

Pleasanton Weekly

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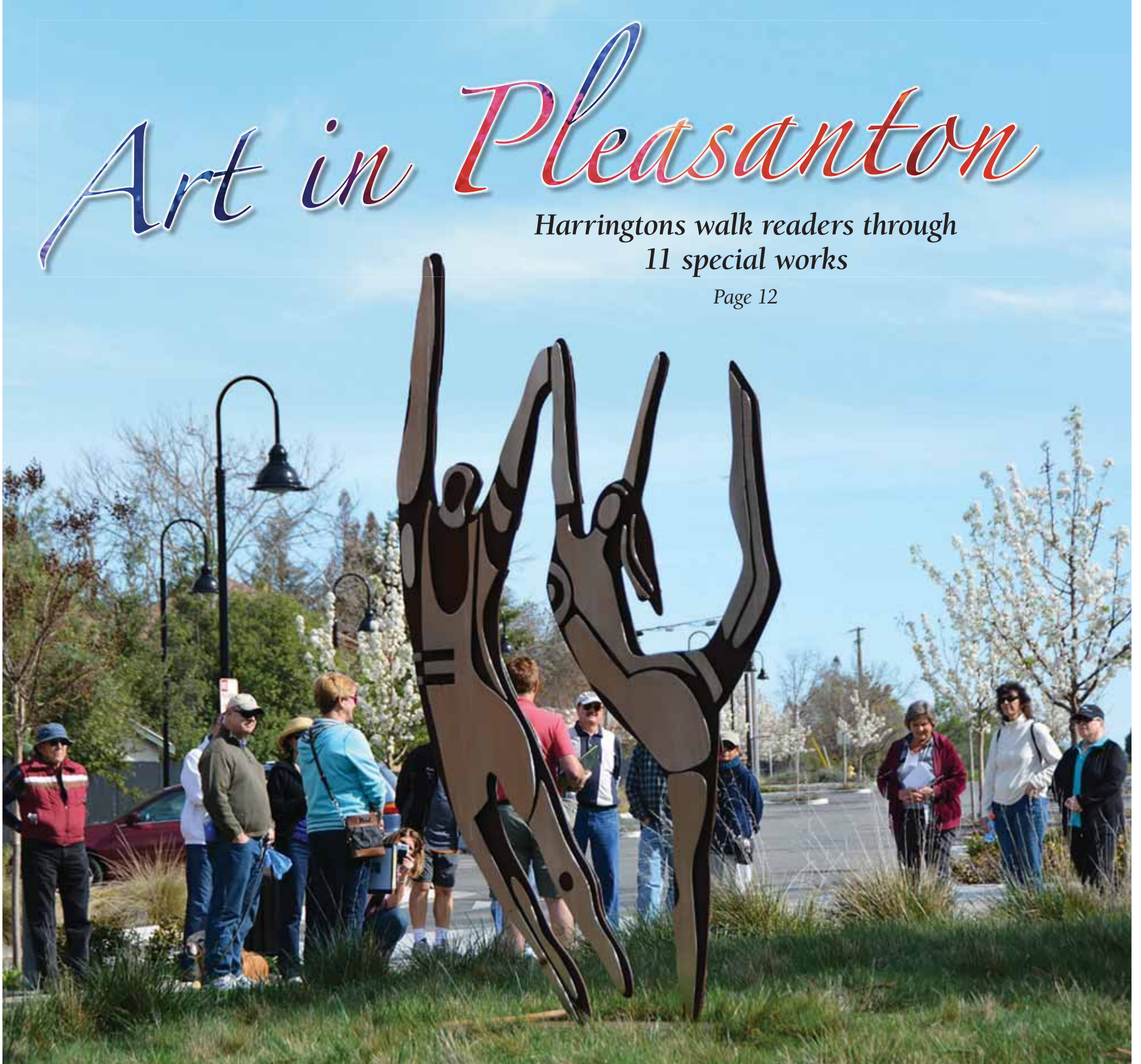
VOL. XVII, NUMBER 50 · JANUARY 6, 2017

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11 special works

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AROUND PLEASANTON



BY JEB BING

Niles Canyon Road: Can it be safer?

How many more people have to die in order to make critical safety changes to Niles Canyon Road? That's a question that Dr. Jacob Wouden is asking Caltrans in its current assessment of the scenic road's safety.

Wouden, the director of magnetic resonance imaging at Washington Hospital, knows the dangers of the narrow, curving roadway both as a driver and part of the medical team that all too frequently cares for motorists and cyclists injured on Niles Canyon Road.

Wouden finds that driving through Niles Canyon is often a harrowing and dangerous experience. The main issue is the narrow width of the road and lack of an adequate safety shoulder for much of the drive.



Dr. Jacob Wouden

This means that if a driver traveling the opposite direction crosses the mid-line, you have no direction in which to escape. You would be forced to choose between taking the head-on collision, running into the rock wall on one side or potentially going off a cliff on the other side.

Wouden sees as the ultimate solution adding a divider barrier in the center of the road to separate oncoming traffic in either direction, markedly increasing the safety of driving through the canyon and dramatically reducing the fatalities.

Wouden grew up near a canyon that shares features with Niles Canyon, called Sardine Canyon. This connects Brigham City to Logan in Utah. He would frequently hear of deaths in Sardine Canyon from head-on collisions. In fact, during his senior year of high school, one of his classmates died in a head-on collision in the canyon. Eventually, Utah's Transportation Department added a center divider to separate traffic, which resulted in a sharp decrease in the road's fatality rate.

He believes that Niles Canyon certainly warrants a similar center

divider, as well as widening of the safety shoulders. This would lead directly to the preservation of life by preventing head-on crashes.

Niles Canyon has high injury and fatality rates and has been identified in the Caltrans Monitoring Program for head-on fatal collisions. The rumble strip installation did help, but the accident rate remains much too high. Between the years 2000 and 2014, 390 people were injured and 14 died in 507 crashes in Niles Canyon. Will the next one be someone you know?

As a physician, Wouden has observed the ravages of motor vehicle trauma. A neurosurgeon colleague at Washington Hospital turned into one of the "statistics" for Niles Canyon. He was involved in a major motor vehicle accident there, ending up in the intensive care unit for an extended period of time and eventually succumbing to his injuries.

Other colleagues who drive the roadway to reach Washington Hospital tell Wouden of their daily fear driving through the canyon. Several refuse to drive through the canyon at night for fear of their safety. One of Wouden's partner physicians grew up in Livermore. When he was younger, he used to drive through Niles Canyon frequently. Now, however, he avoids the canyon at all costs.

An ultrasound technologist at Washington Hospital lives in Pleasanton and is an avid biker. She told Wouden that while some of her biking takes her through Niles Canyon, she finds it a frightening proposition due to the narrow character of the road and lack of shoulder space for a biker.

Wouden is asking Caltrans to consider adding a center divider and widening the safety shoulders in Niles Canyon, and he asks that all of us do the same. Send your views to Caltrans at nilescanyon-projects@dot.ca.gov or write Caltrans at Caltrans District 4, Office of Environmental Analysis, Attn. Elizabeth White, 111 Grand Avenue MS 8B, Oakland, CA 94612. The Niles Canyon project website is www.dot.ca.gov/d4/nilescanyon.

Wouden can be contacted at jwouden@post.harvard.edu. ■

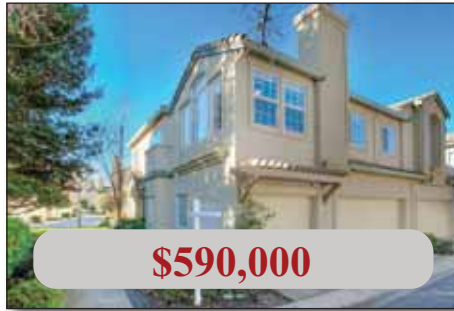
About the Cover

"Dancers," pictured on the cover, is a perfect fit for the Firehouse Arts Center. Made of cortens and brushed steel by artist Greg Hawthorne, the piece was acquired through a fund established by philanthropists Nancy and Gary Harrington, who have contributed extensively to public art in Pleasanton. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XVII, Number 50

Happy New Year!

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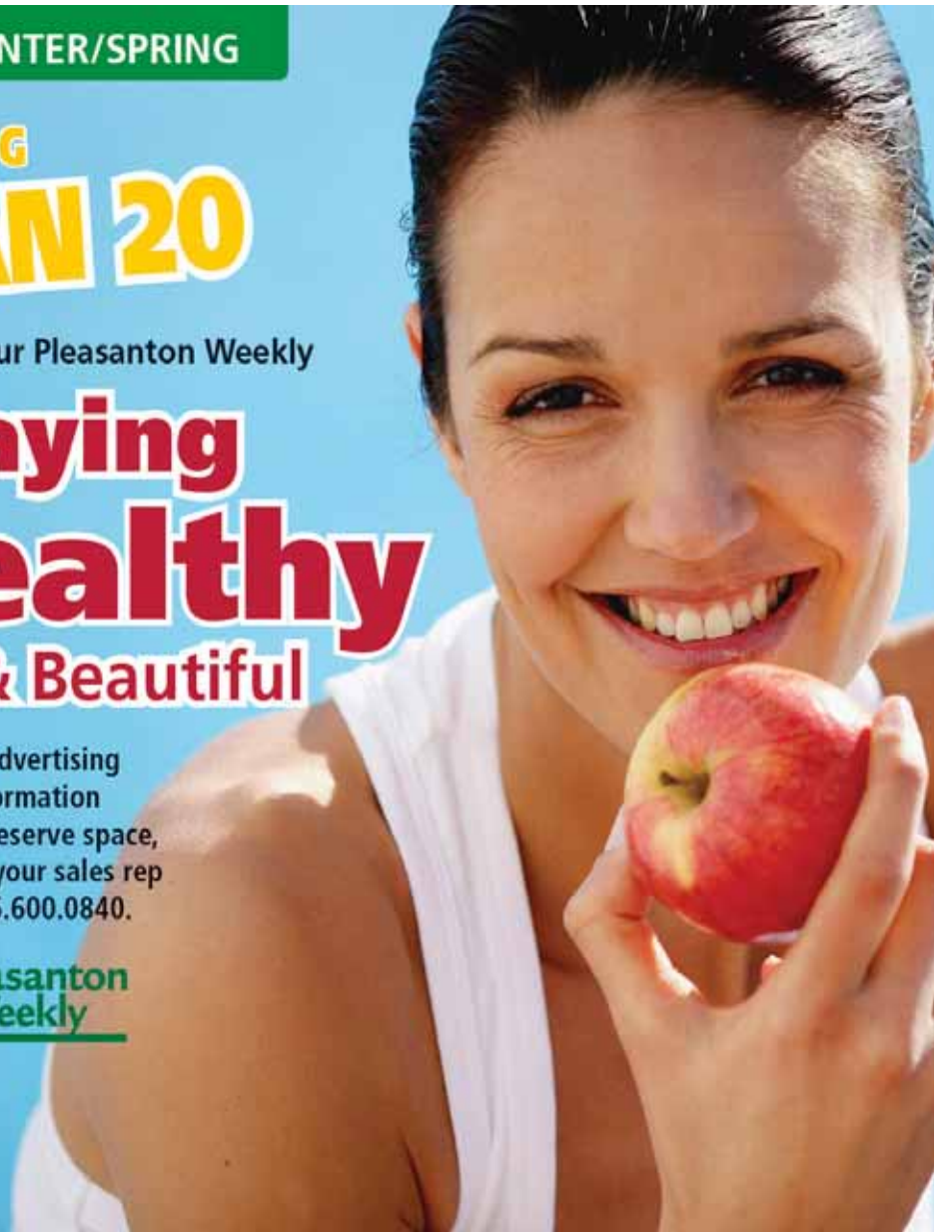
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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What are you looking forward to in the new year?



Rob Campbell

Business owner

I'm looking forward to putting 2016 behind us. It has been a year of horrible news and losses. I'm also looking forward to more business, new beginnings and to following my intention to — and insistence upon — the new year being a great one.



Lee Segal

Sales

I'm looking forward to balancing work and family better. I've really committed myself to it. My daughter has several marching band performances that I plan to attend, even if I have to miss work and lose business in order to be there to watch her.



Carol Weller

Preschool teacher

I'm very much looking forward to getting back into my normal routine, and to seeing my littles at school, who I've missed so much over the break. We are also planning a river cruise, down the Danube later this year, that I'm really excited about.



Simon Karp

Organic farmer

I'm looking forward to participating in a new, farm-to-table program, where I will be supplying organic, grass-fed, humanely killed beef products to several local eating establishments. It is good for everyone, it is ecologically sound and it is self-sustaining.



Beth Gross

Sales

I'm so totally looking forward to breaking each and every one of my new year's resolutions. It's one of the few things I'm naturally very good at. I make several each year, and if I break 80% of them within the first half of January 2017, I'll be a very happy camper.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Yale Alley Cats

The Yale Alley Cats, a men's undergraduate a cappella singing group from Yale University, is playing a show in Dublin tomorrow as part of its winter domestic tour in the Bay Area.

The Cats are set to perform at Dublin Ranch Golf Course & Event Center beginning at 6 p.m. tomorrow. For ticket prices and more information, visit www.yalealleycats.com.

Growing veggies

"Growing vegetables above the soil" will be the theme when the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club holds its monthly meeting next Thursday at 7 p.m. at Alisal Elementary School.

The conversation will focus on growing food in containers, raised beds and planters. Brian Perrin, a 30-year staff member at Alden Lane, will share tips and tricks for success as well as for soil preparation, seasonal vegetable planting and pest management.

Learn Excel 13

The city of Pleasanton is partnering with 14-year finance professional Tony Bridenbaugh to present two Microsoft Excel 13 training sessions next week.

A beginner class is set for Tuesday evening and an intermediate class is set for Thursday, with each running from 6-7 p.m. at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

The classes are drop-in; no advance registration required. For more information, call Merry Luskin at 931-3400, ext. 4. ■

Correction

Due to an error by a Pleasanton Weekly graphic designer, the cover illustration published last Friday, Dec. 30 made improper use, without permission, of an illustration by Barry Blitt that appeared in the Nov. 14 edition of *The New Yorker* magazine.

Thanks to an alert Pleasanton Weekly reader who recognized the illustration, the misuse was promptly removed from our website and *The New Yorker* was notified. The Weekly has apologized and offered to pay an appropriate licensing fee for the improper use. Disciplinary action was also taken against the responsible employee. The Weekly regrets the error.

Court reduces conviction of man's killing of Foothill student to 2nd-degree murder

Freshman Tina Faelz was killed in 1984 on her way home from school

A state appeals court in San Francisco on Tuesday upheld a jury's determination that a 14-year-old Pleasanton girl was murdered in 1984 by a then-16-year-old fellow high school student.

But the Court of Appeal reduced the conviction of Steven Carlson, now 48, from first-degree murder to second-degree murder and ordered a resentencing.

Tina Faelz, a freshman at Foothill High School, was killed with 44 stab wounds when on her way home from school on the afternoon of April 5, 1984. Her body was found in a drainage ditch adjacent to Interstate 680, east of the high school. Carlson lived nearby.

The case was cold for more than two decades, but in 2011, authorities announced that DNA investigations begun in 2007 linked a spot of blood

found on Faelz's purse to Carlson.

Carlson, who then had a criminal record that included convictions for drug crimes and a lewd act on a 13-year-old girl, was arrested and charged with the murder. He was tried as an adult.

An Alameda County Superior Court convicted Carlson of first-degree murder in 2014. He was sentenced to 26 years to life in prison.

Unless Carlson successfully appeals to the California Supreme Court, the case will now go back to Superior Court for resentencing for second-degree murder, which carries a possible term of 15 years to life in prison.



Tina Faelz

In its ruling on Carlson's appeal, a three-judge Court of Appeal panel said the conviction must be reduced to second-degree murder because prosecutors hadn't proved the element of premeditation and deliberate intent needed for a first-degree murder conviction.

The panel said prosecutors' main argument for premeditation was the number of the stab wounds, but noted the California Supreme Court has said that brutality alone is not proof of premeditation.

It quoted a 1968 high court decision that said, "It is well established that the brutality of a killing cannot in itself support a finding that the killer acted with premeditation and deliberation."

Unless there is other evidence of premeditation, a brutal killing "is as consistent with a sudden, random



Steven Carlson

'explosion' of violence as with calculated murder," the high court said in another ruling cited by the appeals court. The panel rejected several other claims in Carlson's appeal, including his argument that the jury should not have been shown portions of a videotaped jailhouse interview of Carlson by two detectives in 2011. Carlson was serving a drug sentence at Santa Cruz County Jail at the time. ■

—Julia Cheever, Bay City News

CHP Dublin names new commander

20-year veteran Capt. Sherry takes helm

The California Highway Patrol Dublin-area office, which covers Pleasanton and other Tri-Valley communities, has announced Capt. Christopher Sherry as its new commander.

Sherry, a 20-year veteran of the CHP, succeeds Capt. Linda Franklin. Prior to leading the Dublin area office, Sherry served as commander of the CHP's San Francisco and Castro Valley area offices. He has also worked in the Hayward, Redwood City, San Jose and Contra Costa CHP offices.



Capt. Christopher Sherry

"The Tri-Valley is a great place to live, work and play," Sherry said in a statement. "As a resident, it is my honor to serve here ... I look forward to getting out in the community and meeting the people of Dublin and the surrounding communities."

Over his career, Sherry has served numerous roles, including as a field training officer, emergency medical technician and department instructor.

Sherry has a bachelor's degree in political science and a paralegal certificate from California State University, Chico. He is married with two children.

The Dublin area office covers 57 miles of freeway on Interstates 580 and 680, and 275 miles of unincorporated roadways throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. ■

—Julia Reis



JEB BING

Holiday Fund runs through Jan. 15

This banner hanging under the Pleasanton Arch over the holiday week serves as a reminder that the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will close Jan. 15. To date, 293 donors have contributed \$62,371 toward the annual fund that this year will benefit 10 nonprofits in the Tri-Valley. See pages 10-11 for information on how to contribute before the deadline.

PUSD adult/career education spring semester starts Jan. 17

New offerings on horizon for 2017

By JULIA REIS

With the new year underway, many people are setting goals for self-improvement, striving to hit the gym a little more or stress less in 2017.

For those Pleasanton residents looking to better their lives through knowledge, the school district's Adult and Career Education Department is offering specialized computer classes

and English as a second language (ESL) courses beginning Jan. 17.

The expanded offerings this spring semester were prompted by high demand educators encountered when adult education classes resumed in Pleasanton last spring. After cutting the Adult and Career Education Department in the 2007-08 school year, the district brought it back last school

year when the state restored funding for such programs.

The department's initial offerings consisted of two ESL classes, according to assistant director Beth Cutter. In the fall, they added four more ESL classes and computer classes, serving approximately 250 adults overall.

"It puts us with numbers that are very similar to Livermore and Dublin (school districts), which had programs maintained while ours was gone," Cutter said. "To come back and right away have a program similar in

See PUSD on Page 6

Despite storms, Sierra Nevada snowpack still less than average

Snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountain range is less than average for this time of year, however recent storms suggest an increase by late January, the Department of Water Resources announced Tuesday.

Water officials said experts surveying the snowpack took manual measurements early Tuesday morning at the Phillips Station at 6,000 feet near Lake Tahoe and

found that water content measured around 53% of normal.

Despite a dismal beginning, the series of storms forecasted is expected to bolster the snowpack, according to a spokesman for the California Cooperative Snow Surveys program.

"I can see us being potentially at average once that series of storms movies through," program chief Frank Gehrke said in a statement.

According to water officials,

about two-thirds California's annual rainfall occurs between December and March.

Total precipitation has been above average, but warm temperatures during storms have kept precipitation as rain instead of snow.

State climatologist Mike Anderson said in a statement, "We still have three historically wet months ahead of us so there's still time for the snowpack to build and improve before it

begins to melt, which usually starts to happen around April 1."

Water officials said on average, the snowpack supplies about 30% of California's water needs as it melts.

California has experienced five consecutive years of drought, with Gov. Jerry Brown declaring a drought state of emergency on Jan. 17, 2014, according to water officials.

"Precipitation and storage are doing quite well compared to the

past five years of historic drought conditions and that makes us cautiously optimistic about water conditions, although some areas in California are still hit hard by the drought and require a response," acting DWR director Bill Coryle said in a statement.

Californians can learn ways to save water every day by visiting www.SaveOurWater.com. ■

—Bay City News Service

PUSD

Continued from Page 5

size to our neighbors — and that's with minimal offerings — helped us feel confident there is a demand for what we're going to be providing."

There will be eight ESL classes in Pleasanton this coming semester, including a new advanced intermediate class, with courses being offered at various levels, times and meeting locations. All ESL classes are free and begin the week of Jan. 17.

New and returning students can only register for an ESL course after completing a required reading and listening placement test. The one-hour test is being offered at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Valley View Elementary School library and at 9:30 a.m. next Friday in the Abbie computer lab, 4750 First St. Test-takers

should arrive five minutes in advance.

Adults interested in acquiring new computer skills can register now for classes that begin Jan. 17 and 24.

On Jan. 17, the first keyboarding and basic computer skills class of the semester will begin, convening from 5:30-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday for four weeks. The \$20 course will begin anew on Feb. 21 and April 11.

Two Microsoft Office classes — one covering Word 2013, the other Excel 2013 — will meet weekly from Jan. 24 to May 16, with no class April 4. The courses, which each cost \$125, cover key basic skills up to the advanced to prepare students to take the Microsoft Office specialist exam.

All computer classes are being held at 4750 First St.

Adults can also sign up for the high school equivalency test

(HiSET), with test sessions scheduled every month by the Pleasanton Adult and Career Education Department. Students will receive free test preparation from a credentialed teacher based on their needs.

Like the general education development test (GED), HiSET is accepted by colleges and employers nationwide, Cutter said.

Looking ahead in 2017, Cutter said the department is working to improve offerings for adults with disabilities and their families, as well as introduce fee-based enrichment classes in subjects like embroidery and conversational Spanish.

"We're trying to bring good things back and new things the community hasn't had before," she said.

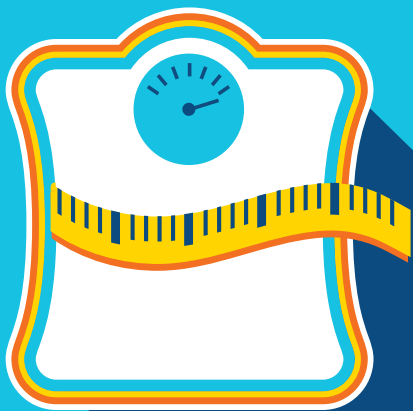
For complete information on upcoming classes or to register, visit <http://adulthoodeducation.pleasantonusd.net/>. ■

TAKE US ALONG



One century and counting: Pleasanton residents Logan and Emma Seitz helped their great-grandma Mable Brady celebrate her 100th birthday with the Pleasanton Weekly during Thanksgiving in Chicago.

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



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Glazer named chair of Governmental Organization Committee

State senator also appointed to four other committees

By JEREMY WALSH

Local State Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) has been nominated to chair the Governmental Organization Committee more than a month after being re-elected to the State Senate.

The committee, which Glazer served on in the 2015-16 session, oversees public records, open meetings laws, alcohol and tobacco sales, gambling, outdoor advertising and emergency services/natural disasters, among other responsibilities.

"This is an important area that

the state oversees, and I look forward to providing fairness, balance and thoughtful oversight in an open and transparent process," said Glazer, whose district includes Pleasanton.

The state senator was also assigned to the committees on Budget & Fiscal Review, Human Services, Insurance and Business, Professions & Economic Development. As part of his Budget Committee service, Glazer will continue to sit on the Subcommittee on State Administration and General Government.

Glazer's nomination as Governmental Organization Committee chair by Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon was set to be reviewed by the Senate Rules Committee when the legislature reconvenes this week for the 2017-18 legislative session, according to Glazer's office.

The Orinda Democrat was easily re-elected to his first full four-year term during the Nov. 8 election, essentially doubling up Republican challenger Joseph A. Rubay at the

polls — 66.7% to 33.3%. Glazer was first elected to the State Senate in May 2015 in a special runoff election to fill an unexpired term left vacant when Mark DeSaulnier resigned after being voted into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In addition to Pleasanton, Glazer's 7th State Senate District includes Livermore and Sunol at the south end, Brentwood, Antioch, Pittsburg and Concord to the north, Orinda, Lafayette and Walnut Creek to the west and the San Ramon Valley. ■



COURTESY OF GLAZER'S OFFICE
State Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda), whose district includes Pleasanton.

Bay Area freeway patrol joins Waze Connected citizens program

2-way data sharing designed to ease congestion

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has entered into a data-sharing partnership between its Service Authority for Freeways (SAFE) unit and Waze, the free, real-time crowd-sourced navigation app, in which MTC-SAFE's Bay Area Freeway Service Patrol and Waze each will share information to provide the public with better traffic and roadway information.

Under this agreement, Waze will share with the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) the free, anonymous traffic and incident report data from Waze users (called Wazers). This real-time information will be used to help FSP tow

drivers detect incidents.

Waze, in turn, will receive the FSP's highway incident information — including crashes and stalls — to share with its users. Together, both will have more data and be better able to provide timely assistance to Bay Area drivers.

"We're happy to help Waze users gain a deeper understanding of real-time conditions," said MTC Chair Dave Cortese, who also serves as president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. "FSP incident reports can help more drivers in more places know why congestion has occurred."

The new partnership makes

MTC-SAFE the latest of more than 100 public agencies around the world to participate in the Waze Connected Citizens Program, which is designed to promote roadway safety and more efficient travel through the two-way exchange of publicly available traffic information.

The Waze map evolves with every driver and data point it receives, promoting safer roads and sharing more knowledge with Wazers about potential delays. The Connected Citizens Program yields even more data, giving Bay Area travelers a greater ability to circumvent road closures and traffic jams within the app.

County court cuts clerks' hours due to budget deficit

Offices open at 8:30 a.m. as usual, but now shutter two hours earlier at 2:30 p.m.

Alameda County Superior Court clerks' office hours were reduced starting Tuesday as a result of a sizable budget deficit.

Court officials made the announcement about the reduced hours in November, citing a budget deficit of more than \$5 million to start fiscal year 2016-17.

To save money, clerks' offices at all county courthouses are now open

at the same 8:30 a.m. time but are closing two hours earlier, at 2:30 p.m. instead of 4:30 p.m., on Mondays through Fridays.

Traffic clerk offices, which had been open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, are instead also closing at 2:30 p.m.

Telephone hours in all clerks' offices will be reduced to 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with the exception of

traffic clerks and the jury services office, which will remain open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Alameda County court officials have made other cost-cutting moves recently, including eliminating a number of vacant staff positions and eliminating the use of overtime or comp time for staff except in "very narrow" instances, court officials said.

Court officials said while the state's economy has improved in recent years, certain courts like Alameda County's have been deemed to be "donor" courts and portions of their ongoing funding are being diverted to other counties whose courts have been deemed to be more under-resourced. ■

—Dan McMnamin, Bay City News



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lush harmonies

The Sweet Remains headed by three gifted and charismatic singer-songwriters, Brian Chartrand, Greg Naughton and Rich Price, will perform contemporary soulful folk at 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Firehouse Arts Center. The band's songs and approach hearken back to the tuneful music of the '60s and '70s like The Eagles and Simon & Garfunkel. Tickets are \$22-\$32. Go to www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848 or purchase at the theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

"Waze is only as strong as the information it receives from its users and partners," said Paige Fitzgerald, head of new business development-data acquisition at Waze. "No one knows more about what is happening on the roads than Wazers, and MTC will be able to use these anonymous insights to

further promote safer roads."

In exchange, MTC is providing critical incident data to Waze, helping Wazers better circumvent major traffic events and real-time traffic blocks.

To find out more about Connected Citizens, visit www.waze.com/ccp. ■

—Jeb Bing

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Woman awaiting possible charges for fatal crash sentenced in other DUI case

Yarenit Liliana Malihan, the Pleasanton resident arrested on suspicion of felony DUI and gross vehicular manslaughter following a crash on Interstate 680 in San Ramon that killed a 3-year-old boy, has not yet been formally charged nearly four months later with investigators still awaiting a coroner's report.

Meanwhile, Malihan last month reached a plea agreement in an unrelated misdemeanor DUI case stemming from a June incident in her hometown in which she reportedly drove while intoxicated with her daughter in the car.

She was sentenced in Alameda County Superior Court to three

years probation, with 106 days credit for time served in jail, after pleading no contest to misdemeanor DUI and child cruelty.

Malihan, who is married to an Alameda County Sheriff's deputy, remains out of jail custody as the investigation into the fatal September crash is ongoing.

California Highway Patrol public information officer Derek Reed said the CHP investigation is not complete because it is waiting on a report from the coroner.

"Our report has not been filed with the DA yet because of that reason," Reed said. "As soon as we receive that, we can move forward."

Reed added that he did not know when that report would be sent to them. The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, which oversees the county's coroner's office, had not returned a request for comment as of Tuesday afternoon.

The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office would consider

whether to file charges once it receives the investigative report from the CHP.

Malihan's attorney, Kim Burgess, had not returned multiple requests for comment as of Tuesday afternoon.

According to the initial crash report from the CHP, Malihan's Toyota Sequoia slammed into the back of a black Toyota Camry parked on the shoulder of northbound I-680 near Bollinger Canyon Road, killing toddler Elijah Dunn on Sept. 9. The 3-year-old's mother also suffered major injuries in the crash, and his brother and sister sustained minor injuries.

Malihan was treated for minor injuries and then arrested by CHP officers and booked into jail following a drug recognition test. She was released on bail the next day.

The CHP said at the time that Malihan had a valid driver's license and no prior DUI convictions.

While Malihan awaits word on possible charges stemming from the September crash, court records indicate she has resolved the separate misdemeanor DUI case in Alameda County.

On June 7, 2016, Pleasanton police met with Malihan at her home after receiving a report of a family disturbance, according to Alameda County prosecutors.

Upon contact, an officer observed that Malihan had slurred speech, red and watery eyes and smelled like alcohol. Malihan reportedly admitted to police that she had driven her car and picked her 10-year-old daughter up from a friend's house roughly 30 minutes before they arrived. She also admitted to drinking and consuming Norco, a pain reliever, earlier that day, according to prosecutors.

Malihan was arrested, received a blood test and was booked into Santa Rita Jail where she spent two days in custody. Her test later came

back with a blood alcohol content of 0.13%, authorities said.

Prosecutors filed misdemeanor charges of DUI and child endangerment against Malihan in late July. Following the fatal September crash, a judge granted the prosecution's request that bail newly be set at \$250,000 and Malihan was subsequently taken into custody.

Court records show that on Dec. 8 at the Fremont Hall of Justice, Malihan pleaded no contest to one count of driving while having a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or higher and one count of child cruelty.

Judge Jacob Blea sentenced Malihan to three years' probation with 106 days of that probationary period spent in Santa Rita Jail.

Malihan was credited with serving 106 days in jail, with 53 days of actual time in jail and 53 days of behavioral credit, according to court documents. She was also required to pay roughly \$2,200 in fines and ordered to take online parenting classes.

As part of her sentence, Malihan will have to obey all laws and report to the court when ordered to do so. She cannot drive unless licensed and insured, and not with any measurable alcohol in her system.

In other police news

• A 25-year-old Livermore man was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon early Tuesday morning after police allege he hit a Pleasanton man on the head with a baseball bat.

Just after 4 a.m., Pleasanton police were dispatched to the 1000 block of Riesling Drive, where they found a 22-year-old man who reported an acquaintance had just come to his home with a baseball bat, according to Sgt. Chris Niederhaus.

The injured man told police that Gabriel Ponce of Livermore struck the front door of his home

repeatedly, and then an altercation ensued after he confronted Ponce, according to Niederhaus.

Police allege that during the altercation, Ponce struck the acquaintance in the head with a baseball bat and then fled the scene in a car.

While the victim was taken to the hospital for a non-life-threatening head injury, officers spotted Ponce's car being driven on Stanley Boulevard. A traffic stop was made and Ponce yielded, Niederhaus said. He was subsequently arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and booked into Santa Rita Jail.

• Pleasanton police are investigating an assault downtown in which a woman reported being grabbed from behind by an unknown man last week.

Shortly after midnight last Friday, police received a 911 call about the assault from a woman on the 300 block of Main St., Lt. Kurt Schlehuber said in a statement.

Officers arrived on scene and met with the caller, a 43-year-old Pleasanton resident. She told police she was walking home on Main Street from a local restaurant when she saw a car drive past her, make a U-turn and park along West Angela Street, according to Schlehuber.

The victim heard the vehicle door open and the driver get out, and she was suddenly grabbed from behind in a bear hug, Schlehuber said.

The woman was able to break free and pulled out her phone to call 911. The attacker got back into his car as he saw the woman on the phone.

The attacker is described as a Hispanic man 35 to 40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall weighing 200 to 230 pounds with a muscular build. He has short brown or black hair and did not have any facial hair, but his face was described as "long." ■

—Julia Reis

Rick Taylor

January 30, 1952 – January 9, 2007

My Sweetheart,
I miss you sooo much. I love you sooo much. Until we meet again, you will live in my heart forever.

Your wife, Mary.



Billy Martin

May 18, 1954 – Dec. 23, 2016

Billy Martin, 62, of Oakland, CA, passed away on December 23, 2016 with his family at his side.

Billy was born May 18, 1954 in Fort Hood, Texas son of Floyd and Mitsue Martin. He graduated from Clovis High School and continued on to graduate from California State University, Fresno. He taught surveying and engineering at UCSF, Stanford, and several other Bay Area State Universities; was a Partner at BKF for 20 years; and most recently started Pacific Land Surveys and worked with RSE Engineering.

Billy's passions were his family, golfing, basketball, traveling, and practical jokes. He coached boy's basketball for 17 years including coaching for CYA, Amador Valley High School, and Berkeley High School. He and his family loved to travel together, most recently in South America visiting the Galapagos Islands, Peru, and Bolivia. His life was interrupted too soon, but while on earth he embraced opportunities, and had a great curiosity and willingness to try new experiences. His smile and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

Those that will miss Billy the most include his wife, Megan Martin, his two sons Samuel Martin and Colin Martin, his mother, Mitsue Martin, his brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Laraine Martin, sister, Mary Cerniglia, sister-in-laws and their husbands, Lisa Schoof and Pete Sklar and Casey and Doug Rosenberg and many other friends and family members.

Billy is united in death with his father Floyd Martin Jr. Services to celebrate Billy's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. January 15, 2017 at Piedmont Community Hall, 711 Highland Ave., Piedmont, CA.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to the US National Park Service.



PAID OBITUARY

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 31

Alcohol violation

■ 12:57 a.m. in the 700 block of Rose Avenue

Theft

■ 9:28 a.m., 4800 block of Muirwood Drive; theft from auto

■ 10:14 a.m. in the 5900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Vandalism

■ 10:26 a.m. in the 200 block of Ray Street

■ 12:01 p.m. in the 2500 block of Glen Isle Avenue

■ 5:04 p.m. in the 3900 block of Petrified Forest Court

Drug violation

■ 3:46 p.m. at Inglewood Drive and Hopyard Road

Robbery

■ 10:09 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 30

Drug violation

■ 3:09 a.m. at Stonehurst Court and Pleasant Hill Road

■ 3:42 a.m. at Owens Drive and Bart Station

Vandalism

■ 9:10 a.m. at St. Mary Street and Pleasanton Avenue; graffiti

■ 2:44 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

■ 7:54 p.m. in the 4100 block of First Street

Theft

■ 11:09 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 4:46 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

■ 10:06 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Shoplifting

■ 12:22 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 4:26 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 7:15 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Embezzlement

■ 7:43 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

■ 8:42 p.m. at Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road

Dec. 29

Domestic battery

■ 2:10 a.m. at Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

Shoplifting

■ 1:45 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 4:14 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 5:52 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

■ 6:55 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Fraud

■ 2:31 p.m. in the 4500 block of Mohr Avenue

Dec. 28

DUI

■ 4:50 a.m. Street information not disclosed.

Residential burglary

■ 1:11 p.m. in the 600 block of Blossom Court

Theft from auto

■ 2:26 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Fraud

■ 3:51 p.m. in the 1500 block of Rose Lane

Dec. 27

DUI

■ 2:43 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Hats off to citizen (turned) journalist

Local news coverage is imperative to the health of a community.

The business model started changing in the 1990s, though, quickly creating a vacuum in many areas. When the number of journalists locally and nationally was dwindling, San Ramon resident Rosalind “Roz” Rogoff saw this dearth of local news coverage and did something many couldn’t — or wouldn’t.

In January 2002, “political differences” with the San Ramon City Council prompted Roz to start her own online news site, the San Ramon Observer.

Roz became a fixture at San Ramon City Council meetings, always in the front row and always wearing her hat, which became her trademark. She was not a trained journalist, just a citizen who cared about keeping her neighbors informed and the elected officials accountable.

Over the next seven years, Roz grew the San Ramon Observer’s fan base and email list by providing accurate, balanced coverage of the City Council and other San Ramon issues, saving her opinions, appropriately, for the commentary page.

In 2009, Roz approached us with a proposal. She wanted the Observer to continue because it was providing an important service to the community, but she had spent seven years covering meetings, reporting, updating the site and sending



Rosalind “Roz” Rogoff

emails, which is a lot of work without compensation.

We recognized the importance of Roz’s contributions to the community and that she had built a credible site that people trusted. We also appreciated her connection to the community and ability to respectfully take swipes at elected officials and others, so we asked her to continue to write her commentaries on the Embarcadero Media site under the legacy name “San Ramon Observer.”

Over the next six years, Roz continued to take jabs at the San Ramon City Council, and those jabs continued to hit the mark. With the new blog also appearing on the Pleasanton Weekly website, she took advantage of her ability to reach readers outside San Ramon and started voicing views on regional, state and national issues. She was very excited about Election 2016 and wrote often about local and national candidates.

Roz also has a knack for, and perhaps a love of, sparring with commenters, and frequently engages with them, calling them out when necessary — but always respectfully.

Roz is officially “hanging up her hat,” with her final blog posted in December.

The number of journalists continues to dwindle and we need citizens to step up and help. While creating a news site and covering meetings as Roz did is beyond the call of duty, actively engaging with your local newspaper is encouraged.

Our hats off to citizen (turned) journalist Roz Rogoff for her years of dedicated service. ■

LETTERS

Pleasanton taxpayers deserve transparency on Rubino leave

Dear Editor,

In reading Julia Reis’ article, “Pleasanton schools superintendent Rubino placed on administrative leave” in your Dec. 23, 2016 edition, I was struck by two troubling points.

First, if the undisclosed “personnel matter” was serious enough to warrant Mr. Rubino being placed on administrative leave and to require the district to hire an investigator, why is he being paid while on administrative leave?

Secondly, as taxpayers — and therefore Mr. Rubino’s employers — do we not have the right to transparency with regard to this

matter? Why is Mr. Rubino being placed on leave (paid or otherwise) in the first place?

Absent the facts, taxpayers are left to speculate on the truth of the matter.

It’s troubling that the PUSD chooses to continue to pay Mr. Rubino and not disclose the reasons for its actions in this matter.

In the private sector, any publicly traded company would be obliged to disclose the exact details of any similar situation involving a senior executive.

I think the taxpayers of Pleasanton deserve similar transparency.

—Harry W. Edwards

THE CITY OF
PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission
Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

Parks and Recreation Commission and Youth Commission Meetings

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

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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.

2016-2017 Holiday Fund Donors

So far in the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign, 293 donors have contributed \$62,371 to the fund. This list includes donations received and reported on or before Dec. 30.

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Art in Pleasanton

Harringtons walk readers through 11 special works

BY JEB BING

Retired educators and philanthropists Nancy and Gary Harrington, who have contributed extensively to public art in Pleasanton, frequently lead public walks through the downtown area to see and talk about the many art works that have been donated to the community.

These range from the sculptures at the public library to the “Sing a Song of Sixpence” in Centennial Park.

The Harringtons’ tour includes artwork outside the public library and Senior Center, in front of the Veterans Memorial Building and both inside and outside the Firehouse Arts Center, which includes the Harrington Art Gallery, and their donations and conceptual plans for the Veterans Memorial recently dedicated at the city’s Pioneer Cemetery.

Much of the art is donated by the Harringtons through

matching gifts in their “Another Harrington Art Partnership Project,” which uses the acronym H.A.P.P.Y.

“Yak” (pictured) is a bronze sculpture created by Joseph Anthony McDonnell in 1967 and installed in Centennial Park in 1981. Privately funded by the Taubman Company, the piece was commissioned for Sun Valley Mall, which decided not to use it and sent it to Taubman’s new Stoneridge Shopping Center, then under construction.

However, Stoneridge had no place to store it and offered it to the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council. “Yak” ended up being stored for 10 years until the Senior Center was built. Then it was placed in nearby Centennial Park in its strategic location.

The Harringtons said McDonnell sculpted two casts of “Yak,” both cast in Italy and with the second one going to Woodfield Mall in Grand Rapids, Mich.

“Wind Song” (pictured) is a commissioned sculpture located off Sunol Boulevard near the Senior Center. Made of sealed and painted polychrome on a half-inch of plated steel, this is the second piece by Greg Hawthorne acquired in 2012 through the Harrington Art Partnership in Pleasanton.

The Hawthorne Gallery in Big Sur offers a varied kaleidoscope of creations that reflect the artist’s moving, changing sensations that are an expression of his observations of people, current events and personal interests.

“We discovered this piece when we took a field trip with three city personnel to view several art pieces in the Big Sur area,” Nancy Harrington said. “His home is like a huge art sculpture with separate buildings for different parts of the house.”

“Wind Song’ caught our eyes and we’re pleased the city approved this piece,” she added. “It represents a sail surfer so the grass represents the sea. It is very different from other sculptures we’ve brought to the city. It has a little Picasso look about it.”

“Special Friends” (pictured) is another Harrington Art Partnership piece. This life-size bronze sculpture of a boy holding his “friend” the frog is leaning against a tree near a crosswalk on Main Street adjacent to Civic Park.

Created by artist Carol Dunford-Jackman in 2011, she drew from her experience as a mother to achieve greater emotion in her work.

A native of Provo, Utah, she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in fine art at Brigham Young University. After raising five children, she returned to BYU to study sculpture, finding that sculpture is her true love.

The Harringtons found this piece in Palm Desert at CODA Gallery. It’s installed outside on Main Street where its only fault is that traffic often slows to look at the sculpture, “which is a good thing,” Gary Harrington said.

“Vision Cubed” (pictured on Page 14) sits at the entrance to the Pleasanton City Hall at 123 Main St. It was created and donated by the Pleasanton Leadership Academy Class of 2008-09, which is sponsored by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the city of Pleasanton.

This bus station mural at Old Bernal Avenue near the library (also pictured on Page 14) is one of several located in Pleasanton. It was a collaboration between the city of Pleasanton, Livermore-Amador Valley Transportation Authority (Wheels) and the Pleasanton school district.

Painted by Caroline Field’s art classes at Foothill High



“Yak” by Joseph Anthony McDonnell.



“Wind Song” by Greg Hawthorne.



“Special Friends” by artist Carol Dunford-Jackman.

See **ART IN PLEASANTON** on Page 14



“Dancing Girls,” painted by Sharon Costello.



“Joyful Play” by Dominic Benhura.



“Rock, Paper, Scissors” by Kevin Box.

ART IN PLEASANTON

Continued from Page 12

School, the artists were Chris Gomez, James Kim and Angie Son. Contributors to the design and painting were Caroline Kim, Nari Kim and Shay Narzekalski.

Additional assistance was provided by Amanda Frank, Jessica Huang, Alicia Jun, Dana Kim, Eric Kim, Stephanie Lowe, Will Lowenhardt, Pinhwa Su, Mina Shin, Chaitali Wagh, Stephanie Wu and Paayal Zaveri. It was dedicated on May 19, 2010.

"Dancing Girls" (pictured on Page 13), was painted in 2010 by Sharon Costello. This well-known artwork is located on the back wall of the outdoors eating area in Gay 90's, a restaurant that occupies a building on Main Street built in 1864. The mural's faces of the dancing girls are taken from the women working at Gay 90's, including the owner's wife.

The mural also represents the prostitutes who worked upstairs in the building as part of Pleasanton's past. The cat is a stray who used to stay around the building looking for scraps of food. The stagecoach represents the Wells Fargo stagecoach which had its only stop in Pleasanton at this building. The driver of the stagecoach represents the ghosts of the building including the upstairs brothel's madam.

"Joyful Play" (pictured on Page 13), installed in front of Chase Bank on Main Street, was carved in Zimbabwe from Serpentine stone by Dominic Benhura. It was privately funded through the Harrington's H.A.P.P.Y. co-op by John and Jane Loll and represents their children Maggie, Henry and Oliver at play.

Benhura sculpted these children from watching his own daughters play. Their faces are blank, but their body language suggests their youth and the simple joy of children.

"Rock, Paper, Scissors" (pictured on Page 13), is a bronze sculpture at the St. John Street side of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, located at 777 Peters Ave. Created by Kevin Box of Santa Fe, N.M., it was installed in 2014. The Harringtons discovered the work at the annual Sculpture Festival in Loveland, Colo.

However, this piece has been quite controversial. Initially the PASS committee (a subcommittee of the Civic Arts Commission) turned it down, citing safety issues because of the scissors. However, the Arts Commission overruled PASS and the Harringtons bought it, storing it for 16 months until the chamber site was selected.

"Comet" (pictured) is a sculpture of bronze and silver on pink granite located next to the rear entrance of the Firehouse.

Privately funded through another H.A.P.P.Y. effort in partnership with Leadership Class of 2012, this work by Max DeMoss plays with the muse of fragmentation of pieces in both bronze and inlaid silver, creating a line which the viewer's eye follows. DeMoss works daily in his own foundry where he lives near rural Hemet.

"It caught our eye because of the turquoise center of the platter and the fiery molten flame shooting off to the right," Nancy Harrington said. "It looks like a comet."

"Spiral Motion" (pictured), at the Firehouse Arts Center, is made of Patina rolled steel by Jon Seeman, who built his first welded steel sculpture at the age of 16. His artistic talent was encouraged by his father, an engineer, and his brother, who is also an artist.

Privately funded through H.A.P.P.Y. and the Loll family, it was installed in 2011. The Harringtons first saw this piece at the Laguna Beach Arts Festival.

Also, "Firehouse Blue/Firehouse Red," the two marquees

at the Firehouse Arts Center, were commissioned by world-renowned glass artist Martin Donlon for its opening in September 2010. Nancy and Gary Harrington donated what became a dramatic feature of the new Arts Center. The contemporary architectural glass rises 22 feet in the front and 30 feet in the back.

Donlon came to Pleasanton three times, once before the construction began to get a feel for the downtown area and the area where the Firehouse Arts Center would be constructed and the marquees would be located; once to share his models of the marquees so they could choose from the selection,

and finally at the grand opening of the Firehouse.

The front marquee is done in warm colors for fire and the firehouse while the back marquee is done in cool colors for the park.

In addition to these art works, the city of Pleasanton has produced a public art brochure that shows locations, names and artists.

The Harringtons also are working on a public art book of all the public art in Pleasanton, including information about the artists and stories. The Museum on Main will handle the publishing and it will be offered at a nominal cost when published, which should be in the next few months. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nancy and Gary Harrington.



Bus station mural on Old Bernal Avenue by Foothill High School student artists.



"Spiral Motion" by Jon Seeman.



"Vision Cubed," donated by Pleasanton Leadership Academy Class of 2008-2009.



"Comet" by Max DeMoss.



Starting 2017 right

Cheers to a new year and fulfilling your goals



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

So the new year is here: What are you going to do with it?

Many people approach each January making resolutions, intending to improve their lives, their health, their social situations, their looks. The best time to do this is while still basking in the glow of a happy holiday season and an outpouring of love and goodwill of the season from family and friends.

Perhaps the hardest part of setting these goals is exploring within yourself what you really want to achieve during the next year. Are you happy with the status quo except for about 10 pounds? Do you need to step up your game by doing something or aiming toward something specific — a new job or relationship?



Forty-five percent of Americans always make resolutions, and 17% infrequently do, according to www.statisticbrain.com.

Only 8% of Americans are successful in achieving their resolutions — a challenge to all of us. Some 75% maintain resolutions through the first week; 71% past two weeks; 64% past one month; 46% past six months. And 24% never succeed on their resolutions and fail each year.

However, those who explicitly make resolutions are 10 times more likely to attain their goals than people who don't.

Age seems to matter — 39% of people in their 20s achieve their resolutions each year, while it goes down to 14% for people older than 50.

The top 10 resolutions are:

1. Lose weight

2. Get organized

3. Spend less, save more

4. Enjoy life to the fullest

5. Stay fit and healthy

6. Learn something exciting

7. Quit smoking

8. Help others in their dreams

9. Fall in love

10. Spend more time with family

Even though New Year's resolutions are a time-honored tradition, you've gotta love the 38% who absolutely never make them. Do they think they are already perfect? Are they afraid of failure? Or do they dismiss the practice as one more holiday gimmick?

Perhaps they have perfected the art of living in the moment. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." ■

After Glow

5 resolutions to keep your eyes healthy in 2017

Use a balanced approach in preventative care

The new year is the perfect opportunity for reflection, renewal and the chance to start fresh. Consider making lifestyle changes that can improve your vision and health throughout the year.

Here are five ways that you can help keep your eyes and body healthy in 2017.

1. Get an eye exam. An annual trip to the eye doctor is critical for the entire family to ensure healthy and sharp vision. But did you know your visit to the optometrist is important to your overall health too?

A routine eye exam can potentially detect signs of chronic diseases like diabetes, high cholesterol and more. Because many symptoms of health conditions often don't appear until damage has occurred, eye exams are a powerful, preventative health tool to keep tabs on what's happening in your body.

An eye exam is a small investment for your eyes and body that's well worth it, and a vision plan can help you keep the cost down. To search for a vision plan, visit vspdirect.com.

2. Eat an eye-healthy diet. You probably know carrots are good for your eyes, but so are dark leafy greens such as spinach, kale and collard greens. Eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables for a hefty punch of key vitamins, and a vision protecting-substance called lutein.

3. Quit smoking (or never start). Smoking cigarettes has many well-known associated health risks, such as cardiovascular problems and cancer.

Did you also know that smoking can contribute to the cause of many vision

See **RESOLUTIONS** on Page 17



Planning your meals ahead of time can help you incorporate healthier food options into your diet.

GETTY IMAGES

5 ways to create healthy days

Small steps can make for a fresh start this year

Ring in the new year with a resolution that you can stick with.

Contrary to popular belief, overall health is more than just being free of disease or chronic illness. There are small, everyday steps everyone can make for a fresh, healthy start this year, such as these five easy tips.

Incorporate 30 minutes of exercise

Some 49% of Americans say they exercise to improve their overall health, according to a recent Aetna Foundation survey. To beat the rush, head to the gym early in the morning.

Although it can be difficult to visit your local gym or recreational center before sunrise, getting at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day can not only start your day off strong but also help you feel more energized and aid you in maintaining a healthy weight.

Other ways to get daily exercise include taking part in sports, riding your bike on a path close to home or walking in your neighborhood park.

Drink more water and plan meals

It's easy to splurge on food and drink during the holiday season, but the new year is a good time to swap your candy canes and pumpkin pie for fruits, veggies and water. Planning your meals ahead of time can help you incorporate healthier food options into your diet.

Drinking water throughout the day instead of sugary sodas and juices helps your body regulate temperature, lubricates and cushions joints, protects the spinal cord and sensitive tissues, and helps prevent weight gain.

Step away from small breaks

Your overall health also includes your emotional health and well-being. More than eight out of 10 Americans surveyed said their mood and stress level has an equal impact on

their health as the food they consume.

Life can get busy and overwhelming as you jump back into a post-holiday routine, but simple acts like taking a few deep breaths, standing and stretching or taking a walk can help calm the mind and relieve stress.

Put your smartphone and body on sleep mode

The amount of sleep you get can have a direct impact on your mood and health. In all, 64% of respondents said they need at least eight hours of sleep to have a healthy day.

Add reading a few new books to your yearly goals to help you unplug from electronics an hour or more before going to bed, and ensure you're getting the rest you need.

Get involved

More than nine out of 10 Americans said they are willing to take action to create a healthier environment, according to the survey. Using a strong support system of friends and family, you can help each other ensure 2017 is a healthy year. Organize ways to stick with your resolutions as a group, such as scheduling a weekly walk, planning a neighborhood recycling contest, registering for a fitness event or signing up to volunteer. More than what happens in the doctor's office impacts your health. Incorporating these small changes can help you achieve your goals and lead to a healthier and happier 2017.

Respondents to an Aetna Foundation survey said local aspects have a large effect on their health, which bodes well for residents of Pleasanton. Factors such as access to fresh foods, neighborhood walkability and public safety, to name a few, can help cultivate more healthy days. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also acknowledges that a person's ZIP code is a good indicator of an individual's health and longevity. ■

—Family Features



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After Glow

❄️ Tips to refresh your look in the new year

Evaluate what needs to be repaired or updated

Want to update and improve yourself for the new year? A few top-to-bottom tweaks can help you look and feel your best.

Update staples

Staples and basics don't need to change with the seasons, however it's important to update these elements when they're worn out, no longer fit or are simply outdated. Evaluate your shoes, bags and jackets with these criteria in mind and replace any items as needed.

If there are items that you love that are in disrepair but you can't imagine parting with, take this opportunity to re-sole and shine those shoes and replace that lost button. You'll improve these items' usefulness and breathe new life into them. You'll also look more put together once these items are refurbished.

Look back

Refreshing your look doesn't necessarily mean going ultra-modern. Sometimes a vintage look can make a bigger statement. Accessorize with a timepiece that is elegant, classic and will never go out of style. It will serve as a nice complement to any outfit, whether you're headed to work or going to a party.

Get groomed

A new haircut can do wonders. Even if you're growing your hair



TAMRYN MILLER

Refreshing your look doesn't necessarily mean going ultra-modern. Sometimes a vintage look can make a bigger statement.

❄️ long, a trim can make you look polished and groomed. Not only that, it eliminates split ends and keeps hair healthy. For extra edge, men may want to consider indulging in a professional shave while they are at the barber.

Follow a trend

Take a cue from the color experts

and add a few items to your wardrobe with Pantone's Color of the Year for 2017, "Greenery." A yellow-green hue evocative of spring, this color can add a bright element to your look and is totally on-trend. By looking back and looking ahead, you can get inspired to update your look for a new year. ■

—StatePoint

RESOLUTIONS

Continued from Page 16

problems? Research links smoking to an increased risk of developing age-related macular degeneration, cataracts and optic nerve damage, all of which can lead to blindness.

4. Maintain a healthy weight. Weight is a contributing factor for your overall health as well as your eyes. Conditions such as obesity and diabetes can lead to vision problems, like cataracts. By eating healthy portions and exercising regularly, you can reduce your risk.

5. Protect eyes from blue light. Much of our days are spent with

our faces glued to devices like smartphones, computers and televisions. Those digital screens emit high-energy blue light, which causes digital eye strain that leads to headaches, blurred vision, dry eyes, and even neck pain.

Ask your eye doctor about the best options to help you reduce eye strain, including using lenses with coatings that reflect and absorb blue light. You can also follow the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, spend 20 seconds looking at something at least 20 feet away.

With a balanced approach to preventative care, you can help keep your eyes and body healthy throughout 2017 and beyond. ■

—StatePoint



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Elvis is coming

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CRICKET FOR CUBS

Teams compete during the inter-school cricket tournament hosted by Cricket for Cubs last month. Pleasanton's Harvest Park won the middle school division.

Harvest Park wins youth cricket tournament

Immadi earns MVP;
Bhalla named Best Batsman

By JEREMY WALSH

A team from Harvest Park Middle School recently won the third inter-school cricket tournament, defeating Dublin's Fallon Middle School in the final match.

Hosted by Cricket for Cubs, the two-day middle school tournament also featured teams from Iron Horse, Windemere Ranch and Gale Ranch in San Ramon.

For middle school champions Harvest Park, Ajay Immadi earned Most Valuable Player for the tournament and Kanish Bhalla was named Best Batsman. Sidhant Wani, from runner-up Fallon, was chosen as Best Bowler.

The tournament also featured an elementary school division, consisting of teams from John Green and Amador in Dublin and Hidden Hills in San Ramon.

Hidden Hills defeated Amador in the elementary school finale,

with tournament awards going to Vikram Ravi (Hidden Hills) for MVP, Gatik Trivedi (Hidden Hills) for Best Batsman and Ayush Bhatgare (Amador) for Best Bowler.

In all, the tournament featured 20 games on three different cricket grounds at Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton and Emerald Glen Park in Dublin on Dec. 17-18, with the help of dozens of parent and youth volunteers.

The closing ceremony included appearances by USA Women's Cricket captain Nadia Gruny and captain and former USA Under-19 Cricket team member Srihari Dasarathy, along with Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne, Pleasanton City Councilwoman Kathy Narum, San Ramon Vice Mayor Scott Perkins and San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission member Sridhar Verose. ■



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Foothill girls soccer sweeps Tri-Valley Classic

Also: Falcons guard Baxter named All-Tournament Player at West Coast Jamboree

The Foothill girls soccer team went undefeated for the second straight year in the highly competitive Tri-Valley Classic held last week.

The Falcons went 3-0 this year at the tournament held in Danville, running their two-year mark to 7-0.

Foothill got off to a sluggish start in the tournament against a hard-working Clayton Valley team in an early and cool morning match. This was only Foothill's fourth game this season, and it showed early. Despite controlling play during the first half of action, the Falcons were unable to finish any of their opportunities, leaving the game scoreless at half.

As happens in many soccer matches, control of possession and play without taking advantage of opportunities can come back to hurt you. This is what happened early in the second half when Clayton Valley scored off one of only three chances they had in the match to go up 1-0.

The Falcons, who fell behind for the first time this season, responded with an increased level of play and leveled the match in the 69th minute when Tami Kwong finished strong from distance. Sarah Broacha followed up with another strong finish eight minutes later to put the Falcons in front to stay. The Falcons outshot Clayton 12 shots to three during the 2-1 victory.

Later in the day, Foothill matched up with Miramonte in a battle of unbeaten teams. Unlike the morning match, the Falcons not only controlled play, but scored early and often on their way to



FOOTHILL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Foothill's Madison Baxter drives during the Falcons' win over Edison High School in the West Coast Jamboree.

a 5-1 win over the Matadors.

Foothill scored three times in the first half, with Kira Broacha, Kwong (penalty kick) and Sophie Caponigro each scoring. The second half was much of the same with solid play up and down the bench while extending the lead to 5-0. Both Kira (second goal of match) and Sarah Broacha scored with an assist going to Quinn Lombardi.

The Falcons outshot the Matadors 12-4 for the match, giving up a late goal with the match well in hand.

In the third match of the tournament, the Falcons faced their stiffest opponent of the tournament and for the season against St. Francis (Sacramento) on the second day of play.

The St. Francis squad showed speed, strong technical ability and discipline in their play. Foothill responded to this test with a hard fought 2-0 win.

After a challenging first 15

minutes of the match where St Francis showed greater speed and quickness than previous opponents this season, the Falcons adjusted and settled into their game.

Scoring for the Falcons in the first half came from Taylor Noval's header off a corner from Ariana Nino. Kira Broacha extended the lead midway through the second half with an excellent shot from distance. The Falcons were then able to hold off St. Francis to bring home the win.

Girls basketball

The Foothill girls basketball team took fourth place at the West Coast Jamboree in the highly competitive Zircon Division last week.

The Falcons started off with a 42-39 win over Edison High School. A strong defensive effort that held Edison to only 25% shooting from the field and grabbing 41 rebounds were key factors for the Falcons in their victory.

Leading the way on offense was junior guard Madison Baxter, with 22 points and five rebounds. Hope Alley contributed seven points and seven rebounds.

In the second round, the Falcons lost to a very good Presentation High School team out of San Jose, 53-31. Baxter had 20 points, shooting 50% from the field and 50% from 3-point range. Vanessa Esomonu had two points, but pulled down seven rebounds and had one steal.

In the third-place game, Foothill fell to Dublin High, 60-41. Baxter led the way with 15 points.

For her outstanding performance at the West Coast Jamboree, Baxter was named an All-Tournament Player. ■

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PET OF THE WEEK



TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

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Roger is an adult Chihuahua terrier mix waiting for his forever home. He so wanted a home for Christmas but would be happy to be a New Year family member. He adores going for walks, and once he bonds to you, he is a great little buddy. He is neutered, microchipped and up-to-date on shots. Roger is available for adoption at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. For more info, call 803-7040.

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.

Lessons & Classes

LEARN EXCEL AT THE LIBRARY Microsoft Excel is one of the best skills needed for job advancement. Gain skills for career advancement, learn formatting and more. Learn Microsoft Excel 13 with Tony Bridenbaugh, a finance professional with more than 14 years of experience, beginner class at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10, and intermediate class on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Pleasanton Library. No registration required. Call 931-3400, ext. 4.

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.

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.ptasca.org.

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.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Learn the best web sites, special collections, and strategies

for mining the extraordinary depth of records from the War of 1812, a pivotal era in our nation's past. Kathryn Marshall will discuss researching the War of 1812 ancestors at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 9 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. Contact Marilyn Glass and Diane Wiedel, Program Chairs, at program@L-AGS.org.

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED TVRWF will present guest speaker Terry D. Turchie, a former Deputy Assistant Director of the Counterterrorism Division of the FBI. His leadership was the driving force behind the capture of the two most elusive domestic terrorists in U.S. history. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 at Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore. Cost is \$30 for members, \$34 for non-members. RSVP by Jan. 10. Contact Jo Molz at 846-6155 or rjm911@sbcglobal.net.

Theatre

TRI-VALLEY REPERTORY THEATER AUDITIONS 'FOREVER PLAID' "Forever Plaid" is one of the most popular and successful musicals in recent memory. Auditions will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, with additional auditions and callbacks at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Tri-Valley Rep rehearsal space, 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 101. Bring 16-32 bars of an up-tempo Broadway or pop song in the style of the show, a current resume and head shot. Attach an audition form found on the website with all conflicts. The show will run Saturdays-Sundays, May 6-21. Contact Producer for an audition appointment at Kbreedveld@trivalleyrep.com Go to www.trivalleyrep.org/shows/forever-plaid.

school, with topics including vaccinations, sleep and nutrition, preparing for homework and more. Free, registration recommended. Contact 931-5359 or amcgovern@cityofpleasantonca.gov. Go to pleasantonfun.com and enter course code #63584.

PARENTING THE LOVE AND LOGIC WAY Want to alleviate arguments and frustration when communicating with your kids? Topics include The Two Rules of Love and Logic, using empathy and positive discipline, "Anticipatory" consequences and one-liners to neutralize arguing. Join Parenting the Love and Logic Way, instructed by Laurie Erceg, at 7-9 p.m. on Thursdays, starting Jan. 19 for six classes at Stanford ValleyCare, 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd. The cost is \$120 for six classes. To register, go to www.careertrackplus.com. Call (510) 305-5111.

Concerts

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 hearken 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.

Fundraisers

PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB ANNUAL CRAB FEED Celebrate all that is good about our community! Join together to enjoy a feast of crab, pasta, and salad from 5-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. With dancing, a no-host bar, casino tables, and auction. Tickets are \$60. Proceeds will benefit local community service organizations and families in need. For tickets or more information call Steve Grimes at 484-3524 or Greg Aynesworth at 336-6069.

Talks & Lectures

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERIES: TRANSITIONING TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL The City of Pleasanton's free Community Education Series will present "Transitioning to Elementary School" from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at the Pleasanton Library. Parents and guardians who have children eligible for Kindergarten or Transitional Kindergarten during the 2017-18 school year are invited to a panel discussion about the shift from preschool to elementary

Family

ADVENTURE DAY Come join Museum on Main from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7 for Adventure Day. Adventure Day participants will play role playing games that are beginner-friendly under the guidance of a game master. There will be a drawing for game prizes at the end of the event. Adventure Day is suitable for children age 12 and up. Call 462-2766.

Make a Difference for PLEASANTON FESTIVAL

**Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017,
from 10am to 2pm**

**At the Pleasanton Public Library
400 Old Bernal Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566**

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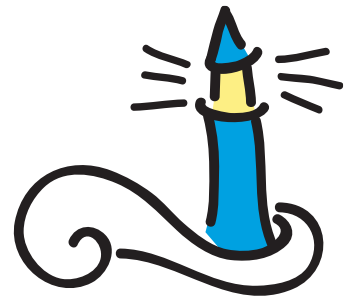
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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For Sale

202 Vehicles Wanted

DONATE YOUR CAR - 888-433-6199 Fast Free Towing -24hr Response - Maximum Tax Deduction - UNITED BREAST CANCER FDN: Providing Breast Cancer Information and Support Programs (Cal-SCAN)

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245 Miscellaneous
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425 Health Services

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470 Psychics

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Jobs

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560 Employment Information

Couriers: Northern CA EXPLODING DEMAND! Adding more Northern California couriers! Same-day delivery companies seek you! POSTMATES low average \$25/hr/tips, 800-505-4337. UberEATS low average \$30/hr, 800-707-4065. UNLIMITED \$\$\$ (Cal-SCAN)

Business Services

601 Accounting/ Bookkeeping

NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS? Over 21 years experience in all aspects of bookkeeping. No job too big or too small. Call Linda at 925-918-2233.

604 Adult Care Offered

A PLACE FOR MOM The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/ no obligation. CALL 1-800-550-4822. (Cal-SCAN)

624 Financial

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Real Estate

801 Apartments/ Condos/Studios

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Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

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)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME File No. 494887

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): THE SIGNWORKS, 46 TRAYNOR STREET #7, HAYWARD, CA 94544 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 08/13/2014 UNDER FILE NO. 494887 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): BARRY QURAISHI, 3827 VINE STREET, PLEASANTON, CA 94566 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY an individual. Signature of Registrant: Barry Quraishi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on Dec. 20, 2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 6, 13, 20; 2017)

YOU & ME BEAUTY STUDIO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525867

The following person(s) doing business as: YOU & ME BEAUTY STUDIO, 4625 1ST STREET, SUITE #225, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SHONIK CONSULTING INC., 741 S. TRADITION STREET, MOUNTAIN HOUSE, CA 95391. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Shoba Machani, CEO. This statement was filed with the County

Clerk of Alameda on 12/28/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; 2017)

KING DESIGN ASSOCIATES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525524

The following person(s) doing business as: KING DESIGN ASSOCIATES, 1724 BEACHWOOD WAY, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yvonne Marie King, 1724 Beachwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 01/24/2012. Signature of Registrant: Yvonne King. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/15/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; 2017)

BETA MEDICAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525517

The following person(s) doing business as: BETA MEDICAL, 1724 BEACHWOOD WAY, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Allen King, 1724 Beachwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 01/24/2012. Signature of Registrant: David A. King. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/15/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; 2017)

TACTICAL GRANTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 525506

The following person(s) doing business as: TACTICAL GRANTS, 573 MALBEC COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Susan Alison Campbell, 573 Malbec Court, 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: Susan Alison Campbell. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/15/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; 2017)



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

Just call
925-600-0840

Deadline: 5 p.m. the Friday before publication

Pleasanton Weekly

First-time homebuyers face worsening starter-home shortage

Lack of affordability is a key factor for new buyers early in 2017

Starter-home unaffordability continues to be a persistent problem in the Bay Area, as well as many other coastal housing markets, according to a recently released study by Trulia, a San Francisco-based company that provides information about properties for sale and rent and other data.

In its fourth-quarter report, Trulia said starter home unaffordability also continues in the Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego markets.

Among the 100 largest U.S. metros, these metros ranked in the top 10 annual declines in affordability for starter homes from 2012 to 2015 and remain in the top 10 for declines in affordability for starter homes from 2015 to 2016.

“As mortgage rates continue to trend upwards, home-buyers in the costly coastal housing markets in California and the Northeast may get some relief,” said Trulia’s chief economist, Ralph McLaughlin. “Rising rates will likely cool the fierce competition in these markets where inventory has been tightening and affordability has worsened.”

The number of homes for the average first-time homebuyer saw its steepest year-over-year drop in three years, falling 12.1% since 2015. Moreover, these buyers will need to pay 1.9% more of their income on average to buy a starter-home in their local market.

The average starter-homebuyer will need

to spend 38.5% of their monthly income to buy a starter home — a 1.9 percentage point increase from last year. This decline in affordability is more than twice as much for trade-up homes (up 0.9 percentage points) and nearly four times the amount needed to buy a premium home (up 0.5 percentage points).

Comparatively, buyers of trade-up homes and premium homes would each need to spend just 25.5% and 13.9% of their income to buy a home, respectively.

Nationally, housing inventory fell for the sixth consecutive quarter, dropping 9.1% from a year ago.

Across different housing segments, homebuyers saw the biggest decreases in starter and trade-up home inventory. The number of starter homes and trade-up homes on the market dropped 12.1% and 12.9% from this time last year, respectively. Meanwhile, premium home inventory fell a more moderate 5.6%.

“Tight inventory will still be a big obstacle to homeownership in many markets in 2017, but I’m cautiously optimistic that we’ll see the bottom of the current housing shortage as the year progresses,” McLaughlin said. “That said, buyers might not see price relief if President-Elect Trump’s to-be-seen policies boost demand without boosting supply.” ■

—PRNewswire

HOME SALES

This week’s data represents homes sold during Nov. 14-22

Pleasanton

- 5711 Athenour Court** Hearn Trust to J. Wong for \$930,000
- 3097 Bolero Court** S. Stuhlman to H. Srinivasan for \$625,000
- 1133 Bordeaux Street** E. Navalta to J. Galindo for \$970,000
- 7615 Canyon Meadow Circle #C** P. Mercer to K. Gonzalez for \$405,000
- 7835 Canyon Meadow Circle #G** P. Epley to S. Laskar for \$525,000
- 3920 Churchill Drive** Y. Lin to J. Song for \$880,000
- 3201 Clifford Circle** Powers Trust to K. Lo for \$1,150,000
- 3183 Conti Court** Mckeehan Trust to Eim Trust for \$2,750,000
- 4239 Denker Drive** Holy Trust to C. Rajendran for \$803,500
- 4555 Entrada Court** Sneckner-Longboya Trust to C. Garcia-Sierra for \$1,082,000
- 4645 Gatetree Circle** D. & R. Das to S. Yu for \$1,030,000
- 5216 Genovesio Drive** Xander Group II to Hayward Industrial Parkway for \$1,075,000
- 2236 Goldcrest Circle** Schneider Trust to G. Naha for \$681,000
- 4927 Hillcrest Way** N. Srinivasan to Industrial Parkway West Investors for \$940,000
- 1624 Holly Circle** Fischer Trust to H. & A. Jadhav for \$854,000
- 6023 Inglewood Drive** Mullen Trust to S. & R. Chakraborty for \$780,000
- 630 Oak Circle** Mick Trust to Y. & D. Dagai for \$885,000
- 647 Orofino Court** E. & D. Peter to H. Zhou for \$1,060,000
- 1284 Piemonte Drive** Ward Trust to S. Ni for \$2,517,000
- 2430 Raven Road** Hale Trust to S. & L. McGeown for \$1,090,000
- 6222 Ruxton Court** Lunger Trust to M. Rasheed for \$815,000
- 4759 Saginaw Circle** Blue Fire Investments to H. Kim for \$485,000

- 2581 Secretariat Drive** George Trust to A. & S. Bhalla for \$705,000
- 3721 Selvante Street** Eeo & Ooi Trust to R. Pande for \$1,915,000
- 1718 Spumante Place** Mako Trust to C. Chopra for \$1,760,000
- 716 St. John Circle** C. Brown to S. Guo for \$1,055,000
- 2274 Via Espada** So Trust to X. Liu for \$1,050,000
- 4292 West Las Positas Boulevard** C. & Y. Cha to Complete Business Solutions for \$715,000

Dublin

- 3654 Aviano Way** J. Pourkaldani to M. Dhot for \$815,000
- 6870 Baird Street** Pulte Home to J. Balon for \$1,158,500
- 11174 Brittany Lane** K. & S. Kile to A. & M. Moody for \$1,230,000
- 7684 Canterbury Lane** Mullins Trust to F. Shafiq for \$712,000
- 2209 Central Parkway** Brookfield Trio to G. Bhutani for \$789,500
- 11331 Champagne Place** J. & M. Larsen to R. & C. Salazar for \$1,165,000
- 5866 Dublin Boulevard** Pulte Home to M. Sreedhar for \$775,000
- 7145 Dublin Meadows Street #E** J. Holcomb to S. Venugeethan for \$518,000
- 9577 Joey Dare Court** Toll California XII to Z. Liang for \$1,490,000
- 7431 Limerick Avenue** J. & M. Aceves to S. Chew for \$701,000
- 3358 Monaghan Street** Sierra Pension Fund to R. Pelphrey for \$700,000
- 4851 Perugia Street** M. & M. Williams to S. Yoon for \$652,000
- 11483 Silvergate Drive** Alger Trust to M. & F. Franco for \$827,000
- 4505 Sparrow Court** S. Zhang to A. Canfield for \$968,000
- 5498 Springvale Drive** H. Murphy to G. Bhagat for \$950,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS
5527 Oakmont Circle **\$639,000**
 Sat/Sun 2-4 Joyce Jones 998-3398

5 BEDROOMS
1513 Aria Court **\$1,175,000**
 Sun 1-4 Cindy & Gene Williams 918-2045

Pleasanton

5 BEDROOMS
3732 Raboli St. **\$2,699,000**
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