

Pleasanton Weekly

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Into the **sunset** with **2016**

Local elections, new park amenities, conflict over development and PUSD turnover among top headlines of past year

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Senior living care options with significant savings for qualified* residents



“Every day is a great day at The Parkview.”



Gayle and Rex, her cat, recently made the move to The Parkview. It was a good move for Gayle — and for her family, who know she is now getting the support she needs. At The Parkview, Gayle discovered:

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Foothill grad off to the pros ...
Close call at the ballot box...
Middle school principal resigns...

View the top stories of

2016

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By **JEB BING**



JEB BING

Three eastbound lanes of Owens Drive have been reduced to one in order to provide new apartment complex ample street-level parking for its ground-floor retail and live-in office units.

‘Give our street back,’ Owens Drive commuters say

Owens Drive, one of Pleasanton’s busiest streets when BART commuters leave for work and come home again, just got a facelift and motorists aren’t happy. In order to provide closeup parking in front of a new four-story apartment building soon to be opened at Owens and Willow Road, Owens has been reduced from three lanes to one.

“This whole design just doesn’t make sense,” BART commuter and Pleasanton resident An Li told the City Council. “I see a long line of cars just waiting (at a traffic light), while the three lanes on the other side of Owens are wide open.”

Julie Testa agreed. She called it an “unfortunate decision” for the city to allocate two lanes of a public road to the building’s developer at the expense of BART commuters and others who use the eastbound lanes of Owens Drive.

Mike Tassano, the city’s traffic engineer, promised to “fix” the backup problems by cutting back to 10 seconds the time pedestrians have to cross the new single lane and giving motorists 90 seconds on each green light.

But Li and others who protested the Owens Drive change at a recent council meeting want the severed two lanes restored.

“This was a mistake and a lot of people are concerned,” she said. “I know it would be costly to make an adjustment, but in the long run that is the right thing to do.”

The decision to narrow the one-block stretch of Owens to one lane was approved by the council in 2011 as part of the overall design of high-density apartment

buildings with 498 units in three- and four-story buildings at Owens Drive and Willow Road and at the northern corner of Gibraltar and Hacienda drives. By providing on-street parking spaces on Owens, developers said the ground floor with “live/work” apartments and retail spaces would have more appeal.

It was only last month, after construction fences were removed, that commuters realized the new one-lane Owens Drive would be permanent, and objections have been heard ever since.

Sachia Bhayari told the council Owens Drive needs to be widened, not narrowed, adding that traffic will worsen when residents of the new 498 apartments and condos move in.

“This road belongs to the people of Pleasanton and the best solution is to give it back to the drivers,” Bhayari said.

Testa said she heard from many citizens about the Owens Drive problem during her campaign for mayor, and saw for herself the traffic backup during peak travel hours.

“It’s counter-intuitive that we would reduce Owens down to a single lane in such a significant traffic corridor,” she said.

Added Jeff Safire: “It’s unacceptable that a public resource was taken away from Pleasanton taxpayers. The bottom line is that what has created a traffic nightmare for the last eight months is becoming permanent.”

Council members agreed to put the Owens Drive issue on its agenda for discussion in early 2017. ■

About the Cover

We take a look back at all the top Pleasanton headlines from 2016 in our “Year in Review,” starting on Page 12. Cover design by Rosanna Kuruppu.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How do you tend to make friends in town?



Jim Korhummel
Business owner

I coached my daughter's soccer team for about 10 years and became lifelong friends with so many of her teammates' parents. Even though the team no longer exists and the girls have all gone their separate ways, many of us parents have remained the best of friends.



Vic Ahaev
Business owner

Like a lot of people, I've made so many friends through my children's sports and other activities. When you spend a lot of time on the sidelines or in the audience supporting your kids together, it creates a really tight bond.



Dot French
Realtor

I've made most of my friends in town through my husband because he has lived here for years and I only moved here recently in order to be with him. I must say, he has great taste in friends! I've met such nice people in the short time I've been here.



Alex Ahaev *Daycare provider*

I often make new friends just by talking to people wherever I go in town and being friendly. I find that when I'm friendly, most people are friendly back. One of my favorite places to make new friends is at the dog park because anyone who goes there necessarily has a common interest with me — dogs — so we immediately have something to talk about.



Bill Gibbons
Contractor

I've made most of my local friends through my children. Even when the children have grown apart, I've remained friends with their parents. We talk about the kids occasionally, but our friendships are now independent of the kids and have been for many years now.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

2016
Happy Holidays
from all of us at
**Pleasanton
Weekly**

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Tree pickup

Pleasanton Boy Scout Troop 941 has started registration for its annual Christmas tree pickup service project and fundraiser, set to take place in the new year on Jan. 7.

Funds raised by the project are used by the members of the troop to pay for camping equipment and scouting activities such as summer camp and weekend outings. Organizers recommend early registration, and pick-up is allowed only for addresses in Pleasanton.

To register to have a tree picked up and recycled, visit the online registration page at <http://tree-pickup.troop941.org>. For more information, check out "Pleasanton Christmas Tree Pickup, BSA Troop 941" on Facebook.

Elvis is coming

Jim Anderson & the Rebels are bringing Elvis Presley to the Firehouse Arts Center to celebrate his birthday, at 2 p.m. Jan. 8.

Anderson and his rockin' band recreate the sound, the songs and the memories of Elvis, including hits "Heartbreak Hotel," "Hound Dog," "Don't be Cruel," "Jailhouse Rock" and many more.

Tickets are \$17-\$27. Go to www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848, or purchase at the theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

Starting school

The city of Pleasanton is set to bring school district teachers and parents together for an informational session next month for families with young children ready to enter kindergarten or transitional kindergarten in the 2017-18 school year.

"Transitioning to Elementary School," part of the city's Community Education Series, is set for Jan. 18 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

The free panel discussion will provide information, tools and resources for families of young students, ages 4-6, organizers said. The panel will include teachers and parents from PUSD. The district nurse will also be on hand to answer questions about vaccinations.

The event is free, and registration is recommended. Go to pleasantonfun.com and enter course code #63584. ■

Correction

A story in the Dec. 16, 2016 print edition about the Pleasanton Weekly's Man of the Year Doug Miller included an incorrect military rank. Miller is an Army major. All digital versions of the story reflected the correct rank. The Pleasanton Weekly regrets the error.

Honeywell wins \$2.6 billion contract to manage Sandia National Laboratories

Key management changes likely at Livermore, Albuquerque labs

By JEB BING
A subsidiary of Honeywell International will take over management of Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore and its main operation in Albuquerque early next year after winning the \$2.6 billion contract, beating out more than a dozen competitors.

Key management changes are expected both in Livermore and Albuquerque. Many employees at

the Livermore operation live in Pleasanton.

The decision by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) took some by surprise when it bypassed defense giant Lockheed Martin, which has managed the nuclear weapons lab for more than two decades.

New Mexico's three research universities — the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State and New Mexico Tech — had sought

to play a prominent role in Sandia's management as part of a separate bid with other companies, but those bids failed.

Honeywell's wholly owned subsidiary, National Technology and Engineering Solutions (NTESS), will have the management and operating contract for Sandia. Northrop Grumman and Universities Research Association will support NTESS in the performance of the contract.

The award is valued at \$2.6 billion annually over 10 years, if all options are exercised.

"Following a full and open competition, NNSA is pleased to announce the selection of NTESS as our partner at Sandia," said retired Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, undersecretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA administrator.

"The Sandia bid generated unprecedented interest from across industry, demonstrating that our improved acquisitions process is attracting high-quality competition and the best talent to serve NNSA's mission," he added.

See **SANDIA** on Page 6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Take Us Along: A New Year's celebration

Craig and Karla Garcia, along with friends Nile and Cindy Godfrey, rang in last New Year's at Barone's restaurant in downtown Pleasanton. They brought the Pleasanton Weekly along to celebrate, with dancing at the Pleasanton Hotel after dinner.

Are you bringing your Weekly with you this New Year's Eve? Submit your "Take Us Along" entry by email 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.

BART hikes fines for parking illegally at station lots

Daily fine goes up to \$55 on Monday; permit space violators to face \$75 fines

People caught parking illegally at BART lots around the Bay Area will face stiffer fines in the New Year, according to the transit system.

Starting Monday, people who park in daily spots without paying will be subject to \$55 fines, which is up from the current \$35 penalty.

Drivers who park illegally in spaces that require parking permits could be forking out \$75, up from the current \$40 ticket.

"If you take the time and expense

to buy one of those permits, we want to protect that," BART spokesman Chris Filippi said. "We want people to pay their fair share."

The idea is to make the fine more painful than the potential benefit of being a parking scofflaw. Many BART riders were finding the combined cost of a bridge toll and, for example, a parking spot in San Francisco was heftier than the potential fine amounts issued by BART.

"They were saying, 'I'd rather pay

that (BART) fine than a bridge toll and for parking in downtown San Francisco," Filippi said. "We wanted to raise (the fines) to a new level where that choice is no longer attractive."

In addition to the new fine amounts, people who rack up five or more citations within one calendar year will face an additional \$100 penalty, while people with 10 or more will be fined an additional \$150.

See **BART** on Page 7

No action at special board meeting

School board holds closed session for 2nd week in a row

By JULIA REIS

The Pleasanton school board took no action after meeting for more than an hour in closed session Tuesday night to discuss unspecified employee discipline and anticipated litigation.

It was the board's second special closed-session meeting in just over a week. On Dec. 19, the board placed Superintendent Rick Rubino on paid administrative leave following a closed-session meeting with an agenda stating the board would hold discussions on "public employee discipline/dismissal/release" and two potential court cases.

The closed-session agenda for Tuesday night's meeting mirrored that of the Dec. 19 meeting, but it's not known whether trustees talked about the superintendent again.

District officials have said Rubino was placed on leave pending the outcome of an investigation into a personnel matter but have declined to elaborate further. It's not known how long the investigation will take, but the district is in the process of hiring an independent investigator to handle it. That investigator will report to the school board, district officials said.

The board's next regularly scheduled meeting is Jan. 17. ■

DSRSD closes Pleasanton recycled water fill station

Move prompted by \$18.2 million construction project, agency says

By JULIA REIS

Tri-Valley residents who have participated in a program that has given away millions of gallons of recycled water are now out of luck for 2017.

Wednesday was the final day for awhile that Dublin San Ramon Services District's residential recycled water fill station in Pleasanton will be in operation. DSRSD's board reached a consensus at its Dec. 20 meeting to close the fill station during the 18 months its recycled water treatment plant on Johnson Drive is under construction.

Extensive concrete work will begin near the treatment plant gate in January, kicking off an \$18.2 million expansion project that will enable the plant to produce 70% more recycled water to meet peak summer demand. DSRSD has indicated that it will limit construction that reduces the plant's production capacity to times when demand for irrigation water is low, and notify large customers of unavoidable interruptions.

But with construction in January occurring in the same area residents use to enter and leave the fill station, the board felt it had to shut down the facility for now.

"We cannot put the public at risk in a hard-hat construction zone or cause a traffic jam on Johnson Drive when roads are closed inside the treatment plant," incoming DSRSD board president Richard

Halket said in a statement.

He added that the board agreed to revisit its decision if there is little to no rain over the next two months, increasing the likelihood of irrigation restrictions this summer.

"We haven't had mandatory irrigation restrictions in the Tri-Valley since last June, when our water supply improved and we could move to voluntary conservation measures," Halket said. "If we have to reinstate

irrigation restrictions, we will look at options for operating a recycled water fill station for residents."

Otherwise, the board will consider the fill station program's

long-term future in spring 2018, when plant construction is currently slated to be winding down, according to DSRSD spokeswoman Renee Olsen.

DSRSD initiated the residential recycled water fill station program with the opening of the Pleasanton facility in June 2014. The agency also opened one in Dublin the following summer as another free-of-charge source for landscaping water for Tri-Valley residents.

The Dublin facility was open only in the summer, with 2016 being its last as DSRSD permanently closed that fill station at the end of September. DSRSD officials said lessened water restrictions and cooling temperatures factored into that decision, along with cost and loss of its fill

station site due to construction.

Olsen said safety was the reason the Pleasanton closure proposal came before the board.

"It was not practical or safe to allow the fill station operation to continue as it has in the past with construction taking place," she said.

Decreasing demand also factored into the board's decision not to operate a residential fill station in 2017.

While the program has 3,900 registered users and has given away 44.7 million gallons of recycled water to date, demand for the service has dropped, according to DSRSD staff. At the height of the drought in 2015, the amount of recycled water consumed in the residential fill station program increased from 2.3 million gallons to 28.2.

But with a nearly average rainy season, DSRSD was able to end mandatory water conservation measures in June.

The increased rainfall and lessened restrictions have caused a significant drop in recycled water use at the fill stations, with 2016 volume at 14.2 million gallons to date. The number of active individual users has also declined to 1,800, according to a DSRSD staff report for the Dec. 20 meeting.

At the meeting, staff presented the board with three options: close the fill station for 2017 and re-evaluate after plant renovation work is complete, reopen the facility in April for limited days and hours, or relocate and reopen the fill station in May.

While the latter options would have allowed for fill station use in 2017, they would each come at a cost

'It was not practical or safe to allow the fill station to continue as it has in the past.'

Renee Olsen,
DSRSD spokeswoman



COURTESY OF DSRSD

DSRSD's residential recycled water fill station in Pleasanton closed Wednesday due to major construction at the water recycling plant set to start next month.

of roughly \$500,000 per year — the same amount the program has cost annually. Relocating the facility would add at least \$175,000 in construction costs, according to DSRSD staff.

Staff recommended that the board close the fill station for 2017.

Had the board elected to keep it open, staff recommended that a new annual permit fee of \$170 be imposed for residents outside the DSRSD service area.

"Currently, the entire \$500,000 cost of the residential recycled water

program is paid by Water Enterprise customers who reside in Dublin and Dougherty Valley," DSRSD staff said. "Only 25% of the program users are within the DSRSD water service area. Thus, Dublin and Dougherty Valley residents and businesses are subsidizing a program that primarily benefits users outside the district service area."

The board could reconsider these proposals when it takes up the issue again, or it could ask staff to bring forward new options, Olsen said. ■

SANDIA

Continued from Page 5

Sandia is responsible for non-nuclear engineering development of all U.S. nuclear weapons and for systems integration of the nuclear weapons with their delivery vehicles. Its national

security responsibilities include design, qualification, certification and assessment of the nonnuclear subsystems and system qualification of nuclear weapons.

Sandia also leads the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE) in developing new technologies in the safety, security, reliability and use control of nuclear weapons, and it

works closely with other NSE sites on issues associated with production and dismantlement of nuclear weapons, surveillance and support of weapons in the stockpile.

Other responsibilities include advancing technologies in nuclear intelligence, nonproliferation, and treaty verification.

In addition to Livermore and

Albuquerque, Sandia has locations in Kauai, Hawaii and Tonopah, Nevada.

The current contract Sandia has with Lockheed Martin will expire April 30, allowing for a

full four-month transition period, which will provide stability for the workforce employed under the current contract and efficient continuity of operations for NNSA's vital missions performed there. ■

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Join Horticulturalist Extraordinaire, Lita Gates, for an informative, free class on pruning, general care and pest control. All Classes will be held on Saturdays and start at 11 AM. No registration is necessary but let us know if you are planning to attend one or all. Classes will be held in our outdoor patio. Dress warmly.

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SANDIA

Aerial photo of Sandia National Laboratories site in Livermore.

Thinking green for gold

Foothill student finds 'earth clubs' for Girl Scouts service project

By JULIA REIS

Rachel Mundaden is striving to do her part to better the planet, one kid at a time.

The Foothill High School junior has embarked on a local public service project with a global perspective. To earn her Girl Scout Gold Award — the highest achievement in the organization — Mundaden started a service project geared at making children more aware of climate change and other environmental issues.

"Toward the end of 2015, I was thinking about what I was going to do (for the Gold Award project), and in December (the United Nations) had the climate change convention in Paris," Mundaden said. "President Obama said climate change was very bad, and we didn't want to leave behind a planet beyond repairing. I thought it was important since everyone was talking about it that kids should know about it, too."

To kick start the project, Mundaden organized an Earth Day event at Donlon Elementary School. Dubbed the Eco Expo, Mundaden had fourth- and fifth-graders cycle through six stations centered around subjects like composting, climate change and water conservation.

The Foothill student continued her project this fall by setting up "earth clubs" at four Pleasanton elementary schools — Donlon, Hearst, Mohr and Walnut Grove.

Ranging in size with roughly 10 to 40 students participating at each school, teachers run the clubs using an activity handbook developed by Mundaden. The handbook contains ideas for recycled art projects, a climate change simulation experiment and other curriculum meant to improve students' environmental conscious.

Students meet weekly or monthly,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rachel Mundaden created 'earth clubs' at local schools for her Girl Scouts Gold Award project.

depending on the club.

"They love learning about the environment and getting their hands dirty," Mundaden said.

Michele Pollack, a fifth-grade teacher who is one of two running Donlon's earth club, said that Mundaden has done "such a great job."

"She is such an inspiration, and her project is so perfect for this grade level," Pollack said. "As we discuss world issues and get our students to be active citizens, her projects and her ideas are perfect."

Mundaden said she hopes that through her project, Pleasanton kids will learn the importance of environmental stewardship.

"We only get one planet Earth, so you have to protect it as much as you can," she said. "I want that to stick with them for the rest of their lives and (I want them to) pass that on." ■

BART

Continued from Page 5

The fine for using a falsified permit or using a permit fraudulently will be set at \$150.

BART has 47,000 parking spaces system-wide and about 12,000 of those are monthly or daily permit spots, Filippi said.

The cheapest permits cost \$84 a month, the majority are \$105 and the most expensive are parking permits at the West Oakland Station, which cost \$220.50 a month, Filippi said.

The waiting lists for acquiring a parking permit can be very long and include thousands of people at some stations.

The BART Board of Directors approved the new fines in February.

Daily parking rates also went up twice at a few stations this year, including West Oakland, where it now

costs \$8.50 a day to park; Hayward, where it costs \$2.50, and Richmond, where parking costs \$3 a day.

The Concord and North Concord stations also saw parking rates increase to \$2.50 this year and parking at the Coliseum station increased to \$2.

The parking rates are based on supply-and-demand and are re-evaluated every six months by BART officials. The system has a policy not to raise the rates above \$3 per day, except in the highly desirable West Oakland station.

BART currently has no plans to add new parking spots, except at the North Concord Station, Filippi said.

That could change, however, as BART leadership considers spending priorities for Measure RR, the \$3.5 billion regional bond measure voters approved in November to help improve BART's transit infrastructure. ■

—Kiley Russell, Bay City News



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Party for the Pooches

The third annual Party for the Pooches, a fundraiser held at the Pleasanton home of Gina Piper and Shawn Farrell, drew 200 attendees and raised more than \$16,000 to support Valley Humane Society's efforts to provide programs and care for companion animals in the Tri-Valley. The event featured live and silent auctions, a raffle, and food, wine and dessert — with all items donated to support the Pleasanton-based non-profit. Shown, from left: VHS board members Lori Rice and Gina Piper (event host), pooch party committee members Tami Hennegan, Susan Dees and Ali Hall and VHS executive director Melanie Sadek, along with host dog Kodi Piper.

School board OKs pay increase for substitute teachers

Struggle to hire subs continues, district says

By JULIA REIS

Substitute teachers in Pleasanton Unified School District schools will take home slightly larger paychecks beginning next month.

The Pleasanton school board signed off on a rate increase for substitutes during its regular meeting earlier this month.

Effective Jan. 17, substitutes in their first 10 days will earn \$130 a day, a pay bump of \$10 over the current rate. The board also approved a pay rate of \$155 per day for long-term substitutes — those working 11 or more consecutive days in the same position — and retired PUSD teachers doing substitute work.

"We've struggled the past few years (hiring substitute teachers),"

said Dianne Howell, PUSD's assistant superintendent of human resources. "What that means is we are scurrying around asking principals to go in and take classes or asking teachers on their prep periods."

The school board had approved a \$10 rate increase for short-term substitutes last school year, but the district's continuing struggles prompted the request for another pay bump, according to human resources staff.

Howell said that even with the increase, PUSD's pay rates will remain at or below those of neighboring school districts.

Substitutes on assignments of one to 10 days in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

'We've struggled the past few years (hiring substitute teachers).'

Dianne Howell,
PUSD assistant superintendent

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Genealogy expert to talk about War of 1812

Lecture at Congregation Beth Emek will focus on those affected by war

By JEB BING

Kathryn Miller Marshall, considered an expert on the history of early California, will speak Monday on the War of 1812 and those affected by it.

The free lecture, sponsored by the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, will start at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400

Nevada Court in Pleasanton.

Marshall holds a Ph.D. in psychology from the UC Berkeley, where she taught for seven years. Later, she served as the director of the Family History Center in Lodi for 16 years, and she became an expert in genealogy and also the early history of California.

As part of her interests, she

researched the era ancestors of the 1812 conflict.

She said 450,000 Americans fought in the war, including hundreds from state militias which, in theory, included all free adult males of military age.

On the opposing side were Canadians, British and a large proportion of Irish personnel.

Battles raged from Canada to New Orleans, involving much of the population as suppliers, freighters, soldiers and sailors, pensioners and widows.

Her remarks Monday will deal with the War of 1812 with stories about those who were involved in it. ■

Irene Pignolet

December 15, 1921 – December 13, 2016

Irene Baker Pignolet of Pleasanton, California passed away peacefully in her sleep two days before her 95th birthday on December 13, 2016. She was the last of her generation, joining her husband, their siblings, spouses and friends.

Her life began in Amsterdam, Ohio on December 15, 1921, where she was born the youngest of four children to Blanche and Charles Baker. The family moved to Cleveland, Ohio where Irene completed high school and continued to live until after she was married.

After high school, Irene began working at a light bulb company where she saved up to buy her very own Singer sewing machine. Sitting at that Singer, late at night, she became the talented seamstress she was, creating perfectly sewn, beautiful garments for decades.

Often after work, Irene and her sister Betty would enjoy a Coca-Cola at the Five and Dime Store where Chuck the Soda Jerk once invited her to a show, beginning the relationship of a lifetime and a marriage of 55 years.

On September 5, 1942, Irene married Charles J. Pignolet in a simple ceremony. Since she was not quite of age yet, her parents had to give their signatures of approval, while Chuck was barely of age himself, only a week over 21. Shortly after they were married, Chuck left for the war, while Irene stayed home with her sister Betty and her parents. When Chuck came back from World War II and was finishing engineering school, the Pignolets started their family.

In November of 1958, Irene traveled alone with her four children under the age of 10, across the country for nine hours on a Prop Plane, to join Chuck in Pleasanton, CA, where he had begun his career as a Mechanical Engineer for Sandia Laboratories a few months prior.

Pleasanton, California is where the Pignolets settled, making it their forever home, spending their first night reunited as a family in the historic Pleasanton Hotel. Irene embraced the town and the surrounding community, joining the Presbyterian Church, Book Clubs, Lunch Bunches, Ladies Groups and more. She and Chuck were very social people who often entertained friends and

family in their home, where Irene was the ideal hostess, serving flawless dishes on a beautifully set table. Living so far away from their family, encouraged Irene to make her friends her family.

When the Pignolets were not entertaining at home, they loved dancing and going out. One of Irene's favorite places to dance and

listen to Big Band music with Chuck was Haps in downtown Pleasanton, less than a mile from their home. She also loved to go to musicals, plays and the movies.

Irene lived life fully, keeping as active as she could, by challenging herself both physically and mentally. She rode

her bike from Pleasanton to Livermore just to see if she could do it. She completed the Bay to Breakers race three times. The first time, a test run, to insure that she could complete the race without embarrassing or letting herself down in the actual race. She even cross country skied up Mount Rose one time. On Irene's 80th birthday, her wish was to walk across the Golden Gate bridge with her family and friends, which she completed with gusto on a gorgeous clear December day in San Francisco.

Everything Irene attempted, she did with great pride, precision, planning and organization. Whether it was working as: the Head of Home Economics, an Accountant Assistant at Nuclepore, a gift wrapper at Macy's, a Home Maker raising children and grandchildren, and even a student at the local Community College.

She will be remembered as a loyal friend and respected matriarch who was a generous and attentive host in her beautifully kept, immaculate Pleasanton home. She enjoyed visiting with company sitting around the dining room table under her Tiffany lamp, engaging in great conversation, over a delicious meal followed by her scrumptious fresh baked Snickerdoodle cookies.

She is survived by her four children; Dana (Elvie), Mark, Lisa (David), and Greg (Teresa); her seven grandchildren and her six great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life memorial service will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or the American Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated.



Community college district seeks oversight committee applicants

Nominations due by 5 p.m. Jan. 20

Las Positas College and the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District are seeking residents interested in becoming a member of the district's Measure A and B Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee.

The Citizen's Oversight Committee ensures that bond revenues are expended only for the purposes authorized by law, according to the district.

To be considered for appointment to the committee, interested applicants must complete the application form, which can be found at www.clpccd.org.

Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. Jan. 20.

Committee appointments will be confirmed by the Board of Trustees. Committee members serve terms lasting two years and meetings convene once a quarter.

Measure B was passed by district voters in 2004. The \$498 million general obligation facilities bond allowed the district to implement a capital improvement program for Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore. Measure B provided funds for repairs of leaky roofs, worn wiring and plumbing, as well as the renovations of libraries and classrooms and computer labs.

"As Measure B approaches its sunset, we are grateful for the voters' continued support. The recent passage of Measure A in June 2016, a \$950 million bond measure, will allow the college campuses to continue to upgrade classrooms, facilities and technology and expand access to training programs that help students," Chancellor Jannett Jackson said. ■

—Bay City News Service

Environmental review docs released for controversial Delta tunnel plan

\$15 billion proposal still needs to be approved by state, federal regulators

Thousands of pages of environmental review documents were released last week on the controversial plan to build massive tunnels beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to transport water to Central and Southern California.

The final environmental impact report (EIR) and environmental impact statement for the proposed WaterFix project were both posted online Dec. 22 following 300 days of public review, 600 public meetings throughout the state and 30,000 public comments on the draft versions.

The \$15 billion plan would involve digging the two 35-mile long tunnels to transport water from the northern portion of the Delta and deliver it elsewhere in California.

Once complete, it would provide water to 25 million people and thousands of businesses from the Bay Area to San Diego and supply water to 3 million acres of farmland. Proponents say it would protect water supplies from sea level rise, earthquakes, floods and levee failure.

Advocates say that it is the most environmentally sound way to ensure that Californians have consistent access to water, but the plan's many opponents say that it is at best unclear what environmental impact such a massive project would have.

The opponents argue that the volume coming from the twin tunnels could significantly drain the Sacramento River, exacerbating existing problems of saltwater intrusion into the Delta and

imperiling fish populations.

The completion of the environmental review documents does not mean the project has been approved. Further biological opinions are expected to be completed early in 2017 and the plan still needs to be approved by state and federal environmental regulators.

Advocates hope for construction on the project to begin in 2018.

Gov. Jerry Brown, who has been a vocal advocate of the proposal, said in a statement today that the environmental review has been extensive and the project is essential for the state.

"This project has been subjected to 10 years of detailed analysis and more environmental review than any other project in the history of the world," Brown said. "It is absolutely essential if California is to maintain a reliable water supply."

But opponents with the advocacy group Restore the Delta said today that regulators still need to take a careful look at the extensive documents released last week.

"How thoughtful of Delta Tunnel lead agencies to dump this document on defenders of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary just before the holidays," Restore the Delta executive director Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla said.

"We will begin digging through the information, evaluating agency replies to public comments included in this document, engage in the process moving forward, and prepare for litigation if required," she said. ■

—Scott Morris, Bay City News

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Police investigating home break-in with car, gun stolen

Pleasanton police are investigating a burglary in which \$80,000 worth of items — including a classic car and a handgun — were reportedly stolen from a residence.

The break-in happened at a home on the 7700 block of Bernal Avenue sometime between 6:45 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. Friday, according to police. That morning, an unknown suspect stole a black 1966 Ford Mustang, jewelry and a 9 mm handgun from the home, items collectively valued at about \$80,000.

The victim arrived home that afternoon and discovered they had been robbed, according to Pleasanton officers. Construction workers were at the residence approximately one hour before the theft occurred, but no suspect information was gathered. Police say there were no signs of forced entry and no arrests had been made as of

Tuesday afternoon.

Anyone with information can contact the Pleasanton Police Department, 931-5100.

In other news

- The California Highway Patrol is reminding motorists of new traffic laws pertaining to cellphone use, driving under the influence and child safety that will take effect when the calendar turns to 2017 this weekend.

Beginning Sunday, drivers will no longer be permitted to hold a cellphone or other wireless communications device.

Rather than holding the device while driving, you'll be required to mount it in the 7-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield furthest from you or in a 5-inch square in the lower corner closest to you, according to the CHP. Another option is to affix your

phone to the dashboard in a place that does not interfere with airbag deployment or obstruct your view.

The law does allow a driver to operate one of these devices with a single swipe or tap of the finger, but not while holding it, according to the CHP.

Another law taking effect Sunday extends a DUI pilot program currently underway in Alameda County and other parts of the state.

It requires a DUI offender to install an ignition interlock device on their car for a specified period of time in order to get a restricted or reinstated driver's license. It also removes the required suspension time before a person can get a restricted license, provided that the offender installs the device on their car.

The law extends the DUI ignition interlock device pilot program currently taking place in Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento and

Tulare counties until Jan. 1, 2019, at which point all DUI offenders statewide will be required to install the device to have their license reinstated.

Laws pertaining to child safety on the roads will also take effect Sunday.

Every school will now be required to have a transportation safety plan with procedures to ensure that a student is not left unattended in a vehicle, according to the CHP. And children under 2 years old will now have to ride rear-facing in an appropriate child passenger safety seat, with those weighing 40 or more pounds or standing 40 or more inches tall exempt.

For complete information on bills enacted in 2016, visit <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

- A concert that's being promoted in Berkeley on New Year's Eve that supposedly will benefit the Alameda County Food Bank is a scam, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office said.

The District Attorney's Office said, "The 'I Love the 90s Music Fest' or 'New Years Eve 90s Music Fest' is

currently being advertised online, but the event is not taking place."

Websites promoting the concert say it will feature 1990s acts such as Dru Hill, K-Ci & Jojo, Next, Silk, Color Me Badd and SWV.

The websites list a phone number that people can call to buy tickets as well as an office space that's being temporarily rented at 1300 Clay St., Suite 600, in Oakland.

The websites say AFAA Sports is organizing the concert but it doesn't appear that such an outfit exists.

The websites say, "Proceeds benefit Alameda County Food Bank" but food bank spokesman Michael Altfest said last week that the food bank doesn't have any affiliation with the concert. He said people who want to donate to the food bank can do so by visiting its website.

The DA's Office said people who have purchased tickets to the fake event or have any other information about it should call its consumer protection division at (510) 383-8600. ■

—Julia Reis and Bay City News Service



POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 25

Theft

- 4:41 a.m. at Takens Court and Lylewood Drive
- 4:38 p.m. in the 6000 block of Tillman Court

Battery

- 11:28 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Dec. 24

Alcohol violation

- 2:10 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
- 8:51 p.m. at Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

Theft

- 10:56 a.m. in the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road
- 5:08 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 5:47 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 8:27 p.m. in the 100 block of Rocky Creek Place

Battery

- 4:16 p.m. in the 600 block of Junipero Street

Dec. 23

Theft

- 4:18 a.m., 5300 block of Owens Court; theft from auto
- 3:38 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
- 3:57 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:36 p.m., 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Residential burglary

- 2:17 p.m. in the 7700 block of Bernal Avenue

Battery

- 4:31 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

Alcohol violation

- 10:23 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Dec. 22

Theft

- 1:01 a.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; shoplifting
- 1:54 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive
- 2:30 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:14 p.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway

Sex offenses

- 10:12 a.m. on Inglewood Drive
- 10:25 a.m. on Via De Los Cerros

Vandalism

- 10:16 a.m. in the 3900 block of Old Santa Rita Road

Drug violation

- 5:27 p.m. in the 3400 block of Stacey Way

Embezzlement

- 4:46 p.m. in the 5900 block of Sunol Boulevard

Burglary

- 8:12 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 21

Residential burglary

- 9:20 a.m. in the 1300 block of Safreno Way

Drug violation

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

Vandalism

- 3:39 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

Dec. 20

Robbery

- 11:36 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

- 2:36 p.m. in the 100 block of Shore Drive
- 3:16 p.m. in the 1400 block of Oak Vista Way
- 3:39 p.m., 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:59 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

Graffiti offense

- 4:36 p.m. at Main Street and Del Valle Parkway

Fraud

- 5:25 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street

Drug violation

- 10:26 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

Battery

- 10:57 p.m. in the 2100 block of Raven Road

Dec. 19

Theft

- 8:53 a.m. at Navajo Court and Tonopah Circle; auto theft
- 9:22 a.m., 400 block of Boulder Court; theft from auto
- 12:31 p.m., 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:18 p.m., 7200 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto
- 6:10 p.m. in the 1700 block of Via Di Salerno
- 6:59 p.m., 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; theft from auto

Graffiti

- 10:56 a.m. in the 3300 block of Stoneridge Creek Way
- 12:47 p.m. at Harvest Circle and Winter Court

Commercial burglary

- 3:16 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

- 10:01 p.m. at Denker Drive and Alvord Way

William Harris

Resident of Pleasanton

Jan. 7, 1944 – Dec. 20, 2016

William Harris passed away on Tuesday, December 20 after a valiant battle with cancer. He touched many lives with his fun-loving spirit and positive outlook on life.

William was born in Detroit, MI and graduated from Central High School. After serving in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years, William enjoyed a 33 year career with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

William is survived by his loving wife Charlotte of 27 years, devoted sons William Sean Harris of San Diego and Mark Johnson and wife Jill of San Ramon. He is also survived by grandchildren, Maxwell and Mason of San Ramon, Sé Anna, William, and Nä Esa of Atlanta, GA; sister Charmaine Lane of Atlanta, GA. His generous loving and joyful spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

Friends and family are invited to a Celebration of Life on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 12:00 noon at Graham-Hitch, 4167 First Street, in Pleasanton, CA.

PAID OBITUARY

Visit

Lasting Memories

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

Go to: PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries



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, 271 donors have contributed \$56,681 to the fund. This list includes donations received and reported on or before Dec. 23.

INDIVIDUAL	
Bruce & Cindy Yamamoto	**
Bill & Pat Ruvalcaba	\$300
Blaise & Amy Lofland	\$250
Shirley M. Todd	\$50
John & Roxanne Plotts	**
Bob & Carol Molinaro	\$1,000
Jim & Susan Falls	**
Sue King-Irwin	\$50
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Kevin & Sandra Ryan	\$100
Kathi & Phillip Vermont	**
Albert & Lola Malatesta	\$50

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Alain Pinel Realtors -	
Tim McGuire Team	\$1,000
Karen Morliengo, Licensed Marriage	
Family Therapist, LMFT	**
Pleasanton Pet Sitting	\$75
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Esther Yu - 7 Springs Properties, Inc.	\$1,000
Ritter Investments	\$100
California Self-Defense Consultants	**
Hacienda Bunco Group	\$80
My Buddy's Bike Shop	\$200
Victoria Glenn, Reading Specialist	**
Accusplit Make A Difference Programs	\$200
Genius Screen Norcal	\$100
The Christmas Light Pros of Tri-Valley	\$100
Pleasanton Newcomers Club	**
P-Town Push Rods Car Club	\$2,000

How to Give:

Credit card gifts may be made at:
www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund

IN HONOR OF

The Daggett Children and Grandchildren from Barbara Daggett **
Bill & Alice Marsh from Bill & Audrey Sears... **
Our fabulous five grandchildren from R & G. Spicka **
Ed & Dorothy Ruby and Bill & Helen Hendshaw from Tim & Sharyn Henshaw **
Jana Grant from Steve & Jori Grant \$100
Trudy Fabian from Lisa Fabian \$100

IN MEMORY OF

Our wonderful Grandparents - Roselle Grimes, Claud & Verna Plummer, Fran & Mary Franchuk, Joe & Evelyn Schrick from The Grimes Family..... \$100
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Bob Wright from Marilyn Wright..... \$50
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Coach Tony Costello from Michael & Cheryl Costello **
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Sharon Dirx..... \$100
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Anna Mae & James Sweat from Catherine & Manuel Silva..... \$100
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My beloved brother Bob Donnelly & my great niece Aubree Piebes from Kathleen Reinig..... \$200
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Emma Grace Hurt from Gena, Harold & Wayne Gattin **

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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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Make checks payable to Silicon Valley Community Foundation and send to:

Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund
c/o Silicon Valley Community Foundation
2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300
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Credit card gifts may be made at:
www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund

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

Pleasanton Weekly

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SILICON VALLEY
community foundation

Year in Review

Into the sunset with 2016

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

As Pleasanton debated whether to allow new homes at Lund Ranch or pave the way for a Costco on Johnson Drive, everyone welcomed the continuing progress of Bernal Community Park and a special memorial for veterans at Pioneer Cemetery. Drought water restrictions were eased, a new dog park opened, leaders were re-elected and the school district hired — and later suspended — its new superintendent. What a year!

Following are many of the highlights. All of the stories are available under “past issues” at www.PleasantonWeekly.com.



DINO VOURNAS

Mayor Jerry Thorne (center), flanked by City Council members, cuts the ribbon Oct. 29 officially opening the new Bernal Community Park sports fields and woodland pathways, a 54-acre, \$16.5 million expansion of the 318-acre city-owned facility.



JEB BING

More than 200 people filled Pleasanton Senior Center meeting room in April to hear details of proposed rezoning of Johnson Drive site that could allow Costco to build here. The debate was taken to voters in November, when the so-called anti-Costco initiative Measure MM was defeated.

January

- East Bay Athletic League honors Foothill Falcons coach Matt Sweeney as the Coach of the Year for leading the Falcons to the EBAL title and a spot in the North Coast Section championship game, where they lost to eventual state champions De La Salle.
- Drones are banned by East Bay Regional Park District, including at Shadow Cliffs in Pleasanton, as their increasing numbers become a safety hazard for helicopters and airplanes.
- Hacienda receives the Gold Award for “Best Workplaces for Commuters” from a program sponsored by the National Center for Transit Research, which encourages sustainable transportation innovation.
- After years of debate over building houses on Lund Ranch in the southeast hills of Pleasanton, the City Council approves, 3-1, the developer’s plan for 43 upscale homes on the 194-acre site, with Greenbriar Homes Communities to donate 177 acres to the city as open space.
- Pleasanton Unified School District holds first of five open community forums to determine what the community would like to see in its new school superintendent.
- ValleyCare Charitable Foundation awards Michael Callahan, owner of Rubino and Ruby Hill Vineyards, with the foundation’s inaugural “Follow Your Dream Award” for his support, including a wine called Philanthropy with a portion of its sales benefiting the foundation.
- Winter rains come to Pleasanton, and residents prepare for more predicted in the coming months.
- City Council amends municipal code to prohibit smoking at special events downtown, which follows a ban on smoking in Pleasanton parks, trails and in city parking lots that went into effect July 2014.
- Alameda County coroner’s autopsy report of John Deming Jr. shows the 19-year-old did not have drugs in his system when he was shot and killed by a Pleasanton police officer in July 2015. The report confirms that he died from bullet wounds to his face and abdomen, as an investigation by the District Attorney’s Office continues.
- City Council votes unanimously to allow developer Fireside Investors to convert an historic family residence at 377 St. Mary St. for a proposed business that could include a small restaurant, ice cream shop, coffeehouse and a bakery.
- School district officially opens the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) Preschool, welcoming eight young children
- Backers of a proposed referendum to overturn the City Council’s approval of a housing development on Lund Ranch push to collect signatures from 10% of the voters by Feb. 5 deadline to get on the June ballot.
- The school board votes to survey parents, teachers, students and community members to gauge support for a bond measure for school funding.

Year in Review



PLEASANTON SEAHAWKS

Five Pleasanton Seahawks swimmers represented the Tri-Valley well at the US Olympic Swim Trials, held in Nebraska June 26 to July 3. From left: Swimmers Miranda Heckman, Chris Jhong, Christie Chong, Maxime Rooney and Moriah Simonds with coaches Steve Morsilli and Caitlin Denise.

- Foothill High's entrepreneur program, DECA, earns six first-place awards, four second-place awards and seven third-place awards at a career skills competition held at the Northern California Career Development Conference in San Ramon.

- School district opens a new donation closet, the Hangar, on the Village High campus for low-income residents to get free clothes, and where special-needs students can learn job skills in retail. At the same time, Village High opens its first media center, including a library and a dedicated area for students to do online research.

February

- The Pleasanton Downtown Association hosts a "Super Scavenger Hunt" on Feb. 6 in recognition of the next day's Super Bowl 50 being played at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara.

- Business consultant and tax adviser Matt DePretis is installed as this year's chairman of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce during a sold-out luncheon at Ruby Hill Golf Club.

- Pleasanton Weekly publishes "Sacrificing for Success," a three-part series about

low-income residents in Pleasanton who sacrifice to keep their children in the Pleasanton school district.

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory lectures for middle and high school students return with the focus on women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, highlighting cutting-edge science presented by leading lab researchers joined by high school science teachers.



WILLIAM HEZMALHALCH ARCHITECTS

Artist's rendering shows proposed homes on Lund Ranch II from existing neighborhood on Lund Ranch Road, a debate that dominated the June primary election locally, when Pleasanton voters narrowly approved Measure K allowing the development to proceed.



JULIA REIS

Rick Rubino started as Pleasanton school district superintendent in July, only to be placed on administrative leave less than six months later because of an undisclosed personnel matter.

- Pleasanton Seahawks take first place in the large team division at the Speedo Champions Series CA/NV Winter Sectionals, held at East Los Angeles College in Monterey Park, one of four sectionals held across the country.

- After more than two years of contentious community debate, the school board votes to shift the schedule for the coming school year to start classes Aug. 15, a week earlier than the district's traditional start date. This puts first semester finals before winter break.

- Proponents of placing a measure on the June ballot to overturn the City Council's approval of a 43-home development in Lund Ranch submit petitions to the city with 6,086 signatures, well above the 4,124 — or 10% of the city's registered voters — needed to force a referendum.

- Thirty protestors from a national organization called Mercy for Animals (MFA) line Stoneridge Mall Road in front of Safeway headquarters calling on the grocery chain to adopt a "cagefree" merchandising policy.

- Colin Lambert, 8, and his sister Taryn collect more than 3,900 toys at their schools, Walnut Grove Elementary and Harvest Park Middle, for children who visit Alameda County courthouses for custody hearings, hoping they will make them feel less sad and lonely.

- The DA's Office determines that Pleasanton Police Officer Daniel Kunkel acted in lawful self-defense when he shot and killed 19-year-old John Deming Jr. during an altercation in downtown Pleasanton last summer at Specialty Sales Classics car dealership on First Street.

- Hart Middle School principal Terry Conde to be reassigned due to unspecified personnel issue, school board says.

March

- City Council agrees to schedule a referendum for June 7 to let voters decide if its approval Jan. 5 of a 43-home development on Lund Ranch should be overturned after Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office determines that petitioners opposed to the development obtained enough signatures from registered voters.

- Amador Valley High football coach Rick Sira announces he is stepping away after 30 years of coaching after already retiring as an administrator at the school.

- Pleasanton Weekly distributes checks totaling \$73,307.76 to 12 Tri-Valley nonprofits that were the beneficiaries of its 2015 Holiday Fund.

- The Pleasanton Middle School cheer squad wins its second consecutive national title by finishing ahead of crosstown competitors from Hart Middle School in the finals of the United Spirit Association (USA) Jr. Spirit Nationals.

- Foothill cheerleaders make a clean sweep at the United Spirit Association (USA) Spirit Nationals in Anaheim with the varsity, stunt and junior varsity teams each winning a national championship.

April

- Heidi Murphy, library director for Los Gatos who is an Amador Valley High grad, is

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Year in Review

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 13

hired as Pleasanton's new director of library services, to succeed retiring Julie Farnsworth on April 4.

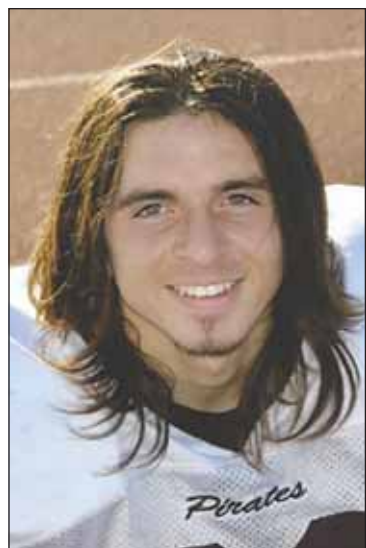
The Pleasanton school board interviews candidates for superintendent. Search firm McPherson & Jacobson was hired to facilitate the hunt.

Sarah Banholzer, a 14-year-old eighth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School, holds her third swimathon to benefit UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, which she credits with saving her life after she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Despite heavy rains, Pleasanton plans to continue its drinking water restrictions and resumes its excessive use penalties.

The parents of John Deming Jr., 19, who was fatally shot July 5, 2015 by a Pleasanton police officer downtown, file a lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court against the Pleasanton Police Department and the city for wrongful death, claiming action should have been taken to prevent the teen's death after police responded to a burglary report and found him inside a car dealership.

Pleasanton selects Daniel Sodergren as its new city attorney, a post he held for the past 11 years in Tracy after serving as assistant city attorney for Livermore and as special counsel for Palo Alto and Oakland. He succeeds Jonathan Lowell, who retired in December.



FILE PHOTO

DA's office determines a PPD officer acted in lawful self-defense in fatal 2015 shooting of John Deming Jr.

City Council and Planning Commission hold joint workshop meeting to discuss the potential Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone (EDZ) being considered for a 40-acre site along Johnson Drive, between Stoneridge Drive and Interstate 580. Rezoning would accommodate a proposed Costco and two hotels.

Police say alcohol may have contributed to a solo-vehicle crash on Vineyard Avenue near Machado Place that put two women in intensive care and left hundreds of residents without power.

Sport Chalet on Rosewood Drive closes, one of 40 in California to do so.

School board appoints Rick Rubino, superintendent of Gridley Unified School District in Butte County for the past four years, as superintendent of the Pleasanton school district.

Amador Valley vice principal Michael Williams named as interim principal, effective immediately while previous principal Tom Drescher takes a leave of absence for unknown reasons until his resignation becomes effective June 30. Williams is later hired as the permanent principal.

Pleasanton's comprehensive high schools receive top rankings in U.S. News and World Report's annual list of best American high schools, with Amador Valley ranking No. 315 in the United States and No. 47 in California, and Foothill coming in at No. 489 nationwide and No. 79 statewide.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation calculates its Run for Education in April raised \$85,000, with 3,068 runners and 300 volunteers, helping to fund some school positions that were fueled by onetime state funds that were not renewed.

Pleasanton Middle School symphonic band, jazz band and advanced orchestra place first in their AA divisions and take home trophies for overall best band/orchestra from the Music in the Parks Festival at Milpitas High.

May

City Council agrees to spend \$600,000 for a 1.5-acre dog park between the Bernal Avenue bridge and the I-680 off-ramp, with separate areas for large and small



COURTESY OF CITY OF PLEASANTON

Proposed new Pleasanton Civic Center complex would be built in Bernal Community Park between Bernal and Valley avenues and include new library and community center.

dogs, little drinking fountains and, in the large dog area, agility structures including a seesaw and hoops.

City Council unanimously approves 3% raises for Pleasanton city workers to be given immediately and again in April 2017 and April 2018.

Planning Commission considers a plan to rezone a 15-acre commercial site on Stanley Boulevard at First Street for a 95-home development and an adjoining site to accommodate housing for people with special needs.

Three-day Livermore Valley Film Festival, with the theme "Where Science Meets Art," focuses on how science and technology are portrayed in films, with dozens of independent feature films from around the world.

The Foothill boys golf team finishes the EBAL season undefeated at 14-0.

The Foothill boys tennis team captures the EBAL title for the first time in school history, with an overall record of 17-5 and ending the season by winning 10 matches in a row.

City Council approves 19 new homes on Rose Avenue across from the Alameda County Fairgrounds and two more on a 3-acre lot on Dublin Canyon Road.

Foothill High's Sophia Brown, who has starred on the Falcons' basketball and lacrosse teams, is honored as the state's female Scholar-Athlete of the Year for 2016.

City Council gives a green light to Workday, a fast-growing software company, to start construction of its new six-story corporate headquarters building off I-580.

Pleasanton task force recommends building a multimillion-dollar Civic Center and public library on a 27-acre site in the Bernal Community Park between Bernal and Valley avenues and alongside the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

City and county leaders break ground on Kottinger Gardens, a 185-unit affordable senior housing project set for completion in late 2017. It is the redevelopment of two distinct senior housing properties, Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens, built in the 1960s

and 1970s across the street from one another.

Pleasanton resident Sandhya Ramireddi, 56, is indicted with three others on federal charges for allegedly submitting more than 100 fraudulent H-1B visa applications for specialty worker visas.

A team of seventh-grade Hart Middle School students takes first place in Destination Imagination arts and science competition in Knoxville, Tenn. Team members are Sydney Cohen, Aly Lam, Holden Meyer, Aryan Sethi, Vincent Hsu and Chiemeka Kalu.

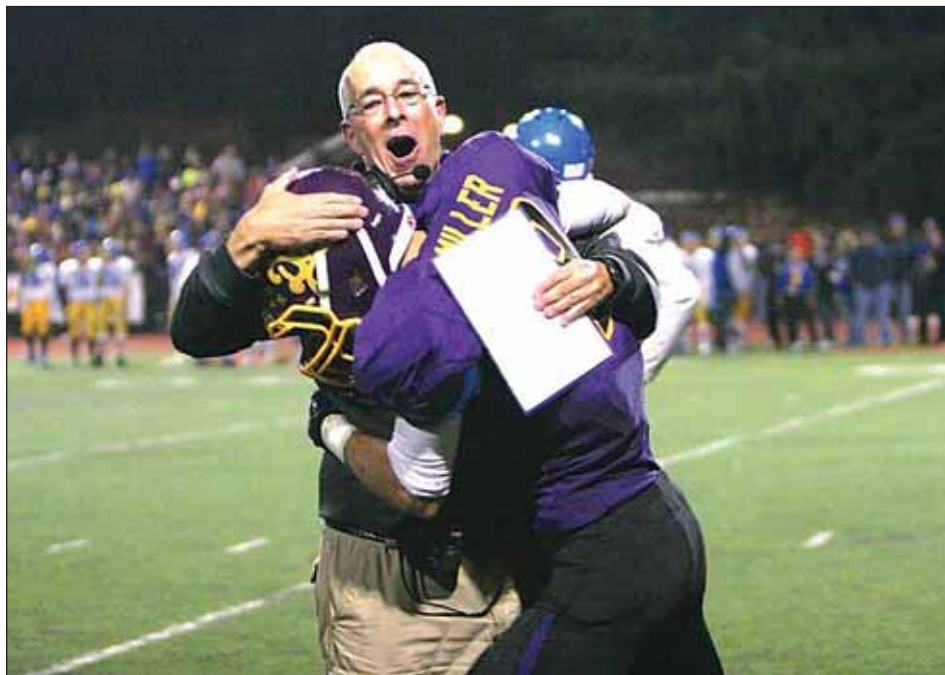
Pleasanton native Kaitlin Gallagher, then 20, reflects on being cleared as cancer-free and her work for donations to find a cure and help patients.



SARAH LODUHA

The 2016 Alameda County Fair drew nearly 451,000 attendees, with 51,000-plus attending Independence Day festivities.

Year in Review



COURTESY OF RITA SIRRA

Longtime Amador Valley football coach Rick Sira, shown here hugging Dons player Collin Miller, retired as head coach this winter after 30 years of coaching.

June

- The family of Kate Steinle, a Pleasanton native who was shot and killed on San Francisco's Pier 14 in July 2015, files a lawsuit against San Francisco and federal officials alleging that their policy failures and negligent acts led to an undocumented immigrant with a history of drug offenses to go free and obtain the gun that killed her.
- Alameda County Sheriff's Office deputies move a herd of 28 goats found unattended and munching away on an empty lot east of the Dublin Ranch Golf Course. They were taken to an empty patch of land near Santa Rita Jail while the officers looked for the owners.
- Alameda County Fair receives 228 entries into its annual wine competitions and gives out 170 medals, 25 of them gold.
- PPIE announces it will donate another \$52,649 to the school district (in addition to about \$570,000 it gave for next school year) for grants for student-focused projects, school clubs, for school academic teams to attend state and national competitions and for math-and-science programs.
- City Council votes to spend \$7 million to install automated water meters for all residential and commercial users. Two community outreach meetings are planned to demonstrate the new water meters.
- Voters approve Measure K, a referendum to allow Greenbriar Homes Communities to build 43 homes on Lund Ranch in southeast Pleasanton, by a narrow but decisive margin of 625 votes.
- The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District passes a \$950 million facilities bond measure, which will pay for new classrooms at the Hayward and Livermore campuses, along with three new lecture halls,

new health science classrooms, new facilities for the welding department and horticulture, and new offices for faculty.

- Four-term incumbent Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley wins bid to continue representing Pleasanton and the rest of District 4 on the Board of Supervisors.
- The English Rose Tea Room & Gifts, a family-run business that has been downtown for more than 11 years, is recognized as Small Business of the Year in the 16th Assembly District.
- Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department extinguishes a 1-acre brush fire on a steep hill in east Pleasanton within 20 minutes, keeping it away from nearby homes in Ruby Hill.
- Opponents of a possible bid by Costco to build a new store on Johnson Drive file a petition with the City Clerk's Office to place an initiative on the Nov. 8 ballot, Measure MM, that would ban such large stores from being built at that location.
- Museum on Main kicks off its Family Days series with "Life on the Ranch," which aims to help people learn what it was like to live in an adobe structure during the Californio and Rancho periods of California's history.
- Pleasanton school board restores librarian jobs that were scheduled to be cut, by reducing budget items such as furniture expenditures and food purchases for meetings.
- BART Board of Directors votes unanimously to place a \$3.5 billion bond on the November ballot to fund rebuilding the agency's aging infrastructure.
- Stanley Boulevard between First and Main streets — "Old" Stanley — closes to all traffic for six weeks of reconstruction.
- City Council votes unanimously to spend

up to \$390,000 for a Veterans Memorial at the top of the renamed Pioneer Cemetery to pay tribute to the more than 500 veterans buried there, including 21 who were killed in action. Fundraising efforts have raised \$240,000 as of that time.

- City Council OKs a record-high \$105 million budget for fiscal year 2016-17 that includes a 46% increase in estimated capital improvement expenditures.
- Zone 7 Water Agency and Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) boards vote to lift mandatory limits on water use for consumers, asking residents to adhere to a 10% voluntary conservation rate.
- Donations of \$625,000 by Patelco Credit Union in Pleasanton and \$250,000 by Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto give them naming rights for the new sports complex at Bernal Community Park set to open in October.
- Planning commissioner Herb Ritter launches his campaign to run for City Council. Council members Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin, whose first four-year terms expire this year, are both seeking re-election.

Alameda County Board of Supervisors votes unanimously to spend \$117 million to make capital improvements, as well as improvements in mental health services, at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. The action was opposed by activists who said it will take resources from programs that keep people afloat during the economic crisis.

PPIE board declines to renew contract of longtime executive director Susan Hayes for reasons not publicly released. An outside hire, experienced nonprofit leader and Pleasanton resident Steve McCoy-Thompson, is later appointed as PPIE's executive director.

July

- Rick Rubino, 63, a Walnut Creek resident, starts position of superintendent for the Pleasanton Unified School District.
- Five Pleasanton Seahawks swimmers compete at the U.S. Olympic swim trials in Omaha, Neb., with Seahawks star Maxime Rooney advancing to the semifinals, where he took ninth in the 200 freestyle and 11th in the 100 free.

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Year in Review

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 15

- More than 25 Bay Area faith organizations partner with the American Red Cross in Pleasanton for the largest single blood collection effort for the Northern California Blood Services Region.

- Foothill grad TJ Friedl, who attends University of Nevada at Reno, is named to the final 24-player roster for the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team to compete in three international friendly series this summer.

- Assemblywoman Catharine Baker honors Pleasanton U.S. Air Force veteran Eugene Cota, whose service included Japan, Korea, Germany, Vietnam, California and Georgia, as Veteran of the Year for the 16th Assembly District in a ceremony at the Museum on Main.

- City Council agrees to sign a memorandum of understanding with the East Bay Regional Park District to add a new trail to the Pleasanton Ridge, using the Alviso Adobe Community Park as its primary staging area. The MOU also proposes new parking, a restroom and a water fountain.

- Registrar of Voters' Office certifies that a 7,000-signature petition to ban stores over 50,000 square feet on a Johnson Drive site qualifies for a Nov. 8 voter referendum.

- Oracle in Pleasanton is recognized with a 2016 StopWaste Business Efficiency Award for Excellence in recycling and composting.

- A father and son from Hayward — Juan Estrada Espinoza, 59, and Juan Estrada Estrada, 33 — die in Shadow Cliffs Lake after they fall from a raft during a family outing.

- Despite several days of temperatures in the upper 90s, the Alameda County Fair closes July 4 with a standing-room-only crowd for its annual fireworks spectacular. Overall fair attendance totals 450,806, well over last year's 444,923, with 51,376 attending Independence Day festivities.

- Tri-Valley YMCA expands services in Pleasanton, relocating its administrative offices from Dublin and opening a new Family Wellness Center.

- Mayor Jerry Thorne orders halt to construction of two new tennis courts at the Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park after neighborhood protesters block construction trucks from entering the site, saying they had no notice of the project, which is part of a master plan approved years ago.

- Two dozen Pleasanton residents representing seven countries gather at the library to be sworn in as new United States citizens, the first naturalization ceremony ever held in Pleasanton.



TRACY DUNNE

Mayor Jerry Thorne (second from left) and City Council members Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin are flanked by Superior Court Judge Steve Pulido (left) and former Judge Ron Hyde who administered oaths of office in Pleasanton Civic Center on Dec. 6 to the three re-elected incumbents.

- Two new traffic lights are turned on in front of Amador Valley High's main student parking lot to improve safety for motorists entering and leaving the school.

- School board unanimously approves placing a \$270 million general obligation bond, Measure II, on the ballot for the November election to fund improvements.

August

- Orchard Supply Hardware announces plans to open 40,000-square-foot store in the Metro 580 shopping center at 4555 Rosewood Drive later this year.

- City Council calls a special meeting to look again at plans to build two additional lighted tennis courts at the Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park, after a group of residents from nearby homes protested the removal of grass and four trees to accommodate them.

- Foothill grad TJ Friedl and his family fly to Cincinnati where TJ signs a contract with the Cincinnati Reds.

- City Council votes unanimously to cancel a construction contract to build two new tennis courts near the Pleasanton Tennis complex, after meeting with an overflow crowd of more than 200, of which 30 speakers mostly objected to the planned placement of the courts.

- Julie Testa, a former member of the Human Services Commission and a longtime advocate of measures to reduce school overcrowding, announces she will seek election Nov. 8 as mayor.

- Retired Hart Middle School principal Steve Maher and former Pleasanton school board member Kathleen Ruegsegger join the race for election to the school board on Nov. 8 where they will compete with

two incumbents for three seats open on the board. Board member Chris Grant plans to step down after 9-1/2 years on the board.

- Former Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman seeks election to the BART Board of Directors for District 5 on Nov. 8 against incumbent John McPartland.

- Alameda County sheriff's deputies arrest 10 people after a long investigation into an illegal 200-acre outdoor marijuana cultivation operation in rural Livermore.

- Tri-Valley teen baseball all-stars, from Pleasanton, Danville and San Ramon, are crowned 14-year-old Babe Ruth World Series champions after a six-run, sixth-inning rally catapults them to victory in the title game in Massachusetts.

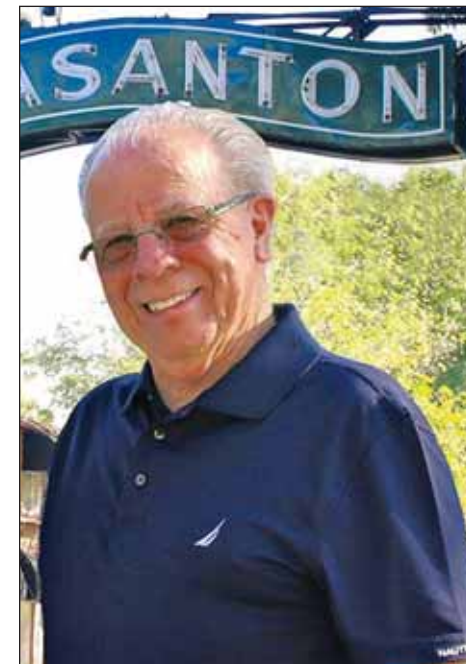
September

- Alameda County Fairgrounds hosts its first two-week Fall Meet in addition to its full horse-racing schedule held during the Fair.

- Court denies Pleasanton mayoral candidate Julie Testa's request to compel Pleasanton City Clerk Karen Diaz to file Testa's candidate statement for inclusion in the sample ballot after dispute over whether Testa submitted the statement on time.

- East Bay Regional Park District begins a \$7.5 million energy efficiency project that primarily consists of installing a 70,000-square-foot solar panel carport system, split among three parking lots, to provide shade plus generate 1.2 megawatts of energy annually.

- City Council OKs mixed-use housing and retail development at Old Bernal Avenue and Augustine Street that will require tearing down a small home built in 1895 and



COURTESY OF MAHER

Retired local principal Steve Maher was elected as the newest face on the Pleasanton school board Nov. 8.

ripping out one of three heritage trees on the site.

- Pleasanton resident Yarenit Liliana Malihan is arrested on suspicion of DUI and gross vehicular manslaughter after CHP alleges she crashed into a sedan stopped on I-680 shoulder in San Ramon, killing a toddler inside the parked car. Malihan is identified as the wife of a county sheriff's deputy.

- Two adult English as a second language classes offered by the Pleasanton Unified School District change their meeting place to St. Augustine Catholic Church, relocated from Lydiksen Elementary following parent concerns.

- City launches a website with two interactive online tools designed to make the permitting and zoning process easier to navigate.

- Less than three months into his tenure, new Harvest Park Middle School principal Ethan Cheever abruptly resigns to take a job closer to his home. Robin Munsell, an assistant principal in San Ramon and an earlier candidate for the Harvest Park head position, is later named the replacement principal.

- Axis Community Health opens new \$12 million health center, a 24,000-square-foot complex on West Las Positas Boulevard that doubles service capacity for the more than 14,000 Tri-Valley low-income, uninsured and under-insured individuals it serves each year.

- City Council imposes new regulations on Pleasanton Masons after complaints from Valley Trails neighbors of excessive noise and outdoor partying at their lodge on Hopyard Road. The Masons are selling their building to Chabad of the Tri-Valley, which will require a new permit to use the building.

Year in Review

- City Council votes to update the city's bicycle master plan to provide funding and strategies for making streets and pathways safer for cycling, after the death in June of cyclist Gail Turner, 72, after being struck by a vehicle as she crossed Stanley Boulevard at its intersection with Valley and Bernal avenues.

- Don Lewis of Pleasanton, a music artist and synthesizer innovator, wins the prestigious 2016 Alameda County Arts Leadership award.

- Inklings Coffee and Tea opens at 530 Main St.

- Mayor Jerry Thorne presents the annual Mayor's Award to Tanya Ludden, a longtime leader in the parent-teacher association who has also served on boards of large community organizations including the Northern California Alzheimer's Association and ValleyCare Health Foundation.

- Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area begins visually inspecting all boats, canoes, kayaks, inflatable crafts, paddle boards and float tubes for quagga mussels before they can be placed into the lake, to keep out the invasive species. Inspection fees range from \$3 to \$7.

- Police Department opens an "exchange zone" for people who want to do transactions in a safe spot. The area is in the police station's front parking lot, which is well lit and under 24-hour video surveillance.

- REACH — Resources Education Activities Community and Housing for Special Adults of the Tri-Valley — holds a gala to celebrate

25 years of providing local housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

October

- Tri-Valley water agencies kick off a nearly \$1 million study to examine the feasibility of advanced water recycling for human consumption.

- City Council finalizes selection for three at-large representatives to serve on the Downtown Specific Plan Task Force, to take a fresh look at the Downtown Specific Plan adopted in 2002.

- Zone 7 Water Agency approves extending surcharge of \$0.57 per 100 cubic feet of water fee for another year to make up for lost revenue due to lower water use as a result of mandatory conservation during the drought.

- School board approves new curriculum for students with dyslexia and other reading difficulties.

- The latest Bernal Community Park expansion, a 54-acre, \$16.5 million project that adds new lighted sports fields and a grand meadow and Oak Woodland, opens with a public ceremony.

- Pleasanton Weekly and DanvilleSanRamon.com honor seven area residents with 2016 Tri-Valley Heroes awards.

November

- Veterans Memorial is dedicated at the top of Pioneer Cemetery on Sunol Boulevard, marking the completion of a two-year project that has been a partnership between

Pleasanton and its two veterans organizations, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 and American Legion Post 237.

- Pleasanton's new \$300,000 Cubby's Dog Park opens at the staging area of the Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail on Lagoon Road and Bernal Avenue. It is the city's second off-leash dog park. Cubby was the Pleasanton Police Department's first K-9 officer.

- Incumbents Mayor Jerry Thorne and City Council members Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin are re-elected. Measure MM, the so-called anti-Costco measure, is defeated.

- Steve Maher is elected to the school board, and incumbents Valerie Arkin and Jamie Hintzke are re-elected.

- Three bond measures supporting improved school facilities, transit infrastructure and affordable housing pass easily, including the Pleasanton school district's \$270 million Measure 11.

- Foothill varsity football team beats cross-town rivals Amador Valley, 15-0, to close out its regular season and move on to the North Coast Section Division I playoffs.

- City Council approves a draft master plan for a new civic center complex in Bernal Community Park that could go on the ballot in November 2018 for voter approval. The complex would include a new city hall, library, police headquarters and community center on a 27-acre site between Bernal and Valley avenues, with an estimated cost of up to \$200 million.

- City Council proclaims Saturday after Thanksgiving as "Small Business Saturday," as a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, both which feature big-box retail and e-commerce.

- Amber Huk becomes the first Foothill or EBAL girl to win the North Coast Section tennis championships, winning four straight matches.

December

- Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association closes its horse training operation for the first time for the winter, sending horses to Golden Gate Field in Berkeley. Officials anticipate stables and track will reopen in May.

- City Council suspends the city's portion of the automatic consumer price index (CPI) increase on water and sewer rates for 2017 after residents say their bills had increased by 30% or more despite cutting water usage.

- City Council votes to build two new courts at the Pleasanton Tennis Park at an estimated cost of \$600,000, rejecting a recommendation by its Parks and Recreation Commission for a \$1 million project.

- A state regulatory agency seeks to revoke the license of a Pleasanton contractor that



VALERIE JONAS

Dr. Dawnell Moody and CEO Sue Compton in front of Axis Community Health's new \$12 million health center in Pleasanton.

oversaw construction of the Berkeley apartment balcony that collapsed last year, killing six students and injuring seven more.

- City Council adopts 2015-16 fiscal year operating budget that shows a \$4.4 million surplus after General Fund revenues are greater than expected and expenditures are less.

- Work set to begin next month on \$18.2 million DSRSD project to enhance and expand the water recycling plant on Johnson Drive to meet the growing demand for recycled water. DSRSD board later votes to close the free recycled water fill station during estimated 18-month construction.

- Pleasanton Weekly names Doug Miller, an Army veteran and helicopter pilot in Vietnam, its 2016 Man of the Year.

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

- City Council agrees to spend \$4.2 million to acquire a 3-acre vacant property that has been owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission since 1930. ■



FENTON KRAMER

Doug Miller, the Weekly's 2016 Man of the Year, stands in front of the new Veterans Memorial he championed in Pioneer Cemetery, which was dedicated at a ceremony on Veterans Day weekend.

Here we go again: Continued administrator instability undermines trust of school board

The new year will bring challenges, uncertainty and opportunity.

Pleasanton will start the year with its school superintendent, Rick Rubino, on paid administrative leave while an unspecified "personnel matter" is investigated. He hasn't been in the role a full six months.

Administrative turnover and instability has been a concern for at least the past three years. It's difficult to believe, but it has become considerably worse within the past 18 months or so.

The Pleasanton school district is on its fourth leader since June 2015, with deputy superintendent of business services Mi-caela Ochoa taking the helm in the short-term with Rubino on leave. There have been new principals at eight of the district's 15 schools, including three at Harvest Park Middle School alone, in that time-frame.

The school board's newest member, Steve Maher, a retired district principal, acknowledged the turnover at the top during his campaign last fall. He told voters he wanted to join the board to help "stop the revolving door of principals, staff and district office personnel."

This churn directly affects everyone — students, parents, district employees and residents.

Last month, Pleasanton residents resoundingly passed the \$270 million school facilities bond measure, which we endorsed because it is sorely needed and it had been 20 years since Pleasanton voters passed a school bond measure. While none of the bond funds go to the expense of administrator turnover (legal fees, contract buyouts and the like), passing bond and parcel tax measures require trust of those in charge. In this case, it is the school board.

The board stated it wanted to begin reviewing the district's hiring practices in January. More than just the hiring practices need to be reviewed. Hiring quality administrators is one thing, but we need to retain them too.

We encourage the board to look for all the root causes of this churn and instability, put in place specific, measurable goals for change and keep the community informed. Action and transparency are key to earning trust.

This is an opportunity for the school board to build back the trust of the public and prove to voters they made a good choice retaining two incumbents and voting in Maher. ■

GUEST OPINION

BY MAYOR JERRY THORNE

The road ahead

Three out of four California voters cast a ballot in the Nov. 8 General Election, the highest turnout since 2008. In Pleasanton, close to 63% of voters decided to give me another two years in office as your mayor. It is a privilege and an honor to be able to continue to serve, and I'm grateful that so many of you share in my vision for Pleasanton and engage in our community.

Democracy is not a spectator sport, evidenced by each of the talented people who ran for office here. Whether office-holder or volunteer, people need to participate so that together we can create the road ahead and the future we all want.

Like many Pleasanton residents, my roots here run deep. The small-town character I came to love 40 years ago is part of the legacy I hope to leave. We can't turn back time, as appealing as that sometimes sounds. Like the entire state, Pleasanton's population has almost doubled in four decades. The challenge for us all then becomes how to balance our nostalgia against our current situation, including state housing laws.

We take enormous pride in providing exceptional services and amenities, from expanding our water conservation through the purple pipes infrastructure to the state-of-the-art Bernal Community Park.

We live in a community that is safe, has outstanding schools and attracts high-quality businesses to spur economic vitality. We wouldn't have such exceptional services and amenities without the economic engine of all of our businesses as well as our residents that help generate

the revenues to provide this quality of life.

Every year, the City Council develops its priorities in a two-year work plan. The goals we set and priorities we establish come directly from the residents we serve, and I'm proud to have played a part in accomplishing some of those goals already. But we have more work to do.

Pleasanton continues to face real issues in 2017. As mayor, in partnership with the City Council and staff, I pledge to be fiscally prudent with the use of taxpayer revenues and to provide careful, balanced and community-focused leadership on these important matters that we face. A special citizens task force has made the bold recommendation to keep pace with our use of the library and Civic Center by relocating them onto the Bernal property while using the current civic center site to creatively help finance the move.

Our dedication to our small-town atmosphere, surrounded by unparalleled open space, must be maintained and balanced against any inevitable state-mandated growth we experience to ensure it serves the entire community's interests. And the update to the important planning document that frames building decisions downtown, called the Downtown Specific Plan, will provide an opportunity to maintain what's important to us.

These are amongst the important issues we will face, and we will be better off if we face them together. Get involved, come to meetings, engage in the community conversation and help us pave the road ahead. ■

Editor's note: Jerry Thorne, who was re-elected Nov. 8 to his third two-year term as mayor of Pleasanton, is a retired corporate executive with more than 40 years in the private sector. He also served for 10 years on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission.



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Jerry Thorne

Pleasanton Weekly

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Spreading joy of soccer to girls abroad

Pleasanton RAGE players, coach travel to South America to share love of the game

By JEREMY WALSH

Not every girl has the means or the access to enjoy the sport of soccer.

With that knowledge spurring them on, a group of 14 Bay Area soccer lovers — mainly with ties to the Pleasanton RAGE girls soccer organization — traveled to South America last month aiming to encourage equality in soccer, according to RAGE coach Walter Pratte, who led the trip.

“Unfortunately, many areas in the world do not offer the same opportunities for girls as we do here in the U.S.,” said Pratte, a native of Argentina. “Being such a male driven sport elsewhere, girls who have the passion and drive to play are not encouraged, or worse not even allowed, in many cities.”

The local group — a combination of parents and teen soccer players from the Bay Area, primarily Pleasanton RAGE girls 15 to 17 years old — hoped to help change that.

They visited South America from Nov. 18-28, with the focus of their trip being a four-day experience in Paraguay where the Pleasanton teens and other participants helped girls in the town of

Coronel Bogado hone their soccer skills, donated soccer equipment and tried to educate the local community about the importance of including girls in soccer, according to Pratte.

“We created opportunities ... by having open conversations with those who have an impact in the community, visiting and interacting at local schools, talking directly with girls who love the sport, and the boys who need to understand the girls deserve the same right to play,” he said.

The Bay Area group held daily open training sessions in the town, sending the message that everyone was welcome and seeing the number of girls participating and watching grow each day, according to Pratte.

They also distributed soccer jerseys, shorts, socks and cleats that they collected before their trip, knowing that many families in the poor town don't have the resources to buy soccer attire, Pratte said.

“The trip was very successful,” he added. “We left a community empowered to make changes for girls who want to play soccer and built relationships that will allow



PAMELA JACOBSEN/PEPPERMINT TEA PHOTOGRAPHY

The group of teens from Pleasanton and elsewhere in the Bay Area gather with local girls in South America after one of the group's soccer training sessions.

us to continue to travel back to this region making an even stronger impact.”

The experience left an equally important impact on the Pleasanton participants, according to Pratte. “The impact on those who traveled was irreplaceable. They represented themselves, their families and our country very well, as stated by many people they met.”

Pratte said he is also working to create a new nonprofit, Girls Soccer World Wide, to support and expand efforts to grow the game among girls in Coronel Bogado and other places around the world. ■



PAMELA JACOBSEN/PEPPERMINT TEA PHOTOGRAPHY

The Pleasanton RAGE girls walk toward the field before leading a practice session abroad.

Two Pleasanton golf professionals win NorCal PGA awards

Jones earns Horton Smith Award; Faulkner is Private Merchandiser of the Year

Two Pleasanton golf professionals were singled out with top recognition among their peers earlier this month, taking home honors during the Northern California PGA's annual section awards.

Eric Jones, PGA director of instruction at the Eric Jones Golf Academy in Pleasanton, received the 2016 Horton Smith Award. And Brett Faulkner, PGA head professional of Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, was named the 2016 Private Merchandiser of the Year.

The Horton Smith Award recognized Jones for his outstanding service and contributions in developing and improving educational opportunities for PGA professionals, according to NCPGA officials.

“Eric is committed in making a difference in the way we as golf professionals share the game of golf,” John Snopkowski, a fellow golf instructor and colleague, said of Jones.

“I have witnessed his uncanny ability to take teaching concepts

and turn them into a language for all to understand. His influence has extended past his students to my own students — the hallmark of an innovator and teacher of teachers,” Snopkowski added.

Faulkner, recognized for the success of Castlewood's golf shop operations, was one of three Merchandisers of the Year — with awards also in public and resort categories.

“The three winners and their merchandising teams have excelled in golf shop operations,” NCPGA officials said. “Golf shops are an excellent way for the general public to get individualized attention and expertise from trained staff that is familiar with the array of golf products because they use them every day.”

Jones and Faulkner joined 19 recipients from across Northern California and Nevada honored during the NCPGA's Special Awards and President's Dinner on Dec. 4 at Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City.

Two other winners came from

the Tri-Valley: Shane Balfour, golf administrator and executive director of the Junior Golf Association of Northern California in Danville, received the Youth Player Development Award, and the Assistant Apprentice Player of the Year honor went to PGA teaching professional Steve Watanabe Jr. of The Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon.

The evening's top award, Golf Professional of the Year, went to Stuart Smith, PGA director of golf at Somerset Golf & Country Club in Reno, Nevada.

Some of the other awards included Player of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Club Fitter of the Year and Sales Representative of the Year.

Other California winners hailed from golf clubs or organizations in communities such as Napa, San Francisco, San Martin, Valley Springs, Graeagle, Newcastle, Vacaville, Los Altos, Monterey and Auburn. All Nevada winners work in Reno. ■

—Jeremy Walsh



MARCIA LAROSA/NCPGA

Eric Jones, PGA director of instruction at the Eric Jones Golf Academy in Pleasanton, received the 2016 Horton Smith Award during the Northern California PGA section awards.



MARCIA LAROSA/NCPGA

Brett Faulkner, PGA head professional of Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, was honored as this year's Private Merchandiser of the Year.

Calendar

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

Concerts

MURIEL ANDERSON HARP GUITAR AND AUDIO VISUAL CONCERT Muriel Anderson will perform her audio-visual show "Wonderlust," featuring her world-renowned guitar and harp guitar playing with a backdrop of stunning visuals by photo-artist Bryan Allen. The show will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 6 at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Tickets are \$20. The concert benefits the Livermore Rotary Music Scholarship. Go to www.livermore-rotary.org.

THE SWEET REMAINS The Sweet Remains features gifted singer-songwriters Brian Chartrand, Greg Naughton and Rich Price. Enjoy their contemporary soulful folk at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Firehouse Arts Center. The band's songs and approach harken back to the music of the 60s and 70s like CSN, Simon and Garfunkel, and The Eagles. Tickets are \$22-\$32. 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.

TAKE US ALONG



Table Mountain: Daughter and mother duo Morgan and Yvette Miles took the Pleasanton Weekly to Cape Town, South Africa. Yvette escorted her daughter into the country for Morgan's independent six-week student exchange as an international boarder at St. Cyprian's School along the base of the famous Table Mountain.

Museums & Exhibits

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION California Watercolor Association's 47th Annual National Exhibition will run Jan. 14-Feb. 25 at the Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center. 75 or so artists from California and beyond have been accepted by this year's judge, nationally acclaimed jurist and watercolor artist Donna Zagotta. A wide variety of styles and types of water media are represented. A free opening reception and awards ceremony will be held from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14. Go to www.firehousearts.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.

EYE GLASS ADJUSTMENTS AND CLEANING Stop by the Pleasanton Senior Center from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month to have your eye glasses and sunglasses cleaned and adjusted by a representative from Sears Optical. For more information call 931-5365.

PHOTO CLUB The photo club is open to any senior who enjoys the hobby of photography at any level. It is suggested that you have some form of a digital camera. The group shares photos and makes suggestions how the photos might be improved. Meetings include occasional speakers and field trips, and are from 2-4 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Cost is \$2 for residents, \$2.50 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Home & Garden

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 at Alisal School, 1454 Santa Rita Road. Join as Brian Perrin, a veteran staff member at Alden Lane, will present "Growing Vegetables Above the Soil," and show how to grow edibles in containers, raised beds and planters, and how easy it is to grow your own vegetables no matter the space. Bring your questions and join this interesting discussion.

Religion & Spirituality

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.

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

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Peppy Peppermint

Peppermint is a free spirit, a 1-year-old American pit bull terrier mix with lots of joyous energy. She would probably prefer making her own life decisions and a home without cats, but if you have a pocketful of treats, she will listen to you if you make a good case. Plus, her adoption fee is waived during East Bay SPCA's Home for the Holidays special. Visit the Dublin Adoption Center at 4651 Gleason Drive or online at www.eastbayspca.org.

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.-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.

Community Groups

PLEASANTON TULANCINGO SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DINNER Come to the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Membership Dinner at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23 at Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore. Meet the new Board of Directors for 2017, Tulancingo trip information and other upcoming events. A buffet dinner will be served with salads, entrees, sides, desserts, and coffee or tea. Cost is \$40. RSVP by Jan. 13. Guests are welcome. Call David Struebing at 292-0104 or go to www.ptsc.org.

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

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.

LIVERMORE LIONESS 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.

PLEASANTON COMMUNITY TOASTMASTERS: GUESTS

WELCOME Learn more about public speaking in a fun-filled and supporting environment at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Highland Oaks Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive. Enjoy improving your leadership skills, building confidence and meeting new friends. Go to pleasantontoastmasters.com.

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

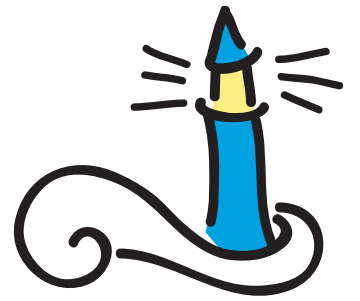
GIRLS NIGHT OUT NETWORKING GNON kicks off their 9th year from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 9 at Coco Cabana Restaurant, 4500 Tassajara Road, Suite C, Dublin. Bring a friend or two, the more the merrier. Bring a raffle prize if you'd like, or business cards, or a resume for networking. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. Prepay and RSVP required. Call 487-4748 or go to www.gnon.org/monthly-mixer.html.

PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB The Pleasanton Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Inklings, 530 Main St. For more information, please visit pleasantonlionsclub.org.

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

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Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

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): ENHANCING 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)

SECRET GARDEN SPA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525625

The following person(s) doing business as: SECRET GARDEN SPA, 4713 FIRST ST., SUITE 252, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sujung Kim, 890 Davis St., Apt. 205, San Leandro, CA 94577. 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: Sujung Kim. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/19/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 30; 2016; Jan. 6, 13, 20; 2017)

SUNSHINE PHOTO BOOTH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525022

The following person(s) doing business as: SUNSHINE PHOTO BOOTH, 161 SIERRAWOOD AVE., HAYWARD, CA 94544, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Chand, 161 Sierrawood Ave., Hayward, CA 94544. 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: Michael Chand. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/29/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 30; 2016; Jan. 6, 13, 20; 2017)

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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 1-Dec. 7

Pleasanton

2126 Alexander Way Hodges Trust to G. Muthuchattanathan for \$760,000
3337 Arbor Drive B. & S. Hillman to W. & C. McNaught for \$965,000
2936 Bottini Court R. Ragsdale to Dozier Trust for \$1,850,000
2873 Brezza Court GGD Oakdale to Chand Trust for \$3,730,000
1571 Calle Enrique Longboya Trust to S. Singh for \$676,000
233 Del Valle Court Hufenbach Trust to K. Sadeghi for \$910,000
1061 Gray Fox Circle A. Ross to A. Krishna for \$1,555,500
4645 Ithaca Way J. Lee to G. Stratton for \$482,500
7443 Palm Court L. Lovell to N. Srinivasan for \$1,065,000
290 Ray Street Cortez Trust to Hansen Enterprises for \$700,000
5273 Riverdale Court J. Lewis to J. Park for \$755,000
901 Sherman Way R. & K. Hooven to S. Shankar for \$1,415,000
3071 Tonopah Circle P. Young to D. Kendyala for \$595,000
4214 Wells Street Howes Trust to Z. Yang for \$810,000
3678 Annis Circle D. & T. Schaffer to T. & S. Pellegrino for \$923,000
1151 Bordeaux Street M. & K. Medeiros to R. & G. Cobb for \$955,000
7765 Canyon Meadow Circle #A J. Pope to G. & L. Burke for \$520,000
950 Clinton Place C. & N. Rodriguez to L. Krasnovsky for \$779,000

5963 Corte Venado D. & K. Luck to J. & M. Arsanious for \$1,049,000
4630 Denker Drive Ronald Trust to Janah Investments for \$660,000
5709 Hanifen Way Wells Fargo Bank to Y. Xiong for \$1,660,000
1844 Harvest Road Turner Trust to M. & G. Healy for \$708,000
1647 Hopyard Road Obrien Trust to Wolford Trust for \$1,145,000
4653 Laramie Gate Court C. & S. Kim to S. Xing for \$1,150,000
9904 Longview Lane S. & M. Szeto to M. Jamali for \$2,100,000
7405 Maywood Drive Harrington Trust to V. Jambu for \$630,000
7527 Maywood Drive C. Garcia-Sierra to Z. Hussain for \$753,000
5284 Northway Road Marr Sanchez & Associates to S. & J. Hoopes for \$955,000
3433 Norton Way #7 S. Wentz to K. & B. Gali for \$410,000
3937 Petrified Forest Court Landmark Hill Investment to R. Sarangapani for \$790,000
3740 Rocky Mountain Court B. Pearce to A. Ivanov for \$858,000
1155 Shady Pond Lane T. & B. Rosenthal to S. So for \$1,885,000
702 Sylvaner Drive Y. & C. Chang to B. & K. Kennedy for \$975,000
3713 Thistle Way J. & J. Clark to L. Cavil for \$462,500
7101 Valley Trails Drive T. Johnsen to L. Chaladi for \$720,000
477 Vineyard Place #C C. Layton to D. & R. Elliott for \$490,000

Source: California REsource

Simple ways to make your appliances last longer

Tips for maintaining fridges, dishwashers, dryers and washing machines

By NATHANIEL SILLIN

'Tis the season for overflowing refrigerators, never-ending loads of laundry and hopefully visiting family who will lend a hand. Many people ask their appliances to work a little harder than normal during the holidays, and proper maintenance throughout the year might be the key to avoiding an untimely breakdown.

Here are a few maintenance tips for refrigerators, dishwashers, laundry machines and dryers. Each of these major appliances has an average lifespan of 10 to 13 years and you might want to start budgeting for your next purchase around the nine-year mark.

There are many factors that contribute to a particular machine's lifespan. However, regular maintenance could help ensure your appliance's longevity, let you avoid expensive service calls and lead to lower utility bills.

Clean the coils to keep the fridge efficient and cool. We mostly expect refrigerators to keep working. But imagine having a house full of holiday guests and waking up to find that it stopped. Not only are

you stuck paying for repairs (\$220 to \$270 on average), or a new fridge (anywhere from \$350 to over \$2,500), but you might be making an expensive trip to the store to replace all the spoiled food.

The most important part of refrigerator maintenance is keeping the condenser coils clean. A dirty coil won't release heat as well, causing the compressor to work harder, which in turn shortens its life and can cost you money in higher utility bills. Luckily, the process takes about 15 minutes and only needs to be done once or twice a year.

Start by unplugging your refrigerator. Units that have coils underneath them will likely have a cover that needs to be removed and a condenser fan that should be cleaned. Other units have uncovered coils on the back. Using a brush or vacuum carefully clean off the dirt and dust. If you use a vacuum, check for and empty or dry out the drip pan, which is common on units with a built-in defroster.

The inside of a dishwasher needs cleaning as well. Your dishwasher might not be a necessity, but it sure is nice to spend time with visiting family and friends rather than washing dishes by hand. In fact, during one recent family visit, we ran our dishwasher multiple times per day.

It's important to clean the inside of the dishwasher as mineral deposits and leftover food scraps can build up, leading to clogged or leaky components and nose-turning smells. Running an unloaded dishwasher on a cleaning cycle with white vinegar could do the trick. You may also need to scrub the walls by hand and clean out the filter, which is often found at the bottom of the machine.

Next, gently wipe down and inspect the plastic gasket around the door, a break or leak could lead to

an expensive mess. While gaskets cost about \$10, labor costs can be between \$75 and \$150 an hour and damage from the water could be significantly more.

Respect the load limits of your washer and dryer. I'm always shocked by the piles of laundry that build up when you have a full house. While the extra towels, sheets and clothes from visiting guests might make it tempting, don't overload your machines.

Too much weight can cause parts to wear out and break prematurely. Plus, you could wind up with detergent residue on clothes and need to rerun the cycle (a waste of time, water and energy), or damp clothes that still need to be dried.

Also, gently close washer and dryer doors. Too much force could break the switch — the small part that signals to the machine the door is closed. The average cost to fix common washing machine problems is \$50 to \$150, while dryers' more expensive parts push repair costs to about \$100 to \$400.

Consider DIY repairs if something breaks. Even with proper maintenance, appliances can break. Unless you have a repairman in the family, you will likely spend \$75-plus an hour to hire one. You might consider trying to save a little money by doing the repairs yourself.

The job in question, your comfort level, experience and access to tools will influence which repairs you should attempt, but you won't necessarily be completely on your own. Appliance manufacturers, appliance parts dealers and independent handymen post helpful video guides with step-by-step instructions that you can follow. ■

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



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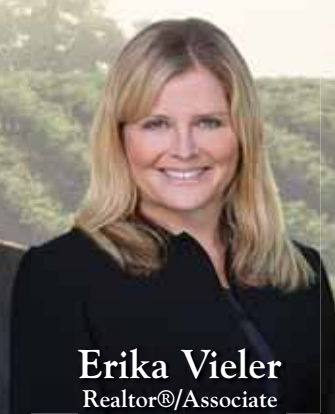
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