

Pleasanton Weekly

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VOL. XVII, NUMBER 48 • DECEMBER 23, 2016

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Christmas magic

Santa visits bring joy
and wonder to the world

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Happy Holidays ²⁰¹⁶

from all of us at

**Pleasanton
Weekly**

AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



Bernal bridge.

JEB BING

Brace for driving over the Bernal bridge

If you're one of the 10,000 motorists who cross the Bernal Avenue bridge over the Arroyo de la Laguna every day, brace yourself for some delays starting next month when the bridge undergoes its first major repainting and repair work since it was built 75 years ago.

City Engineer Steve Kirkpatrick told the City Council on Tuesday that while the bridge is "functionally obsolete," doesn't meet current earthquake protection standards and is too old to be retrofitted, it's still safe. Its new coat of paint to be applied over the next seven months will involve removing the lead paint on the bridge now and should keep it shining for another 40 years. Along with much-needed repairs, the bridge will be as good as new — or almost.

Kirkpatrick's remarks raised the concerns of the council, whose members approved the \$1,523,795 project but then quickly agreed to make plans for a new second bridge dating back at least 25 years a new priority. For now, though, an approaching deadline for using a \$1.5 million federal grant requires repairing the old bridge now. The proposed second bridge would be a two-lane concrete structure similar to the Bernal bridge over the Arroyo del Valle near Stanley Boulevard.

The initial phase of the Bernal bridge work will begin with the installation of bird netting over the structure in late January. A week later, contractor Murphy Industrial

Coatings, will install scaffolding and a containment tent on the underside of the bridge, a seven-week project with a striking visual impact that is likely to slow down traffic even without any lane closures.

Then the bulk of the work will occur during the summer months while students at Foothill High School, heavy car and bicycle users of the bridge on the way to school and then back home again, are on summer break. That will involve curtailing traffic across the bridge to a single lane, with a traffic-sensitive and automated traffic signal allowing travel only one way in each direction on an intermittent basis. That will affect the 600 motorists who cross the bridge during the morning peak hour and the 1,000 who use it in the peak hour in the late afternoon.

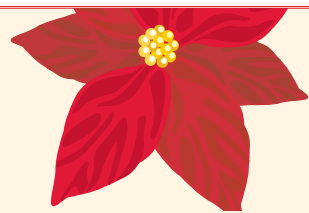
During the summer construction work, the lanes of travel will be heavily netted, with motorists driving through a tunnel-like cover that will protect them from lead paint being scraped off the trestles. Construction work will continue seven days a week in the summer with one-lane restrictions in force 24 hours, seven days a week.

It will also be noisy work, reaching 86 decibels (about the noise a food blender makes) during the day and about 70 decibels (the noise level of a vacuum cleaner) at night as generators suck in the lead chips to be taken to a depository. If all goes well, the project should be completed in late August. Happy traveling. ■

About the Cover

Kaylee and Karlie Rocha, 9 and 7, along with their cousins Lexie and Logan Lozano, 4 and 7 months, visit Santa at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Kaylee and Karlie attend Donlon Elementary School; their parents are Ken and Kerri Rocha. Lexie is in preschool, and her parents are Jay and Katie Lozano. Proud grandparents are Ron and Patty Frankson, also of Pleasanton. See more local Santa photos on Page 12. Photo courtesy of Rocha family. Cover design by Kristin Brown.

Vol. XVII, Number 48



Pleasanton Weekly

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How do you feel about Hanukkah and Christmas falling at exactly the same time this year?

Guin Van Dyke

Property manager

I find it very interesting that Hanukkah and Christmas are at the same time this year. I know they overlap at least a little bit about 50% of the time, but as for it happening at the same time, this has only happened four times in the last 100 years. So, Happy Christmakkah! I think it's great.



Kyle Mardon

Groundskeeper

I like it because it just makes for one, bigger and happier celebration. The only problem though, is that when that happens, I feel each holiday loses its own independent significance.



Harriet Deere

Retired travel editor

Honestly, I prefer it when there is no overlap. They are separate holidays that have nothing to do with one another, and I think it is confusing for children who are both gentile and Jewish to have their respective holidays commingled.



Philip Hironymous

Groundsman

I think it's great. It's much easier and more efficient to celebrate everything all at once and to give gifts for both holidays at the same time.



Steven Baker

Groundsman

I like it because when we all celebrate together, it feels like we are one, big, human family that can put all of their differences aside and unite, even if it's just for a little while.



—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

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DIGEST

Fill station closure

The Dublin San Ramon Services District decided on Tuesday that it will close the residential recycled water fill station at its treatment plant on Johnson Drive in Pleasanton for at least the next 18 months during an \$18.2 million expansion project at the plant.

The closure, which will start on Wednesday, aims to avoid public safety hazards and traffic congestion during the major renovation project, DSRSD officials said. The DSRSD board also cited the fact Tri-Valley residents are not currently restricted from using potable water for irrigation.

The fill station, which will be closed over the Christmas weekend, will host its last day on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., unless it rains. The Pleasanton station provided free recycled water for residential use since opening in 2014.

Garden patch

Pleasanton parks officials are putting out a call to residents interested in cultivating plants and vegetables through the city's garden patch program at Val Vista Community Park, 7350 Johnson Drive.

For a nominal fee, residents can rent a plot for a year and try their hand at growing their favorite fruits and vegetables. There are a total of 40 garden plots that come in two sizes: 33 plots are 225 square feet and seven plots are 100 square feet.

Fees for the larger plot are \$110 per year and \$55 per year for the smaller plot. There is also a one-time mandatory patch deposit of \$75. For more information, contact the Community Services Department at 931-5340 or pjoki@cityof-pleasantonca.gov.

Donation record

Donors in and around Pleasanton set a new local record by contributing more than 23,000 shoebox gifts to children in need last month through the Operation Christmas Child project organized by Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization.

The record-breaking collection this year surpassed last year's Pleasanton-area donation mark of 16,301 gifts, according to organizers with the Operation Christmas Child Alameda Area Team.

The gift shoeboxes were filled with school supplies, hygiene items, notes of encouragement and toys for the organization to deliver to children in need around the world. For many of the kids, the shoebox gift will be the first gift they will have ever received, organizers said. ■

Pleasanton schools superintendent Rubino placed on administrative leave

District in process of hiring investigator regarding 'personnel matter'

By JULIA REIS

Less than six months into his tenure, Pleasanton school district Superintendent Rick Rubino has been placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation into an unspecified personnel matter.

The school board, in a statement released Tuesday, said its decision a day earlier to place Rubino on leave "demonstrates that we place the highest priority on creating and maintaining a professional working environment for all employees."

The statement also indicated that deputy superintendent of business services Micaela Ochoa has agreed



JULIA REIS

PUSD Superintendent Rick Rubino is now on paid administrative leave.

to serve as the district's leader during this time. She becomes the district's fourth leader since spring 2015.

"We are confident her familiarity with the district, our programs, people, and parent and community partners will help to ensure stability and a continued focus on student achievement," the board said in its statement, emailed by district spokesman Patrick Gannon to PUSD employees, families and the public on Tuesday.

Board president Joan Laursen declined to comment further on the matter. Rubino had not returned calls for comment as of Wednesday afternoon.

Gannon said he could not elaborate further since it is a personnel matter, adding that it's not known at

this time how long the investigation will take.

"The board's intent is it will be as expeditious as possible," Gannon said. He added that the district is in the process of hiring an independent investigator to handle the investigation. That investigator will report to the school board.

Rubino was officially placed on leave Monday after a special school board meeting at 8 a.m. that day in which the board was scheduled to take action on disciplining an unnamed employee in closed session. The meeting was noticed on the

See **RUBINO** on Page 7

Council approves \$4.2 million purchase

3-acre parcel eyed as key in future downtown development

In a nearly-empty chamber and with only one objector, the Pleasanton City Council agreed Tuesday to spend \$4.2 million to acquire a 3-acre vacant property that has been owned by the City of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission since 1930.

The purchase will be made early next year, but representatives of Pleasanton and the SFPUC have agreed to the price of the so-called Old Bernal Parcel after a land assessment set the current market price of the property.

In addition, Pleasanton will have to pay closing costs related to title insurance, environmental assessment, property transfer taxes, escrow fees and recording charges due once the sale is completed in March or April.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said Pleasanton will use either reserves available in its Capital Improvement Program or an inter-fund city loan to pay the costs of the land.

Council members said the acquisition comes at an opportune time. City leaders are considering relocating all city-owned buildings on the other side of Old Bernal to the Bernal Community Park.

At the same time, a task force has just been appointed to consider a long-range strategic plan

See **PURCHASE** on Page 7



PLEASANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police chiefs hold reunion

A recent reunion of "top cops" made for a very special afternoon as the Pleasanton Police Department's five chiefs since 1954 met to share stories of the "old days" and reminisce about the department's history and the changes this community has realized over the last six decades. Gathering in a local park are (from left) Tim Neal, police chief 1999-2006; William Eastman, chief 1981-1999; Dave Spiller, current police chief since 2011; Walter McCloud, chief 1954-1981; and Michael Fraser, chief 2007-2010.

Trader Joe's moving its Pleasanton store to Rose Pavilion

Grocer will take recently vacated Fresh & Easy site

By JEB BING

Trader Joe's plans to move its Pleasanton store now on Pimlico Drive to the space vacated when Fresh and Easy closed at 3903 Santa Rita Road in the Rose Pavilion shopping center.

The relocation into a larger storefront with more than 1,250 shared parking spaces is scheduled to take place early next year.

Trader Joe's representative Alison Mochizuki said the new site will have approximately 13,000 square

feet of floor space, compared to 10,500 square feet at its current location. The larger, better-designed parking area in Rosewood also will come as a relief to Trader Joe's shoppers crammed into its Pimlico Drive location, she said.

The existing Pleasanton location will operate on regular trading hours until the night before the new one opens, Mochizuki said.

The new store will feature a festive decor mixing traditional Trader Joe's cedar-covered walls

with Hawaiian-inspired elements throughout the store, combined with a local flare including art that celebrates the neighborhood, she added.

She said the "Trader" in Trader Joe's refers to the way the company offers a "distinct trail" in the grocery industry as it searches globally for distinctive products.

"Store employees, dubbed 'crew members,' consider themselves

See **TRADER JOE'S** on Page 8

Parents, educators celebrate Reflections winners

Pleasanton students' creativity recognized through annual arts program

By JULIA REIS

Pleasanton educators and community members recognized the works of local young writers, artists and performers at two recent events.

Every year since 1969, youth across the country have taken part in the Reflections Arts Program, a national arts recognition and achievement program for students of all grades and abilities.

The Reflections program encourages artistic creativity in the classroom and at home and serves as a tool for building partnerships within the community, according to the National Parent-Teacher Association, which coordinates the program in conjunction with local and state PTAs.

To get involved, students enter an

original piece inspired by the annual theme — this year's was "What is your story?" — into their schools' contest in the fall. They can submit a piece of literature, artwork, photography, a film production, music composition or dance choreography to be judged alongside others in their grade bracket.

Winning submissions are selected at the school level before moving on to the second round, which encompasses entries citywide. The top pieces in Pleasanton then compete against ones countywide.

Winners at the countywide level go on to have their entries judged at the state level, and the top submissions in California advance to the national contest.

This year, 73 Pleasanton students

advanced to the citywide contest. They were acknowledged at an awards ceremony organized by the Pleasanton PTA and held on Dec. 7 at the Firehouse Arts Center.

The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation also hosted a reception for school winners in the visual arts and literature categories on Dec. 12.

Of the 73 school level winners, 23 were picked to move on to the countywide contest. A list of students recognized will be published on the Pleasanton PTAs Facebook page, where some of this year's art entries are also posted.

Non-advancing entries are on display at the PPIE office until the spring, when all entries will be moved over to the Pleasanton Library for display. ■



COURTESY OF PLEASANTON PTA

Harvest Park Middle School student Brenna Loner performs during an event recognizing Reflections Art Program school winners.

Pleasanton buying \$1.3 million new aerial fire-fighting truck

New truck to be housed in Santa Rita Road station

By JEB BING

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department won approval Tuesday to purchase a \$1.3 million new aerial fire-fighting truck with steering for both the front and rear wheels that will replace a similar older truck nearing the end of its service life.

The new tractor-drawn aerial apparatus will also give the two cities' jointly-owned department increased operational agility through improved maneuverability and increased storage capacity, according

to Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho.

The city of Pleasanton will pay for the new truck, which will augment another aerial truck owned by Livermore, where it is housed.

When delivered, the new truck will be kept in Fire Station 3 on Santa Rita Road, the city's oldest station that is slated to be rebuilt and will be able to handle the truck's extra length.

With its front and rear steering capability, the new truck will be suited for operating in Pleasanton's

many cul-de-sacs, where other large fire trucks have difficulty making 90 degree corners. The ability to also steer the rear wheels greatly reduces the truck's turning radius, making it better able to get around tight corners on some of the city's narrower streets, particularly in the downtown area.

When delivered in early 2017, the new truck's increased equipment storage capacity will allow the LPPD to remove its rescue support vehicle from the current fleet at a savings of \$600,000, Fialho said. ■

Pentin named city's vice mayor for 2017

Succeeds Councilwoman Narum in one-year appointment

Councilman Jerry Pentin was named the vice mayor of Pleasanton for 2017 on Tuesday night, succeeding Councilwoman Kathy Narum, who held the post this year.

The appointment, made by Mayor Jerry Thorne and ratified by the City Council, enables Pentin to serve as mayor when Thorne is out of town or otherwise unavailable.

In fact, he will have that responsibility at the first council meeting of the new year on Jan. 17 when Thorne attends a mayors' meeting in Washington, D.C.

Pentin was re-elected Nov. 8 to serve a second four-year term on the council.

At Tuesday's meeting, Thorne and others on the council were also given liaison assignments to represent the city on various regional, county and local commissions and agencies. ■

—Jeb Bing



JEB BING

City Councilman Jerry Pentin (left) receives congratulations from Mayor Jerry Thorne Tuesday night on his appointment as vice mayor of Pleasanton for 2017.



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Fire destroys Mason Street home in Pleasanton

Blaze starts in garage, causes \$180,000 in damages

By JEB BING

A fire Sunday afternoon destroyed a single-story, family home on Mason Street in Pleasanton Sunday afternoon, displacing a family of two adults and three children who were not at the home at the time.

Michael Miller, battalion chief of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, said firefighters reached the home at 2:11 p.m. to find smoke and flames coming from the home's garage. They had the fire under control within 20 minutes.

No one was home at the time and there were no injuries among the 22 firefighters battling the blaze.

There was heavy fire damage to the garage and extreme smoke damage to the entire home, Miller said. As a result, the home is uninhabitable at this time.

He said the family was able to find lodging with friends.

The damaged Christmas presents found in the home will be replaced by LPPFD firefighters through the Marines' Toys for Tots program.

Firefighters remained on the scene until 5 p.m. Sunday to complete the investigation and assist the family with salvaging their belongings.

Miller said the fire started in a wall in the garage and was caused by an electrical short. Initial damage estimates are \$100,000 for the structure and \$80,000 in content loss.

The LPPFD received assistance from the Alameda County Fire Department and the Pleasanton Police Department. ■



COURTESY OF LPPFD

Firefighters battle blaze in garage Sunday afternoon that caused \$180,000 in damages to home on Mason Street in Pleasanton. Family of two adults, three children were not home at the time the fire broke out.

PURCHASE

Continued from Page 5

for downtown Pleasanton, which includes this last San Francisco-owned 3.18-acre parcel. Uses could include an ACE train/downtown parking lot, housing, a church or retail stores.

The sale also comes as the SFPUC was putting the site on the market in an effort to divest its portfolio of excess property it owns. By buying the parcel, Pleasanton will be able to better control its future use.

The sale will also complete years of negotiation for 510 acres of property San Francisco and the SFPUC owned here going back to 1930 when it acquired Spring Valley Water Works. At the time, the properties were used for groundwater extraction and water was pumped for sale outside the Pleasanton area.

When the SFPUC stopped pumping from the wells there in 1949, the land was declared surplus.

The only objection to purchasing the site came from former mayoral candidate Julie Testa on Tuesday night.

"I don't see the need for purchasing the land at this price when we don't have a purpose for it," she told the council. "We don't have to own it to control it."

She also referred to the failure of city leaders to acquire the land for \$500,000 in 2000 as part of its agreement for developing the Bernal property when Greenbriar Homes and its associates bought the 510-acre Bernal site from San Francisco for \$126 million. Greenbriar gave 318 acres of its purchase free-of-charge to the city of Pleasanton in return for development agreements for homes, apartments and what is now a Safeway store-anchored retail center.

The 3.18-acre parcel across from the library was inadvertently left out of the final Greenbriar purchase agreement, although Pleasanton and then San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown "shook hands" on completing the \$500,000 deal later. Brown left office soon after and that deal was never consummated. ■

—Jeb Bing

RUBINO

Continued from Page 5

district's website on Friday evening.

The board "reached consensus" on the decision during its closed session meeting, Gannon said.

Rubino started as Pleasanton superintendent on July 1 following four years as the superintendent of Gridley Unified School District in Butte County. A Walnut Creek resident, Rubino also worked as an administrator for school districts in Fremont, San Leandro, Concord and Martinez during his career.

The school board approved a

three-year contract for Rubino in May with an initial annual base salary of \$256,000.

Rubino was hired after a five-month search. He replaced former Amador Valley High School principal Jim Hansen, who stepped out of retirement to fill the superintendent seat for the 2015-16 school year while the district searched for a permanent successor to Parvin Ahmadi.

Now taking the reins in the short-term, Ochoa had worked as deputy superintendent of business services since she was promoted last fall. She previously worked as the chief business officer for

the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Gannon said Ochoa will still be fulfilling her deputy superintendent duties as the district's interim leader.

"We're really grateful Micaela Ochoa agreed to serve as leader during this time," he said. "We're going to continue to focus on doing what's best for students."

Ochoa stepping in as interim leader serves as the latest change during a time of significant transition for the district and amid a period marked by leadership turnover.

Last month, Pleasanton residents

resoundingly passed the \$270 million school facilities bond Measure 11 and voted retired Hart Middle School principal Steve Maher onto the school board.

During his campaign, Maher emphasized that he wanted to join the school board to help "stop the revolving door of principals, staff and district office personnel." Since the start of last school year alone, there have been new principals at eight of the district's 15 schools, including three at Harvest Park Middle School.

The board had previously planned to begin reviewing the district's hiring practices in January. ■

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BART board chooses new president for 2017

Saltzman to serve in leadership post; Raburn named VP

Following the election in November of new board members, the BART Board of Directors last week chose its new president and vice president for the upcoming year.

The board chose Rebecca Saltzman to serve as president and Robert Raburn to serve as vice president.

Saltzman has represented District 3, which includes parts of Oakland, Berkeley, Orinda, Lafayette and other areas in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, since 2012.

"We have a tremendous amount of activity to look forward to in

2017," she said in a statement. "BART will put the first new train cars into service, issue the first portion of the recently approved bond, work on transit-oriented development, and continue improving stations and access."

Since 2010, Raburn has served as director of District 4, which includes parts of Oakland, San Leandro and Alameda.

He said BART "must focus on our passengers while delivering new cars, rebuilding BART, and creating new cars and housing at our stations." ■

—Bay City News Service

Swalwell meets with troops, diplomats during overseas trip

Local congressman joins House Intelligence Committee delegation

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton's Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin) returned last weekend from a congressional trip to Japan and South Korea as part of a House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence delegation.

The visit, which Swalwell said felt timely, featured meetings with U.S. diplomats, military officials and service members from Northern California stationed in the region.

"With South Korea having just impeached its president and with revelations that Russia committed cyberattacks to interfere with our 2016 election campaigns, this would be a prime time for North Korea's rogue regime to rattle its saber," said Swalwell, who was re-elected to his third term in Congress last month.

"North Korean aggression not only threatens our ally South Korea, but also our own homeland, given its nuclear capability. So this was an important time to get on-the-ground updates about our affairs and interests on the Korean peninsula, as well as to visit with our troops serving there," he added.

Swalwell's trip included a stop at



COURTESY OF SWALWELL'S OFFICE

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell had lunch with U.S. service members from Northern California while visiting South Korea on a House Intelligence Committee trip last week.

the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo before proceeding to Seoul, South Korea for meetings with U.S. military officials; Mark Lippert, the U.S. Ambassador to South Korea; other U.S. diplomats and personnel; and South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He also had lunch one day with service members from his 15th Congressional District, as well as visited the Korean Demilitarized Zone, where he received an orientation briefing and met with service members. ■

Silicon Valley Community Foundation names chief donor experience officer

Foundation handles, processes Holiday Fund donations

Misti Sangani has been named chief donor experience and engagement officer for Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), the organization that handles and processes all donations to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

In her new role, Sangani will be responsible for leading SVCF's donor services program, which enables donors to deepen their learning, giving and engagement with issues that reflect their values.

She also will be instrumental in developing outreach strategies that help donors hone their philanthropic missions and connect with SVCF's community initiatives.

SVCF works with more than 2,000 people, families and companies to facilitate their charitable goals,

including the Pleasanton Weekly.

"Misti brings creativity and high energy to her leadership of our donor experience team, which I know will ensure that the team continues to provide our thousands of donors with world-class experiences," said SVCF's CEO and president, Emmett Carson.

Prior to joining the community foundation, Sangani was executive director of the Foundation for Sustainable Development and earlier served as the vice president of programs and evaluation at the Global Fund for Women.

SVCF works with more than 2,000 individuals, families and companies to facilitate their charitable goals, including the Pleasanton Weekly. ■

—Jeb Bing

Pleasanton-based court commissioner resigns amid misconduct probe

A veteran Alameda County Superior Court traffic commissioner who was accused of mistreating defendants and making inappropriate comments to clerks has resigned, the state Commission on Judicial Performance said Tuesday.

Taylor Culver, 70, who had been scheduled to face a hearing before a panel of special masters on Jan. 23, resigned his position on Nov. 30, the commission said. Culver was most recently assigned to the Pleasanton courthouse.

Culver, who was admitted to the bar in 1976 and was appointed to the Superior Court bench in 2005,

has agreed never to seek or hold a judicial assignment or accept any work from the state court system, according to the commission.

The commission announced in October that it had charged Culver with nine counts of misconduct, including mistreating defendants, abusing his authority and making inappropriate comments to female clerks.

Culver's lawyer, Arthur Harris, wrote in a formal response in November that Culver believed the commission had "unnecessarily singled him out and is engaged in a campaign of harassment and

intimidation for the obvious purpose of making his professional life difficult and miserable" and forcing him to walk away from his job.

Harris said the allegations against Culver "simply lack merit" and are "unfounded."

Harris said that before Culver became a lawyer he was "an extremely successful and award-winning architect."

Culver worked as a deputy attorney in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for two years before starting his own law firm in 1978, according to Harris. ■

—Jeff Shuttleworth, Bay City News

TRADER JOE'S

Continued from Page 5

traders on the culinary high seas," she added. "They sport brightly colored Hawaiian-themed shirts, adding to the friendly and light-hearted air of the store."

Many area residents can expect to receive a copy of the Trader Joe's "Fearless Flyer" in their mailboxes after the store opens, she said.

The Fearless Flyer is a somewhat

irreverent description of a timely selection of Trader Joe's products, according to Mochizuki. Each edition highlights a selection of Trader Joe's products that the company buyers believe are worthy of customer interest, from comfort foods to items that are organic or boast other special attributes.

"Trader Joe's is truly a grocery store unlike any other," Mochizuki said. "It's 'store of stories,' meaning that every item in the store has its own virtues — high-quality ingredients,

great flavor, or simply an extraordinary price — and many items often feature all of those qualities."

"Another significant point of difference is that all of Trader Joe's prices are everyday prices," she added. "Trader Joe's doesn't have 'sales' for a few days only to hike the prices back up again. Trader Joe's prices change only when costs change. There are no fancy promotions, discount cards or couponing wars."

Trader Joe's began in 1958 in the Los Angeles area. Since then, it has expanded to 460 stores in 41 states. ■

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Hacienda receives awards for commute benefits

Wins annual 'Race to Excellence' citations

By JEB BING

Best Workplaces for Commuters, a program designed to encourage sustainable transportation innovation, singled out Hacienda in Pleasanton as one of 18 employers nationwide last week at the annual "Race to Excellence" virtual awards ceremony.

Hacienda received a Gold Award as a "Best Workplace for Commuters" site as well as the Best in Class recognition.

The awards recognized organizations that have taken exemplary steps to offer transportation options. These include vanpooling, telework and compressed work-week programs for employees.

To qualify as a Best Workplace for Commuters, applicants must meet a "Standard of Excellence" established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and maintained by the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR).

"The annual Race to Excellence provides national recognition for employers who offer high-level commuter benefits," said Julie Bond, national program manager for Best Workplaces for Commuters.

"Offering commuter benefits is a win-win situation for employees who change their commuting habits to save time, money and stress and employers who gain a competitive edge in employee recruitment

and retention," Bond said. "This year, we recognized 18 Race to Excellence winners who have exceptional commute programs."

During the 2016 Race to Excellence challenge, participants were given awards in four categories: Sites, Employers, Supporting Agencies and Universities.

Hacienda was given a Gold Award in the Best Workplaces for Commuters' Sites category and was also recognized as the best in its class.

"Hacienda is grateful for this national recognition of our comprehensive commute program," said James Paxson, Hacienda's general manager.

"Hacienda has been a regular

recipient of this award owing to the extent and breadth of services made available to provide commuting assistance, programs that we regularly improve on and expand," Paxson explained.

"We continue to believe that Hacienda is fundamentally a better place to work and live because of what we offer to both employees and residents within the development," he added.

Beyond the recognition awarded to Hacienda as a place, Hacienda's Best Workplaces for Commuters Site designation also means that the Best Workplaces for Commuters Employer recognition can be afforded to any of the park's 685

businesses, simply by virtue of their location in the park once they sign up for the program.

Guided by the conviction that transportation alternatives are essential to meeting the needs of today's workforce, Paxson said Hacienda has crafted one of the most comprehensive commute service programs available.

The wide range of free and convenient offerings include access to local and inter-regional transit and shuttles, incentives for new riders trying commute alternatives and preferential parking for rideshare, including Rideshare assistance, which provides an emergency ride home, according to Paxson.

The program also includes a library of commuting resources, pedestrian and biking facilities, and centralized commute information services. ■



HOPE HOSPICE

In center, first row, Jane Euler (wearing red sweater), president, Oakland Chapter Pan Am World Wings International, and Ingrid Templeton of Pan Am World Wings International present teddy bears and other fluffy stuffed animals to an appreciative Hope Hospice staff.

Retired flight attendants deliver furry friends for Hope Hospice patients

Organization of former Pan Am workers provides 'touch of comfort' for those under hospice care

Members of the Oakland chapter of Pan Am World Wings International donated bags filled with new stuffed bears and other cuddly animals this week to those in care of Dublin-based Hope Hospice volunteers.

Jane Euler, president of the Oakland chapter, said the organization of former and retired Pan Am flight attendants has been buying bears

for Hope Hospice patients for more than a decade.

"They provide a touch of comfort for Hope Hospice patients," she said.

Hope Hospice staff members distribute the fluffy animals to patients who are in need of a little extra "tender loving care."

For more than 35 years, Hope Hospice, located at 6377 Clark Ave. in Dublin, has provided

personalized end-of-life care to families in the Tri-Valley and surrounding communities. It is a community-led, nonprofit organization and a recipient of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

For more information, sign on to the organization's website at Hope-Hospice.com or reach out by telephone at 829-8770. ■

—Jeb Bing

TAKE US ALONG



Above the North Pole: Anne Jarmuz brought the Pleasanton Weekly to the upper deck of the Emirates Airbus A380 on-board lounge while flying 38,000 feet above the North Pole from Dubai to San Francisco. The aircraft was piloted by her son Emirates First Officer Craig Jarmuz, who graduated from Foothill High School in 2000.

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.



2016 Holiday Fund



Each year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in our community. The Holiday Fund partners with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to the 10 local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

This year's Holiday Fund recipients that will share equally in fund contributions are:

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency finds stable homes and a loving environment for abused and neglected children throughout 14 counties in Northern California, including here in Alameda County.

Axis Community Health is the Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical and mental health services for individuals and families who have a low income or who are uninsured. It serves more than 14,000 members of our community.

Hope Hospice provides ethical hospice care, transition services for those not eligible for hospice, bereavement support for adults and children and end-of-life education to Tri-Valley families, regardless of insurance or income status.

REACH, (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing for special adults of the Tri-Valley) offers education programs, activities, resources and housing opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation provides local cancer patients with complementary therapies to help allevi-

ate the side effects caused by radiation and chemotherapy.

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley serves seniors over 60 in the communities of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol to promote independence, safety and well-being, preserve dignity and improve quality of life.

Sunflower Hill is working to create a sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs, similar to senior living facilities.

Tri-Valley YMCA aims to strengthen the local communities through youth develop-

ment, healthy living and social responsibility.

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation plans to use its contribution from the annual campaign to help fund state-of-the-art health care technology, facilities, various clinical programs and services at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.

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

2016 Holiday Fund Donors

So far in the 2016 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign, 239 donors have contributed \$49,831 to the fund. This list includes donations received and reported on or before Dec. 16.

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	IN MEMORY OF
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c/o Silicon Valley Community Foundation
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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

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The following agencies will benefit from the 2016 Holiday Fund:

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency	Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley
Axis Community Health	Sunflower Hill
Hope Hospice	Tri-Valley YMCA
REACH	ValleyCare Charitable Foundation
Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation	Valley Humane Society

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Crying — a family tradition

Photo at left: In 1985, Jenna Galves, almost 5, and Elyse, 21 months, visit Santa at Stoneridge Shopping Center. While Jenna is patient, if a bit unimpressed, Elyse is not happy. The girls grew up in Pleasanton and graduated from Foothill High. Photo at right: Forward to 2016, and Sebastian Dela Rosa, 2, son of Ernie and Elyse Galves Dela Rosa, follows in his mother's footsteps with his unhappiness at visiting Santa, again at Stoneridge, although grandmother Patricia Galves reports that Sebastian was happy and excited before he was placed onto Santa's lap. Notice that Santa has aged quite nicely.

Christmas Magic

*Santa visits bring joy
and wonder to the world*

*J*olly ol' St. Nick brings out the kid in all of us, and watching children share their hopes and dreams with him can be a special time.

The truly young ones might approach this stranger with trepidation or dismay, but Santa welcomes all — and still manages to make his rounds worldwide on Christmas Eve night. ■



Taking Santa in stride

Hudson Souza, 5 months, usually has major "stranger danger" but apparently thought this big guy was no big deal, according to mom Ashley and dad Dustin Souza.



Foley boys visit Santa again

Tyler Foley, 5, and his twin brothers Brian and Connor, 3-1/2, visit Santa. Do they look familiar? They were featured in this year's ad calling for Santa photos. Tyler is in TK at Vintage Hills Elementary, and Brian and Connor go to Gingerbread Preschool. Their parents, Julie and Tim Foley, also grew up in Pleasanton.



Unhappy wee one

Sophie Rose, 19 months, is not impressed when mom Jennifer takes her to visit Santa in downtown Falkirk, Scotland, where they live, reports grandfather Renato Delnevo of Pleasanton.



'Santa's Little Elf'

Evelynn Ann Martin, 5 months, daughter of Joseph and Bronte Martin of San Diego, visits with Santa at Stoneridge Shopping Center during her Thanksgiving visit to the home of "Grammie" Lori Martin of Dublin.



Sizing up Santa

Norah Vaden, 2 years 11 months, gets a chance to size up Santa at Stoneridge while visiting grandma Karen Vaden, who surmised that Norah was thinking, "Is he the real Santa?"



Doin' the dab

Payton and Cooper Schuh, 13 and 8, teach Santa to dab. "We decided to have fun with Santa since the boys are getting bigger," said mom Keely Schuh. Dad Eric Schuh works at Hart Middle School, where Payton attends. Cooper goes to Donlon Elementary.



No reindeer required

Members of Olympia Fields, the brass section of the San Ramon Symphonic Band, visit with Santa at San Ramon's recent Holiday on the Farm event, where he arrived in his sleigh pulled by a vintage tractor. Visits took place in the vintage tractor barn, which was decorated for the holidays.



Cool with Santa

Lucca Graziano, 11 months, meets Santa for the first time in Livermore.



Remembering Monster

Monster, a Pomeranian adopted by Lauren and Chris Juan from the SPCA in 2007, was their pride and joy with his teddy-bear like features. "As beautiful as he was on the outside, he was even more beautiful on the inside, eager to shower everyone he met with kisses and cuddles," wrote Lauren Juan. "Knowing him was one of my life's most precious gifts." Monster died two years ago but the Juan family, including a daughter and son, 4 and 2, enjoy looking at this photo on their mantle and sharing funny stories about him.



Making his list ...

Karen Tracy snapped this shot of her husband Daniel, explaining, "This time of year he wears his Santa hat, and wherever we go, kids look at him and are not sure if he might just be the real Santa Claus. We were getting ready to go out to Union Square in San Francisco and he said, 'Before we go, let me check my list, and maybe I better check it twice.' I just had to snap this picture of Santa Dan 'checking his list' using today's technology."



Joyeux Noelle

The Laborde-Lagrange siblings, (left to right) Margaret, 11, Pierre, 8, and Caroline, 9, visit Santa near their home in Sacramento. The children, who are dual citizens of France and the United States, often visit their grandparents, Tish and John Deus, in their Pleasanton home in Birdland.

Christmas Magic



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Big Fat Year-End Kiss-Off Comedy Show XXIV

❄️ Will Durst and his merry band of pranksters once again, for the 24th year, take their Big Fat Year-End Kiss-Off Comedy Show extravaganza to the Bay Area's far-flung nooks and crannies — also to the Firehouse Arts Center Theater, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday. They vow to lampoon, satirize, mock, scoff, scorn, taunt, tease, rib, ridicule, josh, jibe and kid the personalities and events of the past year, and to do it with a modicum of taste, in a show rated PG-13. Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$30. Go to www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848, or purchase at the theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave. ❄️



CHUCK DECKERT

The Pleasanton City Council rides on horse-drawn carriage in Dec. 3 holiday parade in downtown Pleasanton. Councilman Jerry Pentin is seated behind Councilwoman Kathy Narum, with only his waving hand showing.

TV30 broadcasting season's parades, tree-lightings

Marathon of events, entertainment to air Christmas Day

By JEB BING

Tri-Valley Community Television is offering viewers a chance to view this season's holiday parades and tree-lightings through the holiday season.

In addition, TV30 will broadcast a marathon of local holiday events and entertainment starting at 6 a.m. Christmas Day and going to midnight.

"These holiday celebrations we record and then broadcast represent hours of planning by those in charge of organizing them and the participants," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, executive director at Tri-Valley Community Television. "We consider these events one of the main things we cover all year that highlight community spirit."

The events may be viewed on Comcast TV Channel

30 and AT&T U-verse via Channel 99 as well as streaming live and via video demand on the TV30 website at tv30.org. DVDs are also available for purchase on the website.

Kicking off the festivities was the city of Dublin's 33rd annual Tree-Lighting Ceremony that took place on Dec. 1 at the Dublin Civic Center. Seasonal entertainment was provided by students from the Dublin Unified School District.

The 21st annual Downtown Livermore Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade was held on Dec. 3, featuring over 50 floats, local marching bands and light displays marching down First Street followed by the lighting of Livermore's holiday tree by Mayor John Marchand and Santa.

Also taking place on Dec. 3 was the

See **BROADCASTING** on Page 16



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Christmas Magic

Top tips for holiday family ❄️ road trips

Family time 'starts the moment you hit the road'



NICKOLYA/FOTOLIA.COM

Family time during the holiday season starts the moment you hit the road, and early planning can lead to a fun-filled family trip.



The holiday season is one of the busiest travel times of the year, which means congested roads under potentially difficult driving conditions.

"Family time this holiday season starts the moment you hit the road," said Tara Trompeter, managing editor at Autotrader. "A little bit of planning ahead before you get on the road will go a long way toward filling the experience with more fun and laughter for everyone involved."

To keep holiday road warriors comfortable and content on their drives, Autotrader editors offer some of their top holiday travel tips.

Tune up

Do a quick check on the essentials before you head out. Check the wear and pressure on your tires, and be sure your fluids (oil, coolant and wiper fluid) are topped off.

For do-it-yourselfers, you can perform these quick and easy inspections on your own. For added peace of mind, visit your local mechanic or dealership where you can have your car serviced by an accredited technician.

Tending to potential issues proactively means you are more likely to avoid having to deal with them while you're on the road.

Avoid 'are we there yet?'



Technology features like built-in screens and DVD players can be saviors on the road, but if your car doesn't come equipped with these, consider bringing along a hand-held device so kids can play games or watch videos.

And if technology isn't your thing, remember that magnetized board games and word games can work just as well. You can also encourage kids to stay occupied by having them help you navigate and by playing DJ.

Have patience

These days, your car's navigation tools can offer realistic travel times, but be prepared for the unexpected. Inclement weather, traffic and bathroom requests can set you back. Give yourself extra time to reach your destination.

Have fun!

Holiday road trips can be a great pastime for the whole family while creating wonderful memories. Enjoy the adventure of it.

To learn more, visit Autotrader.com/HolidayDrivingTips. ■

—StatePoint

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Christmas Magic

Year-end tax moves that could save you money

Putting off tax prep could be costly mistake, financial analyst says

By NATHANIEL SILLIN

The end of the year is approaching and between visiting friends and family and celebrating the holidays, your taxes may be the last thing on your mind.

However, putting off tax preparation until later could be a costly mistake. While tax season doesn't start until mid-January, if you want to affect the return you file in 2017, you'll need to make some tax moves before the end of 2016.

You might make this a yearly tradition — while there may be slight alterations in the rules or numbers from one year to the next, many of the fundamentals behind tax-saving advice remain the same.

Sell losing investments and offset capital gains or income. Do you have property, stocks or other investments that have dropped in value and you're considering offloading?

If you sell the investments before the end of the year, you can use

the lost value to offset capital gains (profits from capital assets). Excess losses can offset up to \$3,000 from ordinary taxable income and be rolled over to following years.

Optimize your charitable contributions. Many people make an annual tradition of donating their time and money to support charitable causes. It's a noble thing to do and could come with a tax benefit.

The value of your donation to a qualified charitable organization, minus the value of anything you receive in return, could offset your taxable income.

Charitable contributions are deductible if you itemize deductions. However, most taxpayers find it best to take the standard deduction — \$12,600 for married people filing jointly, \$9,300 for heads of households and \$6,300 for single or married people filing separately for the 2016 tax year.

If it's best for you to take the standard deduction for 2016 but you

think you may itemize your deductions next year, consider holding off until the new year to make the donations.

Defer your income to next year. You might be able to lower your taxable income for 2016 by delaying some of your pay until after the new year. Employees could ask their employer to send a holiday bonus or December's commission in January.

It could be easier for contractors and the self-employed to defer their income since for them, it's as simple as waiting to send an invoice.

Don't let FSA savings go to waste. Employer-sponsored flexible spending accounts (FSA) let employees contribute pre-tax money into their FSA accounts, meaning you don't have to pay income tax on the money. FSA funds can be spent on qualified medical and dental procedures, such as prescription medications, bandages or crutches and deductible or copays. FSA funds that you don't use by

the end of the year could get forfeited. However, employers can give employees a two-and-a-half month grace period or allow employees to roll over up to \$500 per year.

Check with your employer to see if it offers one of these exemptions, and make a plan to use your remaining FSA funds before they disappear.

What can wait until after Jan. 1? Procrastinators will be pleased to hear that there are tax moves you can make after the start of the new year.

You have until the tax return filing deadline, April 18 in 2017, to make 2016-tax-year contributions to a traditional IRA. The money you add could offset your income, and you'll be saving for retirement — a double win.

The maximum contribution you can make is \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you're 50 or older) for the 2016 tax year. However, the deductible amount depends on your income and eligibility for an employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Bottom line. Don't wait for the tax season to start to take stock of your situation and get your finances in order. While there are a few tax moves that can wait, what you do between now and the end of the year could have a significant impact on your return. ■

Editor's note: Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. Follow him on Twitter, @PracticalMoney.

BROADCASTING

Continued from Page 14

Pleasanton Home-town Holiday Parade and Tree-Lighting on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton.

It was the largest ever with about 20,000 spectators.

The annual community celebration included a parade with floats, marching bands, community groups and more. Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne presided over the lighting of the holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main Street.

2016 Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting air days and times on TV30 are as follows:

• Dublin: Saturday 8 a.m., Sunday 5 p.m., Wednesday 11:30 p.m., Friday 2 p.m.

• Livermore: Saturday 6 p.m., Sunday 4 p.m., Wednesday 9 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.

• Pleasanton: Saturday 8:30 a.m., Sunday 5:30 p.m., Wednesday 10 p.m., Monday 11:30 a.m.

Also, TV30 will broadcast performances by the Cantabella Children's Choir on Saturday at 10 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m.; Monday, 11 p.m.; and, Friday, 2:30 p.m. ■

6 steps to better digestion this holiday season

Don't deprive yourself of yummy foods but make a plan

Cheer and goodwill aren't the only things Americans share during the holiday season. We also swap germs, overindulge in seasonal foods and spirits, and stew in stress — all of which can lead to digestive woes.

You know you'll have to work hard at self-control if you don't want the numbers on the scale to climb by the end of the holiday season. But you can also take steps to minimize stomach upset, indigestion, bloating, reflux and general intestinal distress during the holidays.

So good yet so bad

Holiday foods taste good because they're often rich, and high in fat and sugar — qualities that cause not only weight gain but also digestive discomfort. During this hectic time of year, most of us eat more — especially at celebrations.

Giving up holiday treats and favorite dishes would be like going through the season without a single cornucopia or twinkling decoration. Rather than suffering digestive

distress through indulgence, or choosing to deprive yourself entirely, start with a plan for how you'll deal with holiday digestive upset, then take action.

Steps to feel better

• Stay hydrated.

The hectic pace of the holidays may make you forget to drink enough water. What's more, overindulging in holiday libations like cocktails, wine, champagne and beer can actually dehydrate your body.

Non-alcoholic sugary beverages like mulled cider, hot chocolate and pumpkin-flavored coffees can also throw off your body's balance. Remember to drink plenty of water every day throughout the holidays.

• Prioritize food choices.

Sure, that slice of pumpkin pie looks great on the plate and tastes yummy going down, but will it be worth the heartburn and bloating you'll experience later? Raw veggies are a healthful and fiber-filled alternative to fatty hors d'oeuvres,

but be aware that raw vegetables can also cause bloating and gas.

Pay attention to the foods that trigger discomfort and decide how important they really are. You may be able to substitute something else that's just as satisfying but less upsetting to your stomach.

• Promote gut health.

If your digestive tract is already in good shape, equip it to better handle occasional holiday overindulgence. Taking a probiotic supplement can support the growth of good gut bacteria that aid in digestion.

• Reduce portion sizes.

Do you give yourself license to overindulge during the holidays, figuring you'll pay for it later when you step on the scale? Large portions can also make you pay for them right away when you feel indigestion or reflux after finishing a big meal.

Reducing portion sizes can help ease holiday strain on your stomach and digestive tract. One easy trick for controlling portion sizes



BPT

Enjoy special holiday meals and, with a little forethought, stay healthy and feeling great.

— serve yourself on a dessert-size dish, rather than a large dinner plate. Smaller portions will look like more on a smaller plate.

• Limit variety.

Whether a buffet or a sit-down dinner, holiday meals often feature multiple dishes that just look so good you want to try them all. Mixing too many different foods, however, can lead to stomach upset.

Trying everything — even if it's just a bite or two — can rack up the calories, fat and sugar. Instead, choose just a few favorites to have at each meal. If you have a spoon of green bean casserole with your holiday ham, pass on the yams and plan to have them with tomorrow's leftovers.

• Keep exercising.

Along with all the other benefits exercise brings, it can also promote digestive health. In addition to its positive physical effects, exercise can also help relieve holiday stress — a contributor to holiday stomach upset.

Whether it's an hour at the gym or 30 minutes on a yoga mat in your living room, it's important to maintain an exercise regimen throughout the holidays.

The holidays are meant to be a time of enjoyment, and that includes eating foods you just don't have around at other times of the year. With some proactive steps, you can help ensure your holidays stay bright and your stomach stays healthy throughout the season. ■

—BPT

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Armed robbery reported at Stoneridge Mall

Pleasanton police are investigating after a woman reported being robbed at gunpoint outside the Stoneridge Shopping Center late Tuesday morning, according to a department spokesman.

The woman told officers she had just left the mall and was in the "A" parking lot around 11:30 a.m. when two young men approached her as she got into her car, according to Sgt. Erik Silacci.

One of the men yanked open the driver's door, pointed a black handgun at the woman and demanded her belongings while the other man walked to the front of the vehicle and acted as a lookout, Silacci said.

The woman handed over her belongings, and the two men fled in an awaiting car, described as an older, green Honda Civic or similar model vehicle, Silacci said.

The gun-wielding man was described as light-skinned, Hispanic and around 18-20 years old, standing about 5-foot-4 with a slender build and wearing a beanie-style hat, dark sweater and gray pants.

The other culprit was described as a light-skinned black man around 18-20 years old, approximately 5-foot-4 with a slender build and wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt.

Silacci said the investigation is ongoing and anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has other relevant information should contact the department at 931-5100.

In other police news

- Police are warning residents in Pleasanton to beware of phone calls

from a person fraudulently claiming to be from the Pleasanton Police Department.

Police have received recent reports of residents receiving calls from someone asking for donations on behalf of the police department, according to police.

The caller often says they are a retired police officer.

According to police officials, the Pleasanton Police Department does not accept monetary donations.

The Pleasanton Police Officers Association, a nonprofit organization, does however accept monetary donations, which are always solicited by mail and never by phone, police said.

- The Alameda County Sheriff's Office is investigating after the third reported homicide in Castro Valley in the past month claimed the life of a 59-year-old woman last week.

Andrea St. John was found dead in her garage in the 1800 block of Grove Way on Dec. 13.

A fire reported at the one-story house at around 2:45 a.m. is being investigated as arson. Investigators think the fire was set in the attic to destroy forensic evidence related to St. John's death, sheriff's officials said last week.

The autopsy revealed that St. John's death was likely a homicide, according to the sheriff's office. Firefighters didn't find anyone else at the home, fire officials said.

Sheriff's officials said St. John has been a longtime resident of Castro Valley and was a well-respected community member. Investigators don't know why anyone would want to kill St. John and have asked anyone with information about this incident to call sheriff's officials at (510) 667-3636.

The latest incident is one of three Alameda County sheriff's officials

are investigating as homicide.

On Dec. 4, 33-year-old Eder Mike Marroquin was fatally shot during a fight at a party in Castro Valley, according to court documents.

Ryan Gutierrez, a 25-year-old Hayward man, has been charged with murder for the fatal shooting in a garage at a home in the 2500 block of Denning Court shortly before 8 a.m. on Dec. 4. He was scheduled to return to court this week to enter a plea.

A witness told investigators that Gutierrez, who works as a caregiver, shot Marroquin after the two men got into an altercation at a party, according to a probable cause statement by Alameda County sheriff's deputy Rosario Robson.

Marroquin was pronounced dead at the scene and Gutierrez was arrested in the 15000 block of Foothill Boulevard about four hours later, according to Robson.

Gutierrez "refused to cooperate" when investigators tried to interview him, Robson said.

In addition to murder, Gutierrez is charged with two counts of being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm. Prosecutors say he has three prior felony convictions: one each for insurance fraud, assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury and first-degree residential burglary.

That followed another incident that occurred around 6 p.m. on Nov. 28, when a man was killed in a possible drive-by shooting in front of his home in the 4100 block of Wilson Avenue, near Redwood Road in Castro Valley.

Arriving deputies found the victim, identified only as a 37-year-old man, on the ground suffering from multiple gunshot wounds and being cared for by a friend who was administering CPR.



COURTESY OF PPD

What a treat

From left: Riley Young, 10, and brothers Elliot (8), Oliver (11) and Simon de la Torre (5) collected all 41 Pleasanton Police Department trading cards and were the first to turn them in. They were rewarded with a ride along with officers in the Hometown Holiday Parade, which included a pre-parade meal at Bob's Giant Burgers with Officer Ken McNeill. Pleasanton kids who have since turned in all trading cards have also received rides to school as a prize. Youngsters 18 and under can still participate in the trading card contest through Dec. 31. Contact the department for more information, 931-5100.

Medical personnel also responded, but the victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Sgt. Ray Kelly said the shooter fled, possibly in a vehicle, but no suspects have been identified and the motive for the shooting is not yet known.

In addition to last week's homicide and arson, another fire in Castro Valley on Sunday killed a local resident, 51-year-old Jacqueline Burns.

The fire was reported at 6:16 a.m. at a townhouse in the 2000 block of San Miguel Avenue.

The home was only about 150

feet away from an Alameda County Fire Department station, but by the time firefighters arrived, black smoke was billowing from the second floor, fire officials said.

Crews got inside and had the fire knocked down within about 15 minutes, containing it to the single townhouse. Most of the fire damage was on the second floor, where Burns was found unresponsive in the bathroom.

Firefighters tried to resuscitate Burns but she was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of the fire has not yet been reported. ■

—Pleasanton Weekly staff and Bay City News Service

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 18

DUI

- 12:06 a.m. at St. John and Main streets
- 12:59 a.m. in the 2200 block of Raven Road

Vandalism

- 6:24 p.m. in the 1000 block of W. Lagoon Road

Drug violation

- 7:33 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Shoplifting

- 7:45 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 9:22 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 17

DUI

- 1:28 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive
- 2 a.m. at Stoneridge Drive and El Charro Road

Domestic battery

- 10:59 a.m. on Willow Road

Theft

- 1:13 p.m., 3200 block of Chardonnay Place; theft from auto
- 1:37 p.m., 1800 block of Begonia Court; auto theft
- 3:40 p.m., 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Dec. 16

Theft

- 5:06 a.m., 8500 block of Clubhouse Drive; auto theft
- 11:34 a.m. in the 7600 block of Flagstone Drive
- 2:08 p.m., 5000 block of Foothill Road; theft from auto
- 3:20 p.m. in the 2600 block of Trevor Parkway
- 3:53 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 9:16 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Commercial burglary

- 8:36 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road
- 9:33 a.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

Residential burglary

- 8:59 a.m. in the 3400 block of Old Foothill Road

Vandalism

- 9:27 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive
- 11:15 p.m. in the 1300 block of Santa Rita Road

Fraud

- 11:13 a.m. in the 500 block of Burger Court
- 1:07 p.m. in the 5700 block of Sonoma Drive
- 2:42 p.m. in the 3400 block of Streamside Circle

Robbery

- 12:56 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 15

Vandalism

- 8:02 a.m. in the 1300 block of Hearst Drive
- 9:39 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue

Theft

- 11:47 a.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 3:15 p.m., 6900 block of Koll Center Parkway; theft from structure

Domestic battery

- 5:41 p.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Fraud

- 7:45 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 14

Alcohol violation

- 12:17 a.m. at Hopyard Road and W. Las Positas Boulevard
- 12:19 p.m. in the 4100 block of First Street

Domestic battery

- 2:40 a.m. on Baywood Court

Theft

- 7:15 a.m., 100 block of Mission Drive; theft from auto
- 4:25 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

Fraud

- 9:20 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive
- 9:29 a.m. in the 4200 block of Jensen Street

- 4:01 p.m. in the 3200 block of Royalton Court

Robbery

- 4:06 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 13

Vandalism

- 12:57 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive
- 5:41 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Alcohol violation

- 10 a.m. at Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

Theft

- 1:04 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from structure
- 4:14 p.m., 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; theft from structure
- 4:32 p.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting

Dec. 12

Commercial burglary

- 3:05 a.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road
- 12:49 p.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane

Residential burglary

- 7:08 a.m. in the 4600 block of Black Avenue

Drug violation

- 1:11 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

TAKE US ALONG



Grand view: BethAnn and Eddie Moitoso took the Pleasanton Weekly to the Grand Canyon. They also traveled to the largest Navajo Indian Reservation, then to Sedona, Ariz., Horseshoe Bay and Austin, Texas.

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Don't let humbug trump holiday happiness

Saturday marks Christmas Eve for Christians and the start of Hanukkah for Jews. The concurrence of these two major holidays celebrated by two of the world's major religions has happened only four times in the last 100 years.

That it is happening this year — a year of election outcomes both national and local that have left many shaking their heads in amazement and fearing the future — is an interesting turn of events.

The season's "bah humbug" started early this year with an election that will likely go down in history as one of the nastiest and most divisive. Even local elections and issues pitted neighbor against neighbor.

We're all a little shell-shocked, and some people who are perhaps angry at the outcome of a particular race or ballot measure are going out of their way to find reasons to be offended.

Everyone deserves and should be treated with respect. However, it should be obvious that there is a distinct difference between, for example, finding racial slurs scrawled on a high school wall — which is appalling and offensive — and being told to have a Merry Christmas.

The fact the latter can bring as much outrage as the former is unimaginable and unfortunate.

Many people find it easier to not speak at all to those who don't look like them, speak like them or worship like them, because then there is no chance of offending them. They don't share views or information for fear of offending someone.

This lack of communication is a symptom of the problem, but also perpetuates it. We need to communicate with people who are different from us to learn and understand them. We need to voice our views and opinions to be able to bring new information and ideas to light. This is critical to our relationships, our democracy, our society.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or even Festivus, we encourage you to give the gift "unoffendableness" this year. In other words, don't sweat the small stuff.

Do not become offended when someone asks you a question about your manner of dress or speech. Let it go.

Do not become offended when someone shares his or her views on a subject, even if it is the polar opposite of yours — and you have facts and statistics to back it up. Let it go.

Do not get offended when someone says "Merry Christmas" to you. Let it go.

Unoffendableness is good for both the recipient and giver in that it allows for a less stressful, more joyous celebration for all. Eggshells are garbage and nobody should be made to walk on them around family and friends.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa to your family from ours. ■

LETTERS

Community choice aggregation

Dear Editor,

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted Oct. 4 to approve establishing a community choice aggregation (CCA) energy program with a commitment to maximizing community benefits including community input in the governance of the program.

The joint powers authority (JPA) agreement is now before city councils in the 14 municipalities of Alameda County, and as of Nov. 29, 12 of 14 cities have voted to join and together with the unincorporated areas of the county account for more than 90% of the electricity load of the county.

CCA programs use aggregated demand and group purchasing to achieve local objectives including consumer rate savings, greenhouse gas reductions, new revenues for local energy programs, utility reform and jobs creation. CCAs reflect the values of their governing boards and the communities they serve.

California has the first climate-driven CCA in the nation. It provides 67% greenhouse gas-free power, a 100% renewables option, and robust net metering and feed-in tariff programs. Since 2011, it has contracted for nearly 60 MW of new solar, wind, biomass and landfill gas energy.

In addition to Marin County and Richmond, California has CCAs certified in Sonoma, Lancaster and San Francisco. CCAs are underway in Alameda County, Monterey Bay, and several East Bay cities, San Diego and Yolo County are exploring CCA as an option.

I urge the city of Pleasanton to vote to join the rest of Alameda County in the JPA agreement to help bring renewable energy, stable, competitive rates and local clean energy jobs to our community.

—Catherine Brown
Environmental scientist
Pleasanton homeowner

Veterans Memorial

Dear Editor,

The city's parks department did a fantastic job in building the Veterans Memorial in the Pioneer Cemetery.

I ventured to see it; there was one other visitor. The road was plugged, had to wait till he left.

This should have been located in the park off Bernal Avenue or at the vet hall. I doubt the residents in the cemetery are enjoying the memorial.

How many people are going to make the trip to the cemetery to enjoy the memorial?

—Robert Hadley

Street name board

Dear Editor,

The color of street name boards are being changed all over Pleasanton by the city. The new color combination of white letters on a light-orange background makes it hard to read. In most cities, the boards have a dark background with white letters, or the other way around. The city needs to reconsider and switch to a more people-friendly color combination.

—Yash Bannur

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

McCaffrey opting not to play for Stanford in Sun Bowl hurts spirit of game

Last chance to have real brotherhood bond with teammates

Somewhat lost in the sports news of the last couple of weeks was the decision of Stanford football star Christian McCaffrey opting not to play for the Cardinal in the upcoming Sun Bowl.

Officially, the reason given was McCaffrey wants to prepare for the NFL Draft, but realistically, McCaffrey does not want to run the risk of getting hurt in the game, which in turn could impact his draft status.

He is not the only college player to do so this year as Leonard Fournette of LSU is taking the same route.

Honestly, I think this is garbage in both cases and is unfair to the bowl games, fans of the team and finally, the players themselves.

Stanford traditionally does not travel well (does not sell a ton of tickets), but with a player like McCaffrey in the game, there is more interest. Had he declared before the bowl selections were made, the Sun Bowl may have gone somewhere else with the selection. Now they are stuck with a far less appealing match-up.

I also guarantee if Stanford was going to the Rose Bowl or was a top four team and in the playoffs, McCaffrey would be playing. But because it is the Sun Bowl, he needs to prepare for the NFL Draft.

Teammates have been tweeting support for McCaffrey, which is also a reason I feel he should be playing. College is the last place for an athlete to have a real brotherhood bond with his teammates.

Professional athletics is a business and while there are friendships, at the end of the day, it's a business and it is a me-first attitude. College has become a lot of business-first, but it is still a team as you live with your teammates, hopefully go to class with your teammates and when you add in their respective sport, spend nearly all their time together.

That McCaffrey's teammates have publicly supported him shows the bond that has been formed. What McCaffrey needs to understand is that once you leave college and that

brotherhood, you can't go back.

Another aspect of this entire issue is that it trickles down to the high school athletes and I feel sets a poor example. High school sports have been moving in this direction for some time — the me-first attitude — and is getting worse each year.

The biggest example of this is kids who stop playing other sports so they can focus on their "best sport." Most of the time it's disillusioned parents advising their child about what sport to "focus" on, but in recent times, some coaches have begun to pressure kids to play only one sport.

They may not officially say that, but trust me, it's implied and if you don't believe that, you have your head in the sand.

I grew up in Pleasanton and playing multiple sports was not just allowed, but encouraged.

Coaches worked together to make it happen and supported kids playing multiple sports.

I can remember while I was the sports editor at the Tri-Valley Herald, the Kernan sisters played both soccer and basketball — in the same season — for Amador Valley. There were times where the girls would go straight from a soccer game to a basketball game. It's the only time in my many years writing where a basketball player would have dirt and grass stains on their knees!

Few kids go on to play college sports and a very small, microscopic number make it to professional sports. High school and in theory, college, should be about building memories and not about me-first.

I personally know people my age who regret decisions made when in high school, and it pains me to see similar decisions being made now. Twenty years from now, these kids will look back when they are attending class reunions and understand it. But it would be far too late for them to change what happened. ■

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.

RADD athletes earn floor hockey silver medals

Pinney takes home gold in skills competition

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton RADD (Recreational Activities for the Developmentally Disabled) athletes performed strongly in their hometown earlier this month during the Special Olympics Northern California regional floor hockey competition at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

The RADD A and B teams each earned silver medals after playing three close matches.

Pleasanton's Adam Pinney won gold in the skills competition, which includes moving the puck around cones, then scoring, shooting and scoring from different positions around the goal, and shooting the puck into specific targets within the goal for maximum points.

The athletes competed wearing brand-new uniforms that were purchased by REACH (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing for special adults of the Tri-Valley), a local nonprofit organization that provides homes for adults with developmental disabilities and supports RADD with uniforms, equipment, participant scholarships and the annual winter ball.



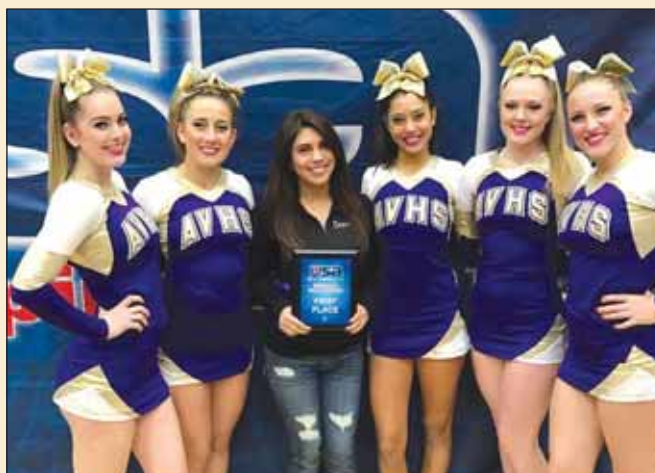
WANDA BUTTERLY

The Pleasanton RADD A and B field hockey teams celebrate their silver medal performances at the Special Olympics Northern California regional competition at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

In addition to Pinney, the other RADD athletes were Sean Hirshberg, Dasha Foos, Jake Kaufman, Raymond Reta, Jennifer Thomas, Lauren Lennigan, Camellia Pinhero, Ryan Butterly, Bruce Louwert, Bryan Peacock, Dawn Nickles,

Evan Rutter, Scott Tanaka, Joshua Layman, Greg Neves, Steven Adkins, Jennifer Thomas, Mason Trevisano and Jason Paasch.

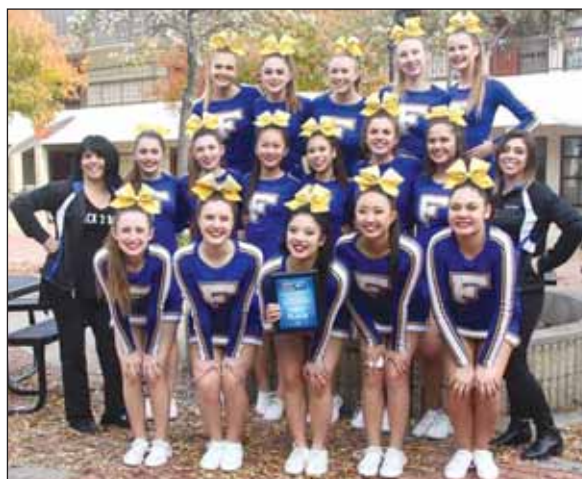
Coaches were Kay King, Troy Nickles, Kathy D'Onofrio, Jim Gundell and Jim Spillane. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amador Valley cheer takes first place

The Amador Valley High stunt team (shown) won the varsity intermediate division during the United Spirit Association regional competition at James Logan High School in Union City earlier this month. The full varsity team also earned first place in its division — intermediate varsity show cheer. The girls are set to compete next month in Yorba Linda and Wildomar, and both squads previously qualified for nationals in Anaheim in March. The stunt group consisted of Mary Hinek, Kaitlyn McGarrity, coach Danielle Butler, Melia Storey, Emily Mercer and Ashley Boxberger.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Strong finishes for Foothill cheer teams

The Foothill High varsity (shown) and junior varsity cheer teams each took home first place — in varsity show cheer novice and JV show cheer novice, respectively — while group stunt Team 1 earned second place and group stunt Team 2 secured third place at the United Spirit Association regional competition at James Logan High School in Union City earlier this month. The teams already qualified for nationals in Anaheim in March. The varsity team consisted of (back row) Annie Fenton, Jessica Cole, Michelle Cyr, Amanda Zagar and Hannah Thoe, (middle row) coach Kim DeJoy, Sophia Barletta, Emily LaDue, Chloe Chai, Sara Ling, Claire Larsen, Rachel Sanchez and coach Sarina DeJoy, and (front row) Lizzie Beer, Gali Hoffman, Sophia Ondi, Kimberly Wang and Tori Maes.

Calendar

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

Theatre

BIG FAT YEAR-END KISS-OFF COMEDY SHOW The 24th annual Big Fat Year-End Kiss-Off Comedy Show will feature an evening of pure yuks at the expense of the year 2016 at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Stand-up, improvisation and loosely written sketches guaranteed to mock, scoff and taunt with taste, starring political satirists Will Durst, Debi Durst, Michael Bossier, Johnny Steele, Mari Magaloni and Arthur Gaus. The show is rated PG-13. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

Concerts

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ELVIS! Celebrate Elvis Presley's Birthday Weekend with the return of the hit group Jim Anderson & The Rebels at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Hits include "Heartbreak Hotel," "Hound Dog," "Don't be Cruel," "Jailhouse Rock," and many more. Tickets are \$17-\$27. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

Talks & Lectures

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.

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.

Health & Wellness

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.

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.

SENIOR MENS SOCIAL CLUB Sons In Retirement (SIR) is a social club for senior men. In addition to friendships, members can participate in interest groups like golf, bridge, travel, photography, etc. We meet for lunch first Thursday of the month at San Ramon Golf Club. Open to retirees in the Tri-Valley. Contact Carl Churilo at 967-8177 or trivalleysir@gmail.com. Go to branch34.sirinc2.org.

Religion & Spirituality

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Come to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. Unity Carolers will also be singing, and refreshments will be available afterward. With Reverend Micah Murdock, minister. All are welcome. No service Christmas Day.

LYNNEWOOD UNITED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES Lynnewood United Methodist Church will hold Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. for families with small children, and 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. candlelight worship with the choir. There will also be one service Christmas Day and New Year's Day at 10:30 a.m. A New Year's Blessing will be held in the tradition of India at 5:30 p.m. Contact Reverend Heather Leslie Hammer at 846-0221 or office@lynnewood.org. Go to www.lynnewood.org.

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP Lynnewood United Methodist Church at 4444 Black Ave. offers

PET OF THE WEEK



V. KELLY/VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Eager Dinks

Five-year-old Dinks has such a cute black nose. This eager terrier mix will help you find your way through the foggiest of eves. Join Dinks in a few reindeer games and you'll see he just glows with affection. Adopt Dinks at Valley Humane Society, which is hosting a Home for the Holidays 50%-off adoption event for adult animals through Dec. 31. For more info, visit valleyhumane.org or call 426-8656.

a friendly congregation where all are welcome. Sunday morning services are at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Childcare provided at both services, and Sunday school is at 11:40 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/.

WORLD PEACE DAY December 31 is known as World Healing Day, or World Peace Day. Come participate in meditating for world healing and peace at 4 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. This year's theme is Many Hands Make Light Work. Following the meditation, a breakfast potluck will be served. If you are able to join for the potluck, please contact Pam Boyer at (510) 386-1113. All are welcome.

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.

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.

TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS AND ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at the Groves at Dublin Ranch in the Clubhouse, 3115 Finnian Way, Dublin. It hosts special speakers like doctors or specialists. For more information, call JoAnne at 875-0960.

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 pleasantonttoastmasters.com.

LIVERMORE LIONESSE CLUB The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at its regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. A \$2 to \$5 donation is requested. Participating in the many activities of the group is a great way to meet local people. Lioness is a service club which helps many worthy causes in our community. Call 443-4543.

Community Calendar

Find local clubs, events, fundraisers, support groups, volunteer opportunities and more at pleasantonweekly.com/calendar

TAKE US ALONG



Thinking Pod: Sabrina McGraw spent a semester abroad working as an intern at Scottish Parliament. Her parents, Ellen Pensky McGraw and Jim McGraw, and the Pleasanton Weekly had their own private tour guide as Sabrina showed them the Thinking Pod at Scottish Parliament office.

fogster.com THE TRI-VALLEY'S FREE CLASSIFIEDS WEB SITE

Fogster.com offers **FREE** postings online and the opportunity for your ad to appear in print to more than 80,000 readers. You can log on to fogster.com 24/7, and your online ad starts immediately. Some ads require payment.



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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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

For Sale

202 Vehicles Wanted

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- Maximum Tax Deduction - UNITED BREAST CANCER FDN: Providing Breast Cancer Information and Support Programs (Cal-SCAN)

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to Heritage for the Blind. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. Call 800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

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Do the humane thing. Donate it to the Humane Society. Call 1-800-743-1482 (Cal-SCAN)

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245 Miscellaneous

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For immediate improvement, please contact us at (925) 425-7099 or www.mtpca.net.

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403 Acupuncture

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to start getting clean today. Free 24/7 Helpline for alcohol & drug addiction treatment. Get help! It is time to take your life back! Call Now: 855-732-4139 (AAN CAN)

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

Jobs

500 Help Wanted

Sales Representative
California Trade Association located in Sacramento is seeking someone with strong knowledge for Advertising, print, digital and social media solutions, great with detail, an amazing attitude, and a passion for selling content and integrated partnerships. 3-5 years experience a plus. We offer a competitive base salary, commission and bonus plan, along with great benefit package. Email Resume and Salary History to jobs@cnpa.com. EOE (Cal-SCAN)

Engineering/Technology
The Clorox Services Company, leading manufacturer and marketer of consumer products, has an opening in Pleasanton, CA for **IT Security Lead (KG01)**: Provide oversight, subject matter expertise, and leadership to internal and external partners to ensure IT standards are enforced and are in compliance with Clorox policies. Ref job code and mail resume to Clorox, Attn: HR LF, A2-140, 4900 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94589

Golf Course Maintenance
Pleasanton. We are looking for F/T and P/T employment. No experience necessary. We do offer benefits for F/T employees. We also offer golfing privileges. mgarvale@playcallippe.com.

Technical
Cisco Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the following position in Pleasanton, CA: **Systems Engineer (Ref.# PL10)**: Provide business-level guidance to the account team or operation on technology trends and competitive threats, both at a technical and business level. Telecommuting permitted. Please mail resumes with reference number to Cisco Systems, Inc., Attn: M51H, 170 W. Tasman Drive, Mail Stop: SJ/5/1/4, San Jose, CA 95134. No phone calls please. Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship. EOE. www.cisco.com

560 Employment Information

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

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751 General Contracting

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

Real Estate

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890 Real Estate Wanted

Wanted: House in Sunny Glen
I'm looking to buy a small house (900-1100 sq ft) in the Sunny Glen retirement section of San Ramon. If you are considering selling, please contact me through this ad. I'm not a house flipper. I want to live in Sunny Glen but would also consider a similar retirement location in Dublin or Pleasanton.

Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

L & T LANDSCAPING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524763
The following person(s) doing business as: L & T LANDSCAPING, 7378 TAMARACK DRIVE, DUBLIN, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Toan T. Le, 7378 Tamarack Drive, Dublin, CA 94568. 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: Toan T. Le. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/18/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23; 2016)

KLS FOUNDATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524979
The following person(s) doing business as: KLS FOUNDATION, 7662 COTTONWOOD LANE, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Knowledge Life Service Foundation, 7662 Cottonwood Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant:

Ambrish P. Patel, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/28/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23; 2016)

PAIX COMPANY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524702
The following person(s) doing business as: PAIX COMPANY, 330 KILKARE ROAD, SUNOL, CA 94586, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elisabeth Marie Kizanis, 330 Kilkare Road, Sunol, CA 94586; Sophia Louise Bartolomucci, 4922 Golden Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a General partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Sophia Louise Bartolomucci, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/16/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23; 2016)

ConNEXT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524716
The following person(s) doing business as: ConNEXT, 5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 210, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): HighTech Connect, LLC, 5000 Hopyard Road, Suite 210, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Registered in Delaware. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 11/04/2016. Signature of Registrant: Rene Siegel, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/17/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23; 2016)

JEFFREY'S
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525074
The following person(s) doing business as: JEFFREY'S, 3955 VINEYARD AVE. #100, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lydia Williams, 3955 Vineyard Ave. #100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Lydia Williams. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/30/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30; 2016)

BUSINESS CULTURE ADVANTAGE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524756
The following person(s) doing business as: BUSINESS CULTURE ADVANTAGE, 6878 CORTE SONADA, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Steven J. Kirch, 6878 Corte Sonada, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 09/2016. Signature of Registrant: Steven J. Kirch. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/17/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30; 2016)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No.: 520623
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): ENHANCED YOUR HOME, 3112 WEYMOUTH COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 07/19/2016 UNDER FILE NO. 520623 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): Vicki Salinas, 3112 Weymouth Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY an Individual. Signature of Registrant: Vicki Salinas. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on Nov. 28, 2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30; 2016)

ENHANCED STAGING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524967
The following person(s) doing business as: ENHANCED STAGING, 3112 WEYMOUTH COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vicki Salinas, 3112 Weymouth 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: Vicki Salinas. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/28/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30; 2016)

LIVERMORE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525449
The following person(s) doing business as: LIVERMORE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, 1405 JANIS COURT, LIVERMORE, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Oscar Urquieta Jr., 1405 Janis Court, Livermore, CA 94551. 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: Oscar Urquieta Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/13/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 16, 23, 30; 2016; Jan. 6; 2017)

SHANNON'S IMPERIAL BRAND
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525150
The following person(s) doing business as: SHANNON'S IMPERIAL BRAND, 789 BONITA AVE., PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Laura M. Bowman, 789 Bonita Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566; Dale F. Bowman, 789 Bonita Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Married couple. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 12/02/2016. Signature of Registrant: Dale F. Bowman. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/02/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 23, 30; 2016; Jan. 6, 13; 2017)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 518047
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): JXL TRANSPORTATION, 5154 MONACO DRIVE APT. E, PLEASANTON, CA 94566 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 05/06/16 UNDER FILE NO. 518047 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): Jessica A. Kile, 5154 Monaco Drive Apt. E, Pleasanton, CA 94566 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY an individual. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on Dec. 20, 2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 23, 30; 2016; Jan. 6, 13; 2017)

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Pleasanton market: Stories behind the numbers

When it comes to buying or selling a home, every transaction has its own tale

By **DAVID C. STARK**

The most extraordinary thing about real estate activity in Pleasanton this year is how ordinary it's been.

Since 2012, on average there have been approximately 840 single-family homes listed for sale each year in Pleasanton. In 2015, a total of 919 homes were for sale, and 2016 should end with about the same number of homes on the market for the year.

The median sales price for single-family homes has increased from \$740,000 in 2012 to more than \$1 million in 2016. However, while prices have increased significantly, they haven't impacted sales activity. Since 2012, slightly more than 600 single-family homes were sold each year. Sales activity in 2016 is on a similar pace compared with previous years, and approximately 610 homes will sell this year.

But for those actually buying and selling homes, these numbers are just that — numbers, not homes. Two examples of recent transactions help tell the stories behind the numbers.

For sellers, when they put their home on the market may be just as important as where their home is located.

William Doerlich, 2016 president-elect of the Bay East Association of Realtors, recently represented a client selling a home in the Del Prado neighborhood. He started working with them in June, but the home wasn't put on the market until November.

Once it hit the market, Doerlich said there was a lot of interest. More than 20 potential buyers visited each open house.

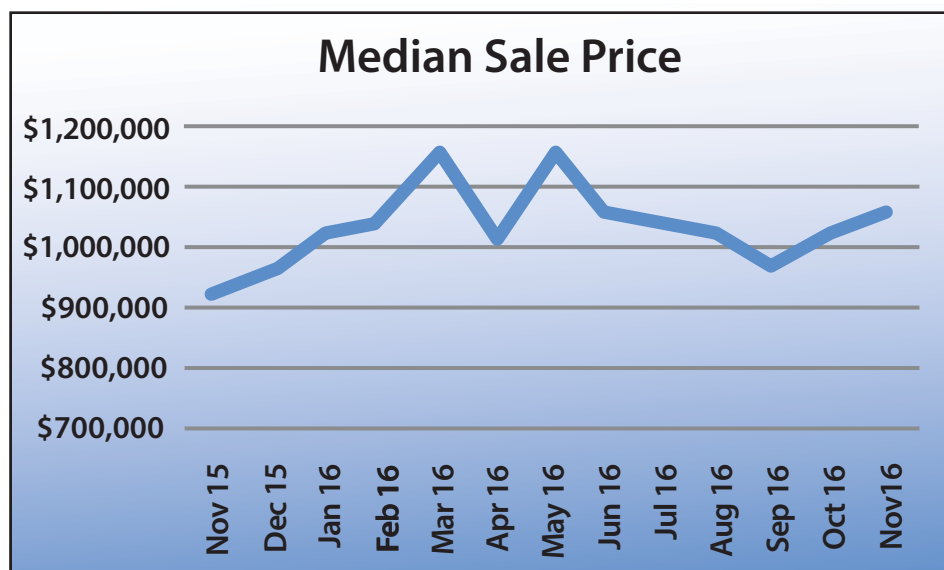
"There was an anticipation that the market is on fire, and there would be multiple offers coming out of the woodwork," Doerlich said. "I was preparing them that it may take more time to sell the home and that they would need to wait for the right offer. We were on the market for 25 days, which is not an extraordinarily long amount of time for a home priced over \$1 million."

During this period, the sellers were presented with a total of four purchase offers and ultimately chose an offer at the asking price of just above \$1 million.

"I think their experience was pretty typical for this time of the year," Doerlich said. "Earlier in the year, during the spring selling season, we saw a lot more activity. Now we have a more balanced market, there's more negotiations between the buyers and sellers, and a little bit more time on the market even though there was no lack of interest in the property."

The purchasers were first-time home-buyers who were renting in a community on the Peninsula. The buyers chose Pleasanton because of its relative affordability compared to the South Bay markets.

For buyers, a Pleasanton connection can help. Mike Fracisco, a Pleasanton resident and 2015 president of the Bay East Association of Realtors, shared the experience his clients



BAY EAST ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Chart shows the changes in median sale price for a detached, single-family home in Pleasanton over the past year. The median price was \$1,055,000 during November.

had purchasing a home in the Val Vista area.

"They were first-time home-buyers trying to get into the market for the last five years," Fracisco said. "They were looking for entry-level homes between \$650,000 to \$750,000."

He continued, "The expectations were they were going to have to compete with multiple offers, and they were also ready to go to other areas in the East Bay to try and find a home. We actually extended their search from Pleasanton all the way up to Walnut Creek."

The buyers found a home that had just been listed on the market and submitted the first purchase offer.

"The owners liked the profile of the buyers we submitted with the offer and that helped them get their offer accepted," Fracisco said. "They were surprised they were able to get it."

Fracisco said, "Their experience was out of the ordinary because we had written offers on other homes in other cities, and we had been out-bid by at least five to 10 offers."

Asked what made the difference, Fracisco explained, "The sellers liked that the buyers were born and raised in Pleasanton, they attended local schools and the owners really liked the idea of having a local family buy the home from them."

Both of these examples illustrate the fundamentally personal and unique nature of real estate transactions. While statistics help understand real estate trends, when it comes to buying or selling a home, every transaction is its own story. ■

Editor's note: David C. Stark is the public affairs director for the Bay East Association of Realtors, based in Pleasanton.

Stay prepared for a cold, wet winter

7 tips for keeping your home warm, cozy and clean for the season

The onset and arrival of colder temperatures means it's time once again to brace yourself — and your home — for everything that winter weather threatens to throw at you.

From cool, drafty air wafting into your house to friends and guests traipsing through with wet shoes and dripping umbrellas, it's important to remember the preparation to go through before winter strikes.

In order to help keep your home warm, cozy and clean throughout the winter months, follow these seven tips to get started:

Check the roof

With warm days dwindling, it's never too early to look over your roof for damaged shingles or other various problems. Because winter brings along cold weather and plenty of precipitation, cracks in the roof can cause major issues down the road. If heights and ladders aren't your thing, try using binoculars from ground level to check things out.

Clean the gutters

After the trees shake loose of their leaves throughout the fall, it's always imperative to keep the gutters clean of debris. If your gutters fill up with leaves and other junk, the runoff from rain and snow has nowhere to go

except in unwanted crevices in your roof.

Seal leaks around windows and doors

Caulk is a cheap, simple solution to one of winter's most annoying little habits — sending cold drafts into your house. Look closely as you check around windows and doors for small cracks then carefully seal up the problem.

Install door sweeps

Another way to keep warm air in and cool air out is to use door sweeps on the bottom of all exterior doors. A door sweep is a simple device that can be attached to the door frame to help seal the space between the bottom of the door and the floor.

Reverse ceiling fans

While some ceiling fans require flipping blades, most new fans simply have a reverse feature to make the blades spin clockwise. This easy fix can help pull room air upward and cause warm air — which has risen to the ceiling — to be forced back downward.

Keep rain out

Place rugs and storage bins close to your front door, garage and any other entrance to the home so that you and your guests don't track water



GETTY IMAGES
Checking the roof and cleaning out the gutters are among the most important tasks to keep your house prepared during the wet and cold winter months.

into the house when inclement weather hits.

Stock up on winter gear

Unfortunately, it's impossible to know exactly what each winter will bring. Rather than trying to fight the elements on a snowy day to find salt for your sidewalk or a new shovel to clear the

driveway, stock up on these items and other winter essentials long before Mother Nature strikes.

Winter can be a pain, especially for homeowners, but staying on top of your preparation and being ready for weather's reach can help make the season easier to handle. ■

— Family Features

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 20-Nov. 29

Pleasanton (Oct. 20-31)

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$470,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,360,000
Average sales reported: \$904,000

Dublin (Oct. 20-31)

Total sales reported: 27
Lowest sale reported: \$392,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,437,000
Average sales reported: \$918,125

Livermore (Oct. 20-31)

Total sales reported: 35
Lowest sale reported: \$200,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,200,000
Average sales reported: \$661,316

San Ramon (Nov. 16-29)

Total sales reported: 25
Lowest sale reported: \$340,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,562,000
Average sales reported: \$839,978

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 20-Nov. 29

Pleasanton

7860 Canyon Meadow Circle #B L. Gill to K. Moghmi for \$515,000
9647 Crosby Drive B. & S. Ingram to L. Wang for \$2,360,000
3102 Delicado Court Williams Trust to A. Kumbhar for \$622,000
5166 Genovesio Drive Krishnan Trust to J. Kong for \$938,000
4611 Helyport Court D. Meadows to A. & N. Kunte for \$800,000
5111 Northway Road C. & M. Sellers to M. Krishnamoorthy for \$959,000
4737 Ross Gate Court Shaeffer Trust to S. Yadav for \$1,059,000
1823 Sinclair Drive C. & C. Wilts to A. Ravishankar for \$775,000
3086 Tonopah Circle L. & K. Levit to E. & B. Mertesdorf for \$515,000
3632 Vineyard Avenue R. Shir to Killywool 1031 for \$470,000
1022 Wat Court H. Somakumar to N. Nair for \$945,000
3334 West Las Positas Boulevard C. & D. Plato to M. Cai for \$890,000
3717 Bairn Court Patibanda Trust to V. & B. Thakkar for \$1,040,000
3706 Bingham Street Mitchell Trust to A. & J. Chen for \$1,205,000
540 Division Street Rescue Home Now to R. & D. Itzkowitz for \$695,000
3048 Melbourne Court Hill Trust to M. & A. Kumpf for \$1,015,000
3334 Santa Rita Road M. Rogers to S. Jayabalan for \$510,000
646 St. Francis Way Reding Trust to I. Trubnikov for \$652,000
1807 Tanglewood Way R. & T. Vollgraf to P. & M. Mistry for \$1,242,000

Dublin

3399 Araldi Lane T. Bhima to K. Rana for \$877,000

7377 Brighton Drive S. Liu to R. & J. Bugarin for \$755,000
3832 Highpointe Court William Lyon Homes to N. Xiang for \$1,250,000
5603 Melodia Circle Pulte Home to R. Li for \$801,000
5605 Melodia Circle Pulte Home to C. & Q. Chung for \$804,500
4781 North Spago Drive R. & S. Raghuwanshi to K. Pandourangan for \$980,000
7543 Oxford Circle #127 F. Costa to K. Mahal for \$600,000
7612 Red Hills Court J. Wang to N. Detorres for \$1,180,000
3706 Rimini Lane Shum Trust to A. Azad for \$810,000
6901 Stagecoach Road #D M. Santos-Alvinez to B. & S. Chew for \$535,000
6871 Syrah Drive A. & K. Wertheim to K. Awaru for \$1,150,000
1799 Tramonti Drive O. Etemadi to I. Ahmed for \$1,275,000
7647 Arbor Creek Circle C. Hemly to M. & P. Cook for \$392,500
7236 Avon Court T. & J. Kanlagna to N. Khatod for \$685,000
8489 Beverly Lane Crouch Trust to R. & A. Tagle for \$715,000
6926 Brighton Drive Degryse Trust to W. Chen for \$592,000
2221 Central Parkway Brookfield Trio to G. & J. Montano for \$869,000
3639 Central Parkway T. & N. Jorn to V. Shah for \$820,500
4375 Cherico Lane I. Ahmed to K. Jagwani for \$950,000
6639 Donlon Way Pulte Home to Z. Tian for \$1,235,500
5858 Dublin Boulevard Pulte Home to A. & D. Patel for \$810,000
7628 Ironwood Drive G. & A. Riller to A. & T. Bindal for \$645,000
7824 Ironwood Drive J. & A. Collins to R. & D. Helu for \$640,000
4992 Jenkins Place Lassalle Trust to S. Xing for \$1,141,000
7071 North Mariposa Court Chew Trust to W.

Yang for \$801,000
7205 Prince Drive Dwaraknath Trust to S. Asif for \$742,000
5439 Signal Hill Drive P. & D. Javier to R. Srinivasan for \$1,437,000

Livermore

1182 Bluebell Drive K. Hsia to R. & J. Tong for \$637,500
627 Carla Street C. & D. Pask to J. Carroll for \$669,000
983 Cayuga Drive P. & D. Lane to M. & J. Lillard for \$685,000
1446 Chateau Common #206 P. Lechner to A. & A. Okunubi for \$430,000
269 Fennel Way Shea Homes to U. Gandikota for \$667,500
275 Fennel Way Shea Homes to M. & G. Delrosario for \$740,000

2128 Grape Leaf Lane Haag Trust to D. Lemos for \$1,160,000
6410 Half Dome Way Czapkay Trust to K. Grisham for \$650,000
936 Lambaren Avenue Deutsche Bank to R. Lin for \$580,000
1961 Monterey Drive R. Engledinger to A. Gratny for \$465,000
1521 Morning Glory Circle Ponderosa Homes to F. Costa for \$885,000
975 Murrieta Boulevard #11 Livermore Investments to H. Pham for \$200,000
3863 Santa Clara Way T & P Trust to Nieceys Inc. for \$530,000
5750 Singing Hills Avenue A. Escoto to R. & J. Engeldinger for \$580,000
890 South G Street Kunzite 1031 to T & P Trust for \$855,000

Source: California REsource

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