre home with a private well, a vineyard with 369 vines in Carmenera, a pool house & pool with a spacious deck area and spectacular views of the surrounding hills. Approx. 3,100 sqft of living space in this tri-level home with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths. Views of the open spaces and Callippe golf course. It was a pleasure to represent the seller with cutting edge marketing in the sale of this home. Sold in 4 days. **SOLD AT THE LIST PRICE OF \$2,000,000**



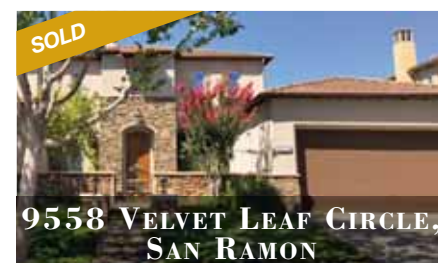
927 KOLLN STREET, PLEASANTON

Also located in the highly sought after Jensen/Amador area, walking distance to downtown, schools, shopping and parks. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath along with 1,506 sq.ft. of living space was updated with state of the art lighting and heated floors in the master bath. Original refinished wood floors, a private rear yard, side yard access, & newer windows are additional features of this home. LISTED AT \$915,000 AND SOLD FOR \$935,000 (THE HIGHEST PRICE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THIS SIZE HOME)



3337 ARBOR DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Representing Buyers — Helping buyers find the perfect home to establish their home ownership in Pleasanton was my pleasure. The home offers 4 bedrooms and 2 baths with a formal dining room, a family room and a separate living room. Two master suites are featured in the home — one on the main level and one upstairs. A spacious lot of 9,239 sqft with mature trees and backing to a creek, along with its close location to the neighborhood park, are priceless for the buyer.



9558 VELVET LEAF CIRCLE, SAN RAMON

Representing Buyers — The buyers are thrilled to call this home their own. It offered amazing views of Mt. Diablo and the Bridges golf course. 4 bedrooms with 2.5 baths with the master bedroom on the main living space. The homes open floor plan along with its formal dining room are perfect for entertaining. CALL KRIS TO HELP YOU FIND THE PERFECT HOME OF YOUR CHOICE

It's time to start preparing your homes for the upcoming Spring selling season.

With many sellers waiting for Spring to sell their homes, and Buyers anticipating new homes coming on the market, now is the time to start completing those tasks you have been putting off. Call Kris today — it would be my pleasure to help you through the process to put your home on the market.



DeAnna Liz
ARMARIO & VENEMA

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OPEN HOUSE 11/12 AND 11/13 FROM 1-4PM

Newly Built and Gorgeous! 1477 Brookline Loop, Pleasanton

Unique Opportunity! New homes in the very popular Township Square development are sold out. Built in 2015, this gorgeous single family home is one of the first resales. Planned as a model home and loaded with premium upgrades. Traditional brownstone exterior and contemporary floorplan. Highlights include: Dream Kitchen and Family Room, Loggia, Huge Master Bedroom Suite with View, Balcony and Luxury Bath. Walking distance to new Bernal Sports Park, shops, and dining. Proximity to Historic Downtown, Livermore Wineries, 680 freeway, and ACE Train. Monthly HOA dues of \$215 include resort style Clubhouse with pool, fitness room, and bocce courts. **4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bathrooms, 3512+/-Sq. Ft. Offered at \$1,550,000**

PRICE REDUCED



1443 Germano Way, Ruby Hill
Now Offered at \$2,599,000

PRICE REDUCED



9469 Blessing Drive, The Preserve
Now Offered at \$1,999,888

RUBY HILL BEAUTY



427 Cabonia Court, Ruby Hill
Offered at \$1,394,888

BEAUTIFUL UPDATES



9 Gold Poppy Court, Danville
Offered at \$1,299,000



DeAnna Armario
Team Leader/Realtor



Liz Venema
Team Leader/Realtor



Kim Hunt
Team Manager/Realtor



Chris Berry
Buyer's Specialist



Grace Abellera
Buyer's Specialist



Lisa Desmond
Buyer's Specialist



Lloyd Steere
Buyer's Specialist

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PREMIERE OPEN HOUSE! FRI 10-1 & SUN 1-3



6085 Allbrook Circle, Pleasanton
Stunning one level home, with 4 bdms, 2 remodeled baths and a gorgeous granite kitchen. Detached office or hobby room! **Priced in the high \$800,000's**

COMING SOON!



Beautiful Birdland Home
5 bedrooms + a bonus room. Beautiful backyard paradise with sparkling pool, arbor and outdoor kitchen. 10,000 sq ft lot. **High 1,200,000's**

COMING SOON!



Wonderful Vintage Hills II Home
Beautifully updated. New interior and exterior paint, carpet and wood flooring. Updated kitchen w/ quartz counters. New master bathroom! Beautiful views!

COMING SOON!



6349 Benner Court, Pleasanton
Stunning one level that is remodeled from top to bottom! New granite kitchen and bathrooms! **Priced in the high 800,000's**

SALE PENDING!



1038 Gray Fox Circle, Pleasanton
Custom estate on a private 1 acre parcel. 4 bdms, 4 baths, 4744 sq ft. 3 car garage, +2 car detached. Pool, spa, fire pit! **\$2,168,000**

SALE PENDING!



1061 Gray Fox Circle, Pleasanton
Looking for a one level home? This 4 bdrm, 3 baths, 3980 sq. ft. home is almost all one level. Perfect for downsizing. **\$1,599,800**

SALE PENDING!



7508 Bonniewood Lane, Dublin
Stunning one level home with open beamed ceilings, sunny granite slab kitchen, stacked stone fireplace and large yard. **\$789,000**

JUST SOLD \$31,000 OVER ASKING!



233 Del Valle Court, Pleasanton
Wonderful 4 bdrm, 2 bath home that is just a short stroll to downtown Pleasanton. Seldom do these homes come available. **\$910,000**



Dave & Sue Flashberger
REALTORS®, GRI, CRS, SRES

925.463.0436

www.SoldInAFlash.com

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



1650 VETTA DRIVE
Desirable Prima Neighborhood, South Livermore! 2834 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 8k sf lot! Remodeled gourmet kitchen! **OFFERED AT \$1,138,000**

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



1513 ARIA COURT
Desirable Prima Neighborhood, South Livermore! 3837 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 15k sq. ft. lot in great court location! **PRICE REDUCED TO \$1,185,000**



Cindy and Gene Williams
REALTORS® BRE LIC # 01370076 and 00607511
925.918.2045 www.WilliamsReGroup.com



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INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY



508 KALTHOFF COMMON, LIVERMORE
20+/- Acres w/Vineyard and Approved Plans for Winery and Luxury Residence. **Offered at \$1,750,000**

MAIN HOUSE PLUS IN LAW UNIT



1357 WHISPERING OAK WAY, PLEASANTON
5 BR, 3.5 BA, 3760+/- Sq. Ft. With In Law Unit
Offered at \$1,549,000

PENDING IN 6 DAYS



572 NEAL STREET, PLEASANTON
3 BR, 2 BA, 1249+/- Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$749,000

SOLD



10 CARVER LANE, SUNOL
5 BR, 6+ BA, 8058+/- Sq. Ft. Plus Guest House
\$3,500,000



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4808 MAUREEN CIR., LIVERMORE

A Must See - Ready to move in! Solar Electrical owned! Great Family home with large yard & side access. Room for a pool, has fruit trees and no back neighbors. Formal dining and living, huge kitchen/family- fireplace combo. Laundry room inside. Close to shops/dining/downtown with easy access to 580.

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



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5994 W. Las Positas Blvd, Suite 101, Pleasanton

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