

Pleasanton Weekly

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Page 12



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*Here comes
Santa Claus*

It's tradition! Visiting St. Nick can mean laughter or tears | page 14

- 5 | **NEWS** City discusses confronting unfunded pension costs
- 8 | **NEWS** Ballot measure seeks to curb health care prices
- 17 | **SPORTS** Amador Valley girls soccer up to No. 9 in state

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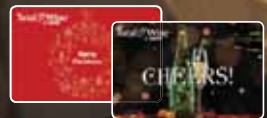
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AROUND PLEASANTON



BY JEB BING

'Tis the weekend for record crowds at Stoneridge Mall



FILE PHOTO

This weekend should be another busy stretch for Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Tomorrow, the last Saturday before Christmas, is projected to be the busiest shopping day of the year with many shoppers heading out to make last-minute purchases before the holiday.

That's good news for Stoneridge Shopping Center, which has been jammed with customers since Black Friday, only 31 days ago.

The International Council of Shopping Centers forecasts a 3.8% year-over-year growth in retail sales for this holiday season. Consumers are expected to spend on average \$728.40 on gifts and other holiday-related items.

With hours extended from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. today, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. tomorrow and even opening at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Betsy Edwards — the mall's director of marketing and business development — expects Stoneridge to host the largest shopping crowds of the year before closing at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Even with online sales eating into traditional brick-and-mortar store sales, forecasts are for 96% of shoppers to make a purchase this weekend from a retailer who has both a physical and an online presence.

An estimated 91% of shoppers will buy at physical locations, also taking advantage of omnichannel retailers with 40% of them buying online and picking up in-store. An added benefit for mall stores is that 81% of those shoppers plan to make additional purchases when collecting their items.

"Saturday will be a great time to shop for last-minute gifts if you don't mind the hustle and bustle at the mall," Edwards said. "But then that's the fun part of Christmas shopping."

Santa Claus is also extending his hours in the Grand Court. Although his appointment book is already

filled, his helpers left plenty of room in between those scheduled time for "walk-ins" — if they don't mind waiting in line.

"No child will be left behind," Edwards promised. "Even if the mall is closing, he and his helpers will stay behind to make sure every child gets a turn to sit on Santa's lap and give him a message."

Edwards acknowledged parking will be difficult, although the mall has a huge amount of free parking. Perhaps the best kept secret is that the top floor of the Sears parking deck is often the last to fill, so she recommends driving there first.

There's also an eight-passenger shopper shuttle that roams the mall's parking lots to take passengers to the stores and, more importantly, carry them and their packages back to their cars. The oversized, roofed golf cart will operate from 1-9 p.m. today and tomorrow and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. It can be found in front of California Pizza Kitchen, Men's Wearhouse, Subway, Buckhorn Grill and Forever 21. Shoppers can also flag it down and board at any time if there's room.

Edwards, who is in her third year of handling marketing at Stoneridge, also has a message for shoppers:

Don't leave valuables in your car. If you carry an armful of packages to your car and plan to return to the stores, move your car first to another spot. This will fool "prying eyes" into thinking you're leaving the mall, and they'll turn their attention elsewhere.

As we move into the last weekend before the holidays, let me join Edwards and the mall's new general manager, Damien Osip, in wishing our Pleasanton Weekly readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ■

About the Cover

The Story family — Nolan, 12, a seventh-grader at Pleasanton Middle School; and Brooklynn, 10, a fifth-grader at Valley View Elementary, and parents Gina and Jason — visit Santa at Blackhawk Plaza, accompanied by their puppy Shea. See more local Santa photos inside on Page 12. Photo courtesy of Story family. Cover design by Rosanna Kuruppu. Vol. XVIII, Number 48

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Pleasanton Weekly

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Who are you looking forward to giving a gift to this holiday season?



Jenny Karp

Registered nurse practitioner

My dog, Fido. He is the only one in the family who actually listens to me, and he is also the only one who excitedly runs to greet me at the front door when I get home from work every day.



Adam Kahn

Physician

I'd have to say my parents. They have always supported me in everything I do, and I would not be where I am today if they hadn't invested so much time, effort and money into me. A gift here and there is the least I can do to show my appreciation.



Bonnie Erwin

Stay-at-home mom

I love buying gifts for my husband. He never shops for anything for himself. If I didn't get him new clothing as a gift each year for Christmas, he'd still be wearing the same clothes he wore 20 years ago.



Sharon Granski

Pharmacist

I'm looking forward to giving a gift to my best friend, Heidi. She has had a very difficult year, with deaths in her family and having lost her job on top of that. I think a thoughtful gift from me will help get her through this holiday season and reassure her that things will get better.



Dan Rich

Engineer

Probably my children. They've behaved so well all year. OK, well, most of the year, most of the time. So I want to use Christmas as an opportunity to reward them for being such great kids.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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- 4:30 pm Family Service with Holy Communion
- 9:00 pm Candlelight & Holy Communion Service

Christmas Morning Service

- 9:00 am Carols and Holy Communion
- All are welcome as we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us.

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Christmas Services

- Christmas Eve Morning Service at 9:00 with hand bells and chancel choir.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 (families), 7:30 and 9:00 p.m. (with choir). Childcare provided at 5:00.
- New Year's Eve Morning Service December 31 at 9:00.



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DIGEST

Hazard mitigation

Pleasanton officials, along with those in Dublin and Livermore, are working to gather public input on the region's draft Tri-Valley Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Now is the time to submit comments, as the 14-day review period closes on Tuesday. There is also a public meeting to solicit feedback tonight from 6-7 p.m. at the Dublin San Ramon Services District (7051 Dublin Blvd.), which is also a partner in the planning effort.

The draft plan aims to help the Tri-Valley agencies prepare for and lessen the impacts of specified natural hazards within the region.

People can comment via the plan's website, www.tri-valley-hmp.com. Comments and questions can also be sent to Rob Flaner of Tetra Tech, Inc., at rob.flaner@tetrattech.com or 208-939-4391.

Impasse resolved

Pleasanton police announced late Tuesday night they had taken a female driver into custody after she locked herself in her car at knifepoint for more than three hours after being pulled over by officers for suspicion of DUI.

The incident first unfolded around 5 p.m. Tuesday near an office building at 6130 Stoneridge Mall Road when officers stopped a car with an apparently intoxicated female driver who initially failed to yield, according to police.

The driver, who was the only occupant, locked herself inside the car and had a knife, according to police, who closed the immediate area while working to communicate with her.

Police announced just before 8:30 p.m. that the situation resolved with the driver being arrested without further incident.

Baker staff

Local Assemblywoman Catharine Baker (R-San Ramon) made two recent staffing changes for her office in Sacramento.

Leticia Garcia, who has worked for Baker since her first term in 2014, was promoted to legislative director.

Annalee Akin was also promoted, becoming Baker's scheduler after serving in the office through the California State Assembly Fellowship Program.

Share resolutions

Do you have any New Year's resolutions for a new-and-improved 2018? Any stories of successful or failed resolutions from years past? If so, let us know by contacting Dolores Fox Ciardelli at dciardelli@pleasantonweekly.com to share your tales of resolutions past, present and future. ■

City Council reviews options for confronting unfunded pension liabilities

Committee, city staff set to present recommendations early in new year

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton City Council held a wide-ranging discussion Tuesday night about the city's growing pension costs, including strategies for trying to pay down some of the estimated \$160 million in unfunded liabilities associated with city employee pensions.

That liability figure is expected to grow in the years ahead, as is the amount of money the city needs to contribute annually to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS),

leaving city leaders working to determine how to address the problem in the short-term as well as in the long-term.

"In order to sustain services at current levels, including operations, plan for new capital and set aside funds for the ongoing repair and replacement of existing assets, the city must take a proactive approach to address this matter in advance of the estimated impacts," city finance director Tina Olson wrote in her pre-meeting report to the council.

Tuesday's public discussion at

the Pleasanton Civic Center was informational in nature, centering on an hour-long presentation by John Bartel of actuarial consultant firm Bartel Associates.

Bartel highlighted pension data for the city — past, present and projected — to help paint as full a picture as possible for the council before talking about options available to utilize millions the city has set aside to help pay down its pension liabilities.

City officials plan to return to the council in the next month or two with recommendations to

address the pension obligations.

There are many reasons the city of Pleasanton — along with scores of other public employers throughout California, including the Pleasanton Unified School District — are staring down higher retiree costs.

The four primary causes, according to Bartel, are CalPERS investment losses during and after the recession, enhanced retirement benefits given to employees, CalPERS' contribution policy and

See **PENSIONS** on Page 7



FILE PHOTO

The NorCal Carpenters Training Committee wants to redesign and expand its training center on Santa Rita Road, a proposal the Planning Commission sent back to the applicant and city staff for fine-tuning.

Carpenters Training Center expansion sent back to drawing board

Also: Commission OKs tutoring facility, Lund Ranch II street names, new chairman

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton Planning Commission indicated support for a proposed expansion of the Carpenters Training Center on Santa Rita Road but referred the project back to city planning staff and the applicant last week to address concerns with parking, landscaping and other components.

The Carpenters Training Committee for Northern California wants to redesign its facility at 2350 Santa Rita Road by tearing down the existing 68,000-square-foot, single-story training building and replacing it with a two-story, 87,000-square-foot building.

The development application, submitted to the city by Mark Taylor on behalf of Carpenters Training Trust Fund, also seeks to relocate the outdoor training

and storage yard, construct a pad for a future 11,000-square-foot office building and reconfigure parking with 300 stalls at the 8.13-acre site.

The commission heard from nine speakers in support of the project during its nighttime meeting Dec. 13, including apprentices from the training center, some of whom are military veterans, as well as representatives from the offices of U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, State Assemblywoman Catharine Baker and Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, according to city spokeswoman Tracy Dunne.

The commissioners were steadfast in their support for the training facility and the service it provides to the community, but they were also unanimous in thinking the expansion project needed some fine-tuning before

an approval vote, according to Dunne.

Among the concerns was the need to address on-site parking.

At full build-out, the project would be 43 to 73 parking spots short of quota required by city rules, according to city staff. The expansion would serve between 140 and 230 students per day, plus 30 to 35 teachers and administrative staff members.

Commissioners also asked staff and the applicant to work to improve the site's streetscape along Santa Rita Road, provide a building presence on Santa Rita and include renderings of the streetscape from the viewpoints of pedestrians and vehicles traveling along Santa Rita.

Located near the southern

See **CARPENTERS** on Page 6

PUSD gets high marks from state

California School Dashboard accountability data released

By JULIA BROWN

The Pleasanton Unified School District has met the highest performance level on three of four reported state indicators of success, according to 2016-17 data recently released by the California Department of Education.

The new California School Dashboard provides information on multiple topics having to do with school and student performance. It replaces the Academic Performance Index, the state's former accountability system that gave schools a single score based solely on standardized tests.

The dashboard incorporates six state performance indicators — academic, which includes standardized test results; career/college readiness; English learner progress; chronic absenteeism; suspension rates and graduation rates.

There are also four local indicators, which are school climate; parent engagement; implementation of state academic standards; and basic services and school conditions. Performance standards are based on how each school or district fared last year and how much they've improved or declined over time.

For each state indicator, schools and districts receive one of five

See **DASHBOARD** on Page 9

Council OKs budget report, allocates \$6.5M surplus

Also: Downtown assessment, Highway 84 widening, new fire engines

By JEREMY WALSH

The city's general fund finished the 2016-17 fiscal year with a nearly \$6.5 million surplus due to higher revenues and lower expenditures than originally estimated, according to the year-end budget report presented to the Pleasanton City Council earlier this month.

The council approved city staff's recommendation for how to allocate those extra funds, putting \$1 million in the workers compensation reserve and then splitting the remaining balance evenly (\$1.84 million each) into general fund reserves, pre-fund pension liability and capital improvement program (CIP) reserves.

The new report, presented by city finance director Tina Olson on Dec. 5, reflected final figures for revenues and expenditures actually realized during the last fiscal year, which ended on June 30.

City general fund actual revenues were \$3.7 million (or 3.3%) higher than anticipated, with the largest increases in development services fees, sales and use taxes, property taxes and business license taxes. The sales tax increase was

due mainly to one-time funding from the countywide tax pool, Olson noted.

In the end, general fund revenues came in at \$115.7 million, a 3.6% increase over the \$111.7 million realized in 2015-16.

On the expenditure side, the general fund saw \$3.1 million less expenses (a 3% drop) compared to previous budget estimates. Expenditures were down in general fund contingency, "other post-employment benefits," fuel, contractual serves and vacation accruals, among other categories, Olson said.

Total general fund expenditures last year were \$100.7 million, a 1.4% increase compared to the previous year.

The variance in revenues and expenditures, plus a net increase in transfers out of the general fund to other city accounts of \$215,812, resulted in the \$6.5 million surplus, according to Olson.

The general fund reserves stand at just under \$22.6 million, or 22.4% of operating expenditures, according to Olson.

Among other city funds, highlights included that water sales

increased by 23% last fiscal year, helping leave the water fund with year-end balance of \$8.9 million or 38.6% of operating expense.

The sewer fund ended the year with an operating gain of \$1.3 million, with revenues up and expenses down.

The city's golf fund for Callippe Preserve Golf Course, saw revenues down \$500,000 compared to estimates, with about 4,000 fewer rounds of golf played last year than the year before — though 2016-17 featured much more wet weather, Olson noted. Expenses were down \$200,000.

The city spent about \$5 million less than planned from its repair and replacement fund, due to postponed replacements, new technology or extension of useful life, according to Olson.

The CIP reserves and fund balances combined to finish the year with \$46.6 million. A number of approved projects were carried over from last year to the current year for various reasons among streets, water, sewer, parks and miscellaneous categories.

The annual third-party audit of the city's budget is still pending, Olson said. It is expected to be completed next month and brought to the council for review in February.

In other business

• The council approved the 2018 annual assessment paid by for-profit businesses in the Downtown Pleasanton Business Improvement District, which range between \$150 and \$350 depending on proximity to Main Street, according to city economic development director Pamela Ott.

The assessment is expected to generate \$68,000 in revenue, which the city will match out of the general fund, Ott noted.

The funds go to the Pleasanton Downtown Association, which acts as the manager of the downtown improvement district. The city also contributes about \$66,000 in indirect funding to the PDA including staff time to administer PDA assessments, support for events and business initiatives, cleaning sidewalks, maintaining planter boxes and picking up garbage, she said.

The assessment was approved as part of the council's consent calendar, a collection of items deemed routine and voted upon all at once unless pulled for separate consideration.

• Council members approved an agreement with the Alameda County Transportation Commission for disbursing \$12 million in Tri-Valley Transportation Council development fee funds to the project widening Highway 84 from Pigeon Pass to Interstate 680.

• They signed off on a contract with San Francisco-based K.J. Woods Construction, Inc., worth \$2,248,000 — plus a 10% contingency — to replace decades-old water mains along Main Street and Santa Rita Road from St. Mary Street north to Black Avenue.

• The council also endorsed spending an estimated \$766,000 to purchase two new "type 3" fire engines, described as smaller engines with four-wheel capability primarily used for wildland or vegetation fires where homes are among the vegetation. They will replace two engines that are 20 and 23 years old, respectively. ■

CARPENTERS

Continued from Page 5

intersection of the Iron Horse Regional Trail and Santa Rita, the training facility is surrounded by office buildings, a public storage complex and an assisted living facility and is across the street from

apartments and Bicentennial Park.

The proposal is expected to return to the commission for further consideration at a yet-unscheduled future date.

In other business

• The commission voted 4-1 to approve a permit that would bring

a tutoring facility to the new Pacific Pearl Shopping Center at the corner of Stoneridge Drive and El Charro Road.

Brilliant Minds Academy plans to operate a tutoring center with up to 93 students in first through 12th grades and six staff members at a time at 2733 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 101

— within Building A, at the northwest corner of the Pacific Pearl site.

Commissioner Jack Balch opposed the proposal, citing concerns about traffic circulation associated with student drop-off, according to Dunne.

• The commission approved street names for the 43-house Lund Ranch II neighborhood being

developed off Lund Ranch Road. The public streets were named Vista Oaks Court, Shadow Creek Court, Countryside Court and Spring Creek Terrace.

• Commissioner David Nagler was selected to serve as chair for the next year while Greg O'Connor was appointed vice chair. ■

Kiss off the year with comedy

Will Durst and crew return to Firehouse for 25th year of political satire

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

End the year with a laugh — an entire evening of laughs.

Once again Will Durst and his merry band of pranksters will be in Pleasanton while touring theaters of the greater Bay Area with their 25th annual Big Fat Year-End Kiss-Off Comedy Show. The PG-13 performance begins at 8 p.m. next Wednesday (Dec. 27) at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Durst will team with five other comics — Johnny Steele, Debi Durst, Michael Bossier, Mari Magaloni and Arthur Gaus — to presents skits, songs, sketches and stand-up.

They vow to lampoon, satirize, mock, scoff, scorn, taunt, tease, rib, ridicule, josh, jibe and kid the personalities and events of 2017, and to do it with a modicum of taste (hence the PG-13 rating).

"It's 'Saturday Night Live' meets the 'Daily Show' on steroids," one



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Will Durst and his merry band of pranksters are returning to Pleasanton on Dec. 27 with their 25th annual Big Fat Year-End Kiss-Off Comedy Show.

review noted.

Durst has been dubbed "the thinking man's comic" by the

Oregonian, and he is acknowledged by peers and press alike as one of the premier political satirists in the country.

Current politics, of course, provide plenty of fodder. In a talk with members of the Commonwealth Club last year he quoted someone saying, "Of course Trump hasn't read the Bible — he isn't in it."

Durst also riffs on being a baby boomer and the challenges of the Internet age.

"Every week you descend deeper into 'password hell,'" he said in a performance available on YouTube. "You need a password for everything — to look at your water bill, to rent a car, to get in and out of bed. Oh, no that's a 'safe word.'"

Tickets for the comedy show are \$20-\$30. Go to www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848, or purchase at the theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave. ■

Amador grad Piscotty traded to Oakland Athletics

Move allows third-year OF to be closer to mom battling ALS

Pleasanton native and Major League Baseball player Stephen Piscotty is returning to the Bay Area, professionally, after the St. Louis Cardinals traded the outfielder to the Oakland Athletics in return for two prospects last week. The move allows Piscotty, a 2009 Amador Valley High School graduate, to be closer to his family in Pleasanton, including mother Gretchen who was diagnosed with ALS earlier this year.

A Stanford product who is entering his third full season in the majors, Piscotty is

expected to be an everyday starting outfielder for the A's in 2018. He batted .235 with nine home runs and 39 RBI in 107 games with the Cardinals last season.

And Piscotty could be in the Bay for the foreseeable future. He remains under contract through 2022 for \$33.5 million with a team option for 2023, according to MLB.com.

The Cardinals acquired minor league infielders Yairo Muñoz and Max Schrock from the A's in the Dec. 14 trade. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

Amador senior selected for annual U.S. Senate Youth Program

Hawkins serves as ASB vice president, tutor, Spanish-language translator

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson last week named high school students from Pleasanton and Berkeley to represent California in the 56th annual U.S. Senate Youth Program.

Mackenzie Hawkins, a senior at Amador Valley High School, and Cole McCann-Phillips, a senior at Berkeley High School, were

chosen for the program that allows selected students to get an in-depth view of the Senate and federal government.

They will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship and attend a one-week all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., from March 3-10.

Hawkins serves as her school's Associated Student Body vice

president, tutors low-income elementary school students, teaches people with special needs how to swim and is a Spanish-English translator for families shopping at a local Kohl's department store, state education officials said.

McCann-Phillips is a governmental affairs policy director for the California Association of

Student Councils and sits on the Berkeley High School Site Council and its Student Senate.

He has served as a student adviser to the state Legislature, the State Board of Education, and interned for Tony Thurmond's state Superintendent of Public Instruction campaign, state education officials said.

"I applaud these amazing students who have demonstrated remarkable leadership skills and serve their schools and communities with passion," Torlakson said in a statement. ■

—Bay City News Service



Mackenzie Hawkins

PENSIONS

Continued from Page 5

demographic shifts.

Of particular note for Pleasanton is the shrinking ratio of active employees versus retirees, Bartel said.

Last year, there were more retirees receiving pension payments (621) than active city employees contributing to the fund (502), a ratio of 0.8. Those totals shifted drastically compared to just two decades earlier, when the city had almost four times as many active employees as retirees, he said.

The CalPERS board also recently lowered the assumed rate of return (also dubbed the "discount rate") on assets held by the CalPERS investment pool by a half-percent to 7%.

Combine those factors, and others, and Pleasanton city leaders are faced with \$160 million in unfunded liabilities, plus the prospect of rising costs in the years ahead.

The city's annual pension contribution is estimated to increase from \$14.2 million this fiscal year to over \$21 million in 2021-22 and ultimately up to \$28.5 million in 2026-27.

And those rising costs and obligations appear all but assured, with likely no relief to be provided by the legislature or the courts, according to Bartel.

Still, there looks to be a bright spot on the horizon, he added.

"We fully expect contributions to gradually decline; it's going to be

a long time before they really decline and get back to the level that they're currently at," Bartel told the council. "This is confirmation in our projections that you will be paying your unfunded liability off. It will take a long time, but you will pay it off."

Knowing the pension problem was fast approaching, the council has worked to set aside about \$22 million in recent years to prefund the city's pension liabilities.

The question now becomes: How to use that money to address the problem?

City officials recommend the council consider two options — prepay pension liabilities directly to CalPERS and/or establish a "supplemental pension trust fund."

Both come with pros and cons.

Paying CalPERS directly now will reduce the city's pension liability but the annual payments will still remain high and therefore impact the city's ability to maintain municipal services at current levels, according to Olson.

The irrevocable trust would ease

the budgetary pressures by paying a portion of the pension increases in annual payments from the fund, which could yield 4%-6% investment returns, Olson said. But, the trust fund would be a more volatile investment tool than the city's current portfolio and it won't reduce the net pension liabilities in the short-term, she added.

While those are their preferred alternatives, city officials could also consider issuing pension obligation bonds or borrowing money from existing city funds (like capital improvement or repair and replacement reserves) — though city staff does not recommend either of those options.

Following the discussion Tuesday, the council voted to forward the matter to its Audit/Finance Committee to work with staff and the consultant on a proposed strategy to address the city's short- and long-term pension obligations.

That recommendation would return to council members for final consideration no sooner than Jan. 16, according to staff. ■

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The Closure of Calaveras Road to thru traffic between Milpitas and Sunol has been extended to September 30, 2018.

The nine month extension is due to heavy winter rains and damage to a section of the road in this area that prevented hauling trucks from entering the site.

More details at
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Ballot measure seeks to curb health care costs

Workers file petitions in Pleasanton, other cities with Stanford Health presence

By GENNADY SHEYNER/
PALO ALTO WEEKLY

Pleasanton voters may have a chance next year to put a cap on how much Stanford Health and other health care providers can charge patients for medical care under a ballot initiative being advanced by the health care union.

The Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW), which represents about 93,000 employees, filed ballot initiatives last week in four Bay Area cities that have Stanford Health medical facilities: Pleasanton, Livermore, Emeryville and Redwood City. On Thursday, the union was set to do the same in Palo Alto, home of the network's flagship facility, Stanford University Medical Center.

Union spokesman Sean Wherley said the union decided to pursue the initiative in the five cities after learning that Stanford University Medical Center has been experiencing higher infection rates than other hospitals in the Bay Area while at the same time charging some of the highest rates for patient care. The union includes about 1,800 Stanford University Medical Center employees.

The measure would effectively bar Stanford from charging patients more than 15% above the actual cost of providing services. In a news release, the SEIU-UHW pointed to a report from the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development showing Stanford significantly exceeding the statewide average for various treatments.

For alcohol and drug abuse treatment, the statewide average was reportedly \$27,621,

according to the union. Stanford charged \$100,557, more than both University of California, San Francisco (\$76,230) and California Pacific Medical Center's St. Luke's Campus (\$86,828), the union alleged, pointing to the data from the state agency.

The union also highlighted data showing that Stanford charges almost \$60,000 more than the state average for treatment of kidney failures and more than \$45,000 above the state average for chest pain treatment.

Wherley told the Weekly the union is concerned about this combination of higher costs and poor quality at Stanford Health.

"Now that you have Stanford expanding into (the) East Bay, there's real concern that problems that exist in Palo Alto — the overcharging and high infection rates — will be brought to other communities," Wherley said.

In response to the union's announcement, Stanford Health released a statement saying that while it hasn't seen the ballot language, "we would be disappointed if these efforts moved forward."

"All hospital charges reflect the complexities of the national healthcare system as well as multiple other factors ranging from local and regional market conditions to the level of care being provided," Stanford's statement read. "We take this seriously and we certainly want to respond on behalf of our patients and the communities we serve once we see the proposed language."

The proposed ballot language states that the purpose of the ballot measure is to "provide for the orderly regulation of hospitals

and other health facilities" by providing "minimum standards and regulations regarding their operation."

"The prices charged to patients and other payers have far-reaching effects on consumers purchasing health care services and insurance, as well as taxpayers supporting public and welfare programs," the ballot statement reads. "Investments in quality of care improvements can benefit patients and caregivers, and ultimately result in lower overall health costs."

If approved by the voters, the new cap would take effect on Jan. 1, 2019. It would require hospitals and clinics to calculate its health care costs and compile, for each patient, a list of information that includes the total amount received in payments; the "reasonable cost" of the provided care; and, where applicable, the amount by which the former has exceeded the latter.

The new law would require that payments made by patients to the hospital not exceed 115% of the "reasonable cost of direct patient care," unless the hospital successfully petitions the city's for a waiver. A waiver would only be granted if the city finds that requiring such a rate would be "confiscatory or otherwise unlawful as applied to that hospital, medical clinic or other provider."

Even if the city grants such a petition, the waiver would offer only limited leeway. The ballot language specifies that the city would only be able to adjust the "115%" number by the "lowest whole number such that the resultant acceptable payment amount would not be unlawful." ■



CHUCK DECKERT

Pleasanton's Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting, a festive event with scores of community groups marching down Main Street, is among the Tri-Valley holiday showcases being aired by TV30 in the days ahead.

TV30 to air slate of holiday events

Broadcasts set to run through Christmas

By JULIA BROWN

Through Christmas Day, Tri-Valley Community Television will be broadcasting local holiday events that took place earlier in the month for those who missed out or just want to relive the festivities.

The events include downtown Pleasanton's Hometown Holiday Parade, a Foothill High School choir special, the Dublin tree lighting and Livermore Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade.

"These holiday celebrations that we record and broadcast represent hours of planning by those in charge of organizing them and the participants," TV30 executive director Melissa Tench-Stevens said in a statement. "We consider these events one of the main things we cover all year that highlight community spirit."

The Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting, held on Main Street in Pleasanton on Dec. 2, will be shown on air tonight at 8 p.m. and at 9 a.m. Sunday.

The Foothill choir special will air Saturday night at 9 p.m. and Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

The Livermore Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade will be broadcast at noon Saturday.

And the 34th annual Dublin tree lighting will air at 11 a.m. today and 9 p.m. Saturday.

On Christmas Day, TV30 will air a marathon of holiday programming that will include all the parades plus local choirs. It starts at 6 a.m. and continues through the night.

The broadcasts are also available for viewing online at www.tri-valleytv.org/holiday. ■

Rotary Club serves early Christmas dinners to 220 seniors

Free meals distributed at Pleasanton Senior Center

Rotary Club of Pleasanton members handed out free Christmas meals to 220 local seniors during the club's annual Holiday Dinner for Seniors on Dec. 8 at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

This was the club's 36th annual free Christmas dinner, a tradition started in 1981 as a tribute to Pleasanton's "mature" community.

Rotarians hosted the seniors starting at noon after decorating the center and preparing the tables.

Gael's Catering of Dublin High School cooked the meal of roast

turkey, gravy, dressing and all the trimmings, followed by a dessert of pumpkin pie. All of the food was purchased by the Rotary Club, which also provided the Dublin High culinary group with a monetary contribution for its service.

Christmas music was provided during the luncheon by the Valley Voices, a singing group.

For Rotarians, work shifts started at 7 a.m. and ended late in the afternoon as they greeted, entertained and served seniors, including some in their 90s and a

number of them in wheelchairs or using walkers.

This year's event involved 70 members of the downtown Rotary Club, plus another 10 volunteers, and was managed by Kurt McAninch. Staff from the Pleasanton Senior Center under the direction of Raymond Figueroa also helped.

With this year's event, Rotarians have provided more than 9,000 Pleasanton seniors with a free Christmas dinner in honor of their contributions to our community. ■

—Pleasanton Weekly staff



ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON

Jeb Bing, editor emeritus of the Weekly and a Pleasanton rotarian, serves a turkey dinner with all the trimmings to Eppie Baeta (left) and Lucille Murillo at the Rotary Club of Pleasanton's annual Holiday Dinner for Seniors held Dec. 8 at the Pleasanton Senior Center.



JEREMY WALSH

In the spirit

Pleasanton City Council members donned festive outfits during their regular meeting Tuesday night — an effort to show a little more of the holiday spirit during their final session of 2017, according to Councilman Jerry Pentin (left). To Pentin's right are Councilwoman Karla Brown, Mayor Jerry Thorne, Councilwoman Kathy Narum, new Vice Mayor Arne Olson and City Manager Nelson Fialho.



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County officials seek nominees for Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations due Jan. 22 for 25th annual awards

Nominations are being accepted for the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, which in 2018 will celebrate its 25th year of women making a difference in the community, county officials said.

The women who are selected to join the Women's Hall of Fame will be honored at a luncheon and awards ceremony at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland on March 24.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women will co-host the event.

To mark its 25th anniversary, the Women's Hall of Fame is accepting nominations in a new category called "Emerging Leader," which will celebrate girls or young women representing a new generation of leaders.

The women who are selected to join the Hall of Fame in 2018 will be selected in that category and 12 other categories: Business and

Professions, Community Service, Culture and Art, Education, Environment, Health, Justice, Non-Traditional Careers, Science, Technology and Engineering, Sports and Athletics, Philanthropy and Youth.

The deadline to submit nominations in any of the 13 categories is Jan. 22.

County officials said more than 200 women have been inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame since its inception in 1993.

In addition to honoring women leaders from Alameda County, the annual event raises funds for youth scholarships and helps support local nonprofit community partners that serve women, youth and families.

The Women's Hall of Fame event is held in conjunction with National Women's History month in March.

County officials said that they expect the event to be another

sellout with more than 500 people on hand to recognize the achievements of inductees and to their youth and community partners.

"We are excited to celebrate our 25th Anniversary by honoring more women leaders than ever before," Alameda County Administrator Susan Muranishi, who's co-chair of the Women's Hall of Fame, said in a statement.

Muranishi said, "We also expect to have unprecedented impact in helping young women achieve their dreams and supporting local organizations performing heroic work in our communities."

The next group of Women's Hall of Fame inductees will be announced in early 2018.

People who want to learn more about the Women's Hall of Fame and the luncheon can visit the county's website or call the County Administrator's Office at (510) 272-6984. ■

—Bay City News Service

DASHBOARD

Continued from Page 5

color-coded performance levels ranging from red (which is lowest) to blue (highest). Because data on chronic absenteeism and career/college readiness is being displayed for the first time this year, schools and districts are not receiving a color-coded ranking for those indicators.

The local indicators, meanwhile only measure districts and use ratings of met, not met and not met for two or more years.

PUSD achieved the highest performance level for the academic, graduation rates and English learner progress state indicators. The district received a yellow rating, which is in the middle of the range, for the suspension rates category.

The district also met all four local indicators.

In a statement, PUSD acknowledged that there was an increase in suspensions "at a majority of schools" during last school year while adding that the number of suspensions remains "relatively low." The suspension rate among

all students went up 1%, according to the dashboard.

"We are committed to providing alternatives to suspension, the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), restorative practices, and other related supports to reduce our suspension rates," Superintendent David Haglund said. "We look forward to redoubling our efforts to advance these initiatives to best serve all students."

The California School Dashboard can be accessed online by visiting www.caschooldashboard.org. ■

Richard Michael Peel

July 12, 1966 – December 2, 2017

Richard passed away peacefully at Desert Regional Hospital in Palm Springs, Ca. On Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017. He was born on July 12, 1966 in Alameda, Ca. Richard was a graduate of Foothill High School in Pleasanton, CA and attended San Francisco City College. He worked for Wells Fargo for 20 plus years and was transferred to Portland, Oregon in 1996. He then moved to Palm Springs in June 2014.

His favorite TV shows were Jeopardy and the Golden Girls. Richard also loved to watch 60 minutes religiously every Sunday with NO interruptions from the peanut gallery!

He loved to travel and visited; Paris, St. Petersburg, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Alaska, Sidney, Australia, New York, Maui, and he went on eight ocean cruises.

Richy's favorite restaurants were Gay 90's in Pleasanton, Mumu's in Portland and Spencer's and Trio in Palm Springs. He enjoyed bowling and swimming in his pool in the hot Palm Springs sun. He also collected Tea Pots and he loved his Teddy, "Bear"!!

Richard is survived by; his life partner Peter Skirvin, Peters mother Nancy, Peters sister Julie, brother David (wife Cindy), niece Rebecca, nephew Alexander, brother Andrew (husband Robert Skirvin-Orr), niece Danielle Skirvin-Orr. Richy's mother Diana Peel Schwerin, step-father Bob Schwerin, brother Tony Peel, nephew Preston Peel, sister and best friend Danielle Peel, niece Nicole Danner, step-brothers David Crane (wife Juli), Doug Crane (wife Brooke), niece Lola Crane, best step-mother ever Darlene Crane Peel, and "Richy's" father Mike Peel. Lastly, his other "best friend" his Shih Tzu dog named "Chanel Danielle Peel" (yes...he named the dog after his sister). Richard was preceded in death by his grandparents, Pete and Angie Martinez and Great Aunt, Eva.

Celebration of life will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 4:00pm., at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 301 Main St. Pleasanton, CA 94566

Donations can be made to: Desert AIDS Project (DAP), desertaidproject.org, 1695 N. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262 (760) 323-2118

Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) <http://www.cascadeaids.org>, 520 NW Davis St. Suite 215, Portland, OR 97209 (503) 223-5907

Attend an AA meeting or Al Anon meeting near you! Or make a donation. <https://www.aa.org> <https://al-anon.org>

Local AA: 6990 Village Pkwy # 214 Dublin, CA 94568 (925)829-3160
 American Liver Foundation: 870 Market St. San Francisco, CA 94202 www.liverfoundation.org 415-248-1060

PAID OBITUARY

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

CHP: Man dies after jumping from I-680 freeway ramp

The California Highway Patrol is investigating the death of a man who reportedly jumped from the shoulder of a freeway connector last week in Dublin as an apparent suicide.

The incident occurred just before 8:30 p.m. Dec. 15 on the southbound Interstate 680 to eastbound I-580 transition ramp, according to CHP Officer Tyler Hahn.

A 63-year-old Livermore man parked on the shoulder of the ramp and jumped over a railing, landing on the southbound I-680 to westbound I-580 transition ramp approximately 30 feet below, Hahn said. The man's name is being withheld in accordance with the Weekly's policy on suicide reporting.

The man was then struck by at least two vehicles, according to Hahn. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

It's not known whether the man died from the fall or being hit by cars on the freeway ramp, Hahn said.

An investigation into the incident is ongoing, but Hahn said it is being treated as an apparent suicide.

The southbound I-680 to

westbound I-580 connector was shut down for three hours after the fatality Friday.

Editor's note: Anyone in need of support can contact Crisis Support Services of Alameda County's 24-hour confidential crisis line at 800-309-2131 or CrisisSupport.org, or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, via text at 800-799-4889 or at SuicidePreventionLifeline.org.

In other news

- Police are seeking the public's help in identifying a man who burglarized a convenience store in Pleasanton.

At 5:33 a.m. on Dec. 8, the man used a crow bar to smash the front door of the Food and Beverage store at 5696 Stoneridge Drive. He then stole cigarettes and alcohol, police said.

The culprit was described only as a black man and was associated with a silver or gold sedan, possibly a Buick, police said.

Police have released surveillance footage of the crime and are asking anyone with information to contact Detective Boccasile at 931-5272.

- Defense attorneys last week filed a motion for a new trial for Jose Ines Garcia Zarate, the man acquitted of murder last month in the fatal shooting of Pleasanton native Kate Steinle in San Francisco in 2015.

Matt Gonzalez, chief attorney for the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, said he was seeking a new trial on Garcia Zarate's sole conviction in the case — being a felon in possession of a gun.

Garcia Zarate, 45, was acquitted on Nov. 30 of murder and assault with a deadly weapon in court in the fatal shooting of Steinle, a 32-year-old San Francisco resident, on Pier 14 along The Embarcadero on July 1, 2015.

However, the six-man, six-woman jury, which deliberated for six days after a four-week trial, convicted him of one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Gonzalez on Dec. 14 said he believed that conviction was based on faulty instructions to the jury by Judge James Feng, who Gonzalez said should have explained that momentary possession did not necessarily constitute possession under the law.

Gonzalez argued during the trial that Garcia Zarate found the gun used in the shooting wrapped in a piece of cloth under a seat on Pier 14, and picked it up to investigate without knowing it was a weapon. The gun then fired once accidentally, causing the bullet to ricochet off the pier and strike Steinle in the back as she walked about 90 feet away with her father.

Garcia Zarate threw the gun into the water immediately after it went off when he realized it was a gun, making his possession only momentary, according to Gonzalez.

The motion filed last week, which will be heard by Feng, could have little impact on Garcia Zarate's sentence at the state level, which is a maximum of three years in prison. Gonzalez said he believes his client may have already served the maximum possible sentence on that charge.

However, Gonzalez said it could have an impact on proceedings in federal court, where the U.S. Attorney's Office has charged him with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition and being an illegally present alien in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

"I think it's obvious the federal government is upset that he was found not guilty so they immediately brought charges," Gonzalez said. "I think if this conviction is either set aside or if we prevail on appeal, it will raise a question: Are you bringing charges against him for any reason other than because you are upset with the outcome?"

"I'm confident he's going to beat that case," Gonzalez added.

"We will review the basis for the motion and respond in court," district attorney's office spokesman Alex Bastian said. Prosecutors have until Jan. 2 to respond to the motion and Garcia Zarate is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 5.

- Four San Ramon Valley teenagers were arrested on suspicion of shooting flare guns into multiple houses in San Ramon over the weekend.

Three of the teens are from San Ramon and the other is from

Danville, and they are all between 15 and 16 years old, according to the San Ramon Police Department. Their names were not released because they are underage.

They were booked into Juvenile Hall in Martinez on Monday, with charges that include multiple felony counts of conspiracy and shooting into an inhabited dwelling. The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office filed five felony charges and two misdemeanor charges against each teen on Tuesday, according to SRPD Lt. Cary Goldberg.

The shootings in question occurred between 10 p.m. Saturday night and 1 a.m. Sunday morning in the southern part of San Ramon just off Interstate 680. An older model Nissan Sentra drove through four streets in San Ramon and fired a flare gun into at least seven residences and multiple vehicles, police said.

The car has been recovered, and 12 gauge flares were found inside, according to Goldberg.

The residences, which were occupied, were located on Yosemite Avenue, Estero Drive, Aptos Drive and Cree Court, police said. It appears the homes and vehicles were randomly targeted.

Goldberg said the flare guns did cause damage, including broken windows and smoldering, but no structure fires. "And most importantly, no one was hurt," he said. ■

—Pleasanton Weekly staff and Bay City News Service

Peggy Case Blanco

July 17, 1949 - November 28, 2017

Peggy received her wings to fly cancer-free while surrounded by love in her Pleasanton home. Peggy was born in a small town in Southern California and lived in the Bay Area since age one. For the last 47 years she lived in Pleasanton, where she raised her two daughters. Peggy was very active in PTA, Girl Scouts, and volunteering at her daughters' schools: Walnut Grove, Harvest Park, Amador, and Hearst Elementary. Peggy also volunteered for Special Olympics and Open Heart Kitchen.



It was Peggy's love for her family, friends, and all children—both young and young-at-heart—that made people want to be in her presence. Her kind, warm, loving, and often silly spirit was brilliant. She made everyone feel loved and cared for, which is why most called her Mom, Mama Peg, and later in life, Nana.

Peggy loved being a Nana; it was her favorite season in life. She loved all three of her grandchildren deeply, and they loved her to the back of the moon. Peggy also loved going to the movies with her longtime friend, Carol. She loved a good love story and all things purple.

Peggy is preceded by her husband, Fernando Blanco, and survived by her daughters, Cheryl Case and Sheri Case McNutt (Scott), and her grandchildren Tyler, Rachael, and Zachary.

A celebration of life will be held at Inklings Coffee and Tea in Pleasanton on January 20th, 2018 at 10 AM to 12 PM.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Make-a-Wish Foundation or Open Heart Kitchen in Pleasanton.

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 16

Alcohol violation

■ 11:15 p.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Owens Drive

Domestic battery

■ 9:45 p.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road
■ 10:44 p.m. on Johnson Drive

Theft

■ 1:16 p.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto
■ 2:31 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
■ 10:09 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

■ 10:13 a.m. on the 1000 block of Lamb Court
■ 1:08 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Fraud

■ 3:16 p.m. on the 3700 block of North Platt Court

Dec. 15

Theft

■ 12:15 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
■ 12:34 p.m. on the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive
■ 5:07 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
■ 9:49 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Alcohol violation

■ 7:51 p.m. on the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Fraud

■ 11:15 a.m. on the 500 block of Peters Avenue

■ 2:11 p.m. on the 6600 block of Owens Drive

Trespass/prowling

■ 9:57 a.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

Missing person

■ 9:16 a.m. on Bernal Avenue

Sex offense

■ 12:44 a.m. on Valley Avenue

Dec. 14

Alcohol violation

■ 10:49 p.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Embezzlement

■ 1:42 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Theft

■ 7:20 a.m. on the 7600 block of Hillsdale Court
■ 2:35 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
■ 3:16 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
■ 8:31 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
■ 10:31 p.m. on the 7100 block of Koll Center Parkway

Burglary

■ 7:15 a.m. on the 6500 block of Lansing Court

■ 6:02 p.m. on the 4400 block of Mohr Avenue

Child abuse

■ 8 p.m. on Angela Street

Drug violation

■ 2:08 a.m. at Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard

Dec. 13

Theft

■ 7:17 a.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 9:45 a.m. on the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 3:38 p.m. on the 1300 block of Bordeaux Street

■ 5:16 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Robbery

■ 3:16 p.m. at Denker Drive and Payne Road

Assault/battery

■ 11:35 a.m. on the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

Missing person

■ 8:23 a.m. on Bernal Avenue

Alcohol violation

■ 2:55 a.m. on the 200 block of Carnation Court

Trespass/prowling

■ 1:31 a.m. on the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

Dec. 12

Drug violation

■ 7:38 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Graffiti

■ 11:52 a.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Theft

■ 8:38 p.m., 7500 block of Ivy Court; theft from auto

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

In this season of giving, joy and peace

It's holiday time in a bah humbug sort of year. Reasons for distress run the gamut — from terrorism, violence and nuclear weapons to disrespect, distrust, divisiveness and discrimination to inequality and injustice. When there is equal outrage over a football player who takes a knee and someone who takes a life with impunity, something is wrong.

We have workplace impropriety, misplaced priorities, lack of civility and accountability. The only place we don't find discrimination is in abuse; victims come in all races, creeds, colors, ages and genders.

The weight of the issues can distort the rose-colored glasses we usually don this time of year.

Here in our beautiful city in our beautiful state in the greatest country in the world, we are more or less sheltered from the very visible signs of societal despair, but it still lingers just beneath the surface.

We are not completely immune from homelessness, poverty, violence and tragedy, but most of Pleasanton's bah humbug problems are "first world" issues. For example, while some people in our community are living in their cars or are one medical bill or layoff away from homelessness, we are spending thousands of taxpayer dollars and precious time defending the development of an area that could bring jobs and sales tax revenue here.

Injustice can also rear its ugly head in our hometown, as was evident when the man who killed Pleasanton native Kate Steinle was not found guilty of even involuntary manslaughter. People escape consequences of driving while impaired on multiple occasions and end up killing innocent people. Some use funds meant for charity to promote their own self-interests and others steal and call it justified.

What we need in this season of giving, joy and peace is to bring joy to others by giving of ourselves and giving up anger, vengeance for perceived slights and bitterness. This could quash some of the divisiveness in Pleasanton, in our state, in our country and in our world. This could bring peace, if only peace of mind.

A little humility and thinking of others before rights and entitlements can go a long way. Look inward and act outward, and be kind to one another. ■

LETTERS

Our faithful volunteer

Dear Editor,

In the season of giving, we at Pleasanton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center would like to acknowledge one of our most "faithful" volunteers.

Dominic Wong has been visiting our facility for over 15 years. Dominic comes to us from St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton. He visits seven days a week at least two to four hours a day, praying and giving communion to our Catholic residents.

Dominic is always available to us. He prays with the families when a

resident needs a final blessing at the end of their life. He brings comfort and caring to all our residents, regardless of their religion.

St. Augustine's ministers to our residents every Monday morning; we have Mass once a month. Our facility has many residents who look forward to their visits. They are faithful followers.

Dominic Wong is St. Augustine's shining star. He gives of himself freely on a daily basis. We at Pleasanton Nursing and Rehab Center would like to thank and acknowledge Dominic Wong for all of his "faithful" kindness.

—Linda DeGennaro

TIM TALK



BY TIM HUNT

Costco foes pivot to the courts

Here's the latest strategy to battle Costco in Pleasanton: When your signature drive fails, pivot and pitch a case into the courts.

That's the path that former City Councilman Matt Sullivan and his Citizens for Responsible Growth took this month. They had mounted a referendum drive to overturn the City Council's unanimous approval of the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone. Mayor Jerry Thorne recused himself because he once owned Costco stock in a retirement fund.

Costco is planned as the anchor store in that development. It would be the third location in the Tri-Valley, complementing Livermore and Danville. The zone also includes spots for two hotels and other retail uses.

Sullivan's group had 30 days to gather more than 4,000 signatures, and the deadline went without any filing last week. Sullivan was quoted in the Pleasanton Weekly saying it was a tough time of year to gather signatures with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Perhaps, but this is the first referendum drive in memory that has failed to gather enough signatures to file with the city clerk. In 2016, Bill Wheeler, owner of Black Tie Transportation, put together a team that included paid gatherers and qualified an initiative for the ballot.

Pleasanton voters rejected the measure by almost a 2-1 margin.

Given that margin, the council was very comfortable moving ahead.

Now, Sullivan's group has challenged the approval in court, questioning the adequacy of the environmental work and whether it adequately mitigated the potential impacts of the economic development zone project. The filing, by attorney Mark R. Wolfe, appears to be throwing as much mud on the wall as possible and hope a judge finds that some of its sticks. That said, Wolfe has an impressive background in planning as well as the law.

There was a time that these suits were easy to win and force more environmental work or a settlement. Of late, they have been a tool often used by unions to force proponents to sign favorable labor agreements.

Just where this suit will go is for time to tell. It's doubtful that it will stop the project, but it could become more expensive and be delayed while the matter wends its way through the courts. ■

Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years. He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His "Tim Talk" blog appears twice a week at PleasantonWeekly.com.

What's your opinion?

Send a Letter to the Editor to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

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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 12 local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

This year's Holiday Fund recipients that will share 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.

Open Heart Kitchen is the largest hot meal program of its kind in the Tri-Valley feeding the hungry every weekday at multiple locations.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation is an organization that has a collaborative relationship with the Pleasanton Unified School District and contributes to the needs of Pleasanton students and educators.

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 alleviate 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 development, 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.

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This shot of the Ready family was taken in 1997. Kendall, 4, and Matthew, 6, smile for the camera, blissfully unaware of the unhappiness of twin brothers, Austin and Blake, 17 months.

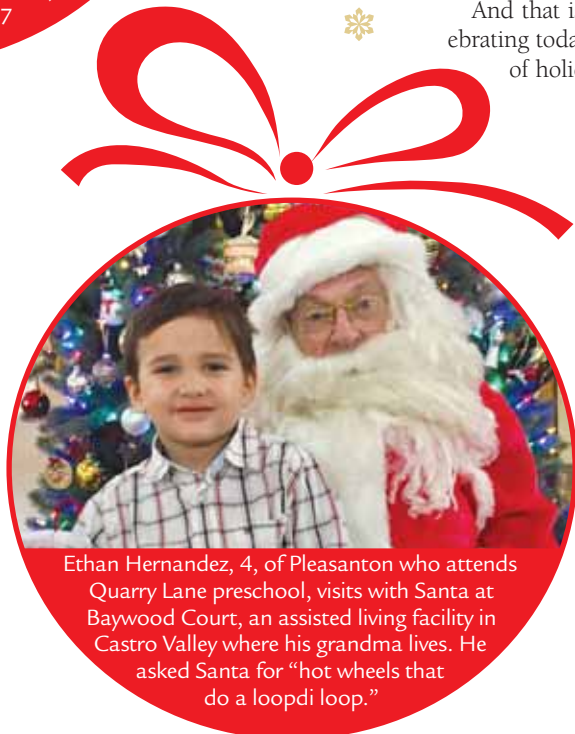
Here comes Santa Claus

It's tradition! Visiting St. Nick can mean laughter or tears

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Whether a child is thrilled to meet Santa or bursts into tears at the proximity of the portly red-clad stranger, it is an experience to savor and recall with affection over the years. When the Pleasanton Weekly asked for Santa photos, several of you responded with oldies but goodies.

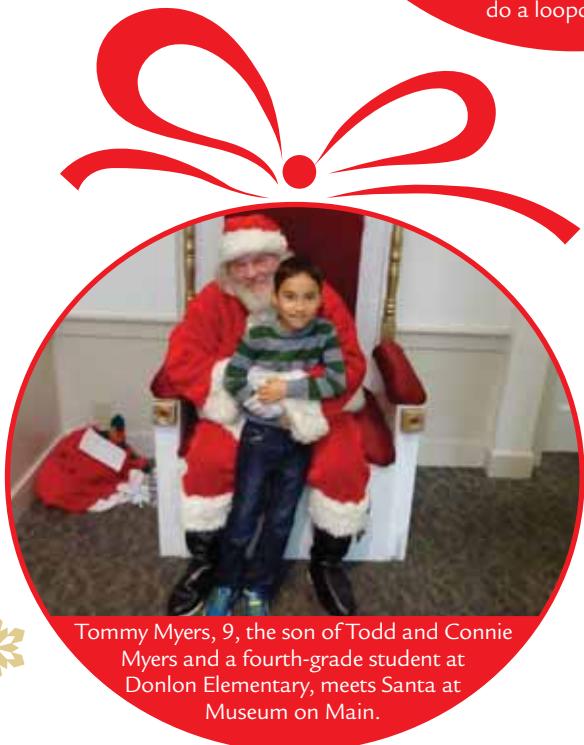
And that is what the season is all about — memories of Christmases past as well as celebrating today with the love of family and friends, and looking forward to many more years of holiday cheer. ■



Ethan Hernandez, 4, of Pleasanton who attends Quarry Lane preschool, visits with Santa at Baywood Court, an assisted living facility in Castro Valley where his grandma lives. He asked Santa for "hot wheels that do a loopdi loop."



A favorite photo of Shelly and Will Brun shows their sons visiting Santa at Blackhawk Plaza in 2012 — Adrian, 5; Niko, 1; and Marcelo, 2. The boys now attend Greenbrook Elementary School in Danville.



Tommy Myers, 9, the son of Todd and Connie Myers and a fourth-grade student at Donlon Elementary, meets Santa at Museum on Main.



Cousins Kaylee, Karlie and Lexie enjoy a visit with Santa Claus while Logan isn't too sure. Kaylee and Karlie Rocha are the daughters of Ken and Keri Rocha of Pleasanton, and they attend Donlon Elementary School. Lexie and Logan Lozano are the children of Katie and Jay Lozano of Livermore, where Lexie is in kindergarten at Croce. Proud grandparents are Ron and Patty Frankson of Pleasanton.



Mele Kalikimaka! Brayden, son of Julie Lewis, who attends Frederiksen Elementary in Dublin, visits Santa at the Navy Exchange Mall at Pearl Harbor with his nieces Brennah and Braelynn and brand-new-baby nephew Sawyer, whose parents Brett and Savannah Lewis-Meneses went to school in Pleasanton and Dublin.



Santa, at Bass Pro Shop, holds young Livermore resident Rocco Graziano, 6 months, while Lucca Graziano, 2, insists on Grandma Carol Cano being in the photo.



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Jeremy Walsh, editor; Regina Nestor, administrative associate; Julia Brown, staff reporter; Erika Alvero, staff reporter; Karen Klein, multimedia sales executive; Frances DeNisco, administrative associate. Front row: Jeb Bing, editor emeritus; and Gina Channell, publisher. Not pictured: Carol Cano, multimedia sales executive – real estate.

Happy Holidays ²⁰¹⁷

from all of us at

**Pleasanton
Weekly**

PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

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Amador girls soccer jumps to No. 9 ranking in California

Also a strong week on the pitch for Foothill girls



DAVID JUDSON

Midfielder Kieran Wallace is the leading scorer for the Dons, whose undefeated run last week catapulted them to No. 9 in the state.

The Amador Valley girls soccer team rolled to three wins last week, moving to 8-0 on the season and climbing up to a No. 9 ranking in California.

The Dons started the week on Dec. 12, taking down East Bay Athletic League opponent Dublin 2-1 on a cold night. Keara Greenan scored the first goal followed by another goal from defender Hannah Landel on a corner kick to put the Dons up 2-0 at half.

From there the Dons defense hung on in the second half for the 2-1 win.

Two nights later, Amador took on another EBAL rival, this time beating Livermore 4-0.

The scoring was paced by Sydney DeVor who had a pair of goals. Midfielders Kieran Wallace (goal and an assist) and Molly Murphy (goal) also had a great night.

Once again, the defense locked up the Livermore team, with goalie Bailee Alvarez-Walls getting the shutout.

The week ended with a 2-0 win over a strong Clovis North team from Fresno.

Again Alvarez-Walls was up to the task with a shutout. The defense has remained consistently strong throughout the season, led by sophomore center defender Julia Gonsman. Goal scorers for Amador were defender Michaela Riter and midfielder Wallace. Isabella Mayo provided the assist on Wallace's goal.

Foothill girls soccer

Foothill opened its EBAL season at home by beating Granada 1-0.

The match was tightly contested throughout, with much of the play taking place in the midfield for

both teams with very few good scoring opportunities.

Finally, in the final 20 minutes, the game turned when Sarah Mirr pressured the Granada defense into a mistake, intercepting a misdirected pass and calmly finishing for the game-winner. The Foothill defense was tested, holding up very well to bring the victory home for the Falcons.

Later in the week, the Falcons traveled to Dublin to take on a good Gaels squad in a tough, physical match and returned home with a 0-0 draw.

Foothill's back line played strong again throughout the match, led by Peyton Raun, Quinn Lombardi, Megan Guerra, Emma Monsen, Allison Casey and keeper Allison Jenezon.

The Gaels mustered only one quality scoring chance in the match. The Falcons struggled offensively to get the ball forward, ending with six shots for the match, from Mirr (four shots), Kira Broacha (one) and Drew Pagtakhan (one).

On Saturday, the Falcons moved back to their non-conference schedule with a match against Washington (Fremont).

The offense found the going much easier, knocking off the Huskies 4-0.

The Falcons overwhelmed the Huskies from the opening whistle with extensive play from the entire squad in the first half and part of second, generating 23 shots and 12 corner kicks in the match, against just one shot for Washington.

The scoring was led by Mirr with a hat trick on nine shots, as well as Broacha's late tally on one of her five shots. ■

RADD teams earn medals in floor hockey

Pleasanton's Pinney wins gold in skills event

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton hosted more than 300 of the state's top Special Olympics floor hockey players earlier this month, and the hometown competitors walked away from the Alameda County Fairgrounds with medals.

The Pleasanton RADD (Recreational Activities for the Developmentally Disabled) A team won a gold medal while the RADD B team finished with bronze. Pleasanton resident Adam Pinney also earned gold in the individual skills competition.

In all, 26 delegations representing Alameda, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Kings, Napa, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Tuolumne counties took part in the Pleasanton Regional Floor Hockey Competition, organized by Special Olympics Northern California at the fairgrounds Dec. 2.

The RADD A team dropped its first game 11-5 but then swept through the next two (10-2 and 8-2) to earn the gold medal in its division.

The RADD B team lost both of its games but still received a bronze medal in its division. Camellia Pinheiro scored a hat trick for the B squad in the final game.

The RADD program's only skills competitor, Pinney took home the



KAY KING

The Pleasanton RADD A and B teams gather after competing in the floor hockey event at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, where the A squad won gold and B earned bronze.

gold medal after demonstrating his prowess in all four events: shoot for accuracy, shoot around the goal, passing and stick handling.

"To prepare for the competition, the athletes practice every Tuesday evening for six weeks for 1-1/2 hours working on drills, defense and offensive situations and then scrimmages. We coaches are so proud of the dedication and commitment from these athletes. It's a pleasure and a privilege to coach them," coach Kay King said.

The RADD A team consisted of Bruce Louwaert, Bryan Peacock, Evan Rutter, Greg Neves, Jack Nespor, Jake Kaufman, Jason Paasch, Jennifer Thomas and Steven Adkins.

The RADD B team featured Pinheiro, Dawn Nickles, Joshua Layman, Lauren Lenigan, Michael Ahre, Ryan Butterly, Scott Tanaka and Vladislav Goroklhov.

In addition to King, coaches were Troy Nickles, Jim Spillane, Jim Gundell, Sergio Castillo and Kathy D'Onofrio. ■

Blue Devils squad qualifies for international finals

Strong team effort seals regional title against host San Jose

By JEREMY WALSH

The Tri-Valley Blue Devils 14-and-under B team clinched a spot in the International SilverStick Finals in Canada next month by winning its division at the 2017 Pacific Regional Tournament in San Jose during Thanksgiving weekend.

The Blue Devils used a total team effort in the finale against host club San Jose Jr. Sharks on Nov. 26 to propel them to the championship in what was a hard-fought tournament for the local boys.

"We are beyond excited to be heading to Pelham, Ontario in January 2018," head coach Peter Bibby said. "We wouldn't have this opportunity if it wasn't for every individual on the team. As Wayne Gretzky once said, 'When we play as a team, we all look better as individuals.'"

The 14U B team got off to a strong start in round-robin play, squeaking out a 3-2 win in their opener against the Santa Rosa Flyers on Thanksgiving.

They were looking great the

next day in their second game, sitting with a 4-2 lead against the Capital Thunder heading into the third period. A win in there would clinch the Blue Devils a spot in the semifinals.

But it wasn't to be, as the Thunder came roaring back in the final frame, scoring two goals within 46 seconds of each other to tie the game before putting another pair into the net to seal a 6-4 victory over Tri-Valley.

That left the Blue Devils facing a must-win — with a good goal differential — to advance to the semis. So, Bibby looked for ways to motivate his team before their final round-robin game, and second contest on Black Friday.

"I had to keep the kids motivated after their unfortunate loss and rested before their second game in the evening the same day," he said. "After having a brief tailgate party in the parking lot, I took the whole team in to watch a high school game so they could rest and take their minds off the earlier game."

The strategy paid off, as the Blue Devils dominated the Redwood City Black Stars 6-0 to move on to the semis.

There, they defeated the San Francisco Sabercats on Nov. 25 by a score of 4-1 and advanced to the finals.

The Blue Devils clinched the championship in a close battle, 3-1, over San Jose on the strength of solid team play and great goal-tending, according to Bibby.

With the win, the Blue Devils earned a spot in the international finals to compete against other regional qualifiers across the United States and Canada.

The team consists of Brayden Bibby, Avery Books, Ryan Dawson, Brandon Forbes, Owen Ford, Gabriel Frost, Brendan Kiley, Ryan Little, Honglin Liu, Connor Martin, Jonathan Ng, Zain Raza, Anton Roepken, Cameron Rose, Xander Singh, Christian Starr and Kaitlyn White. The coaching staff also featured Brian Frost, John James and Vineet Singh. ■

Take Us Along

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to editor@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.



What a ride: Erik Jensen, during a recent family trip to the Chamonix Valley in France, poses with Aiguille Du Midi in the distance. The world's tallest cable car takes people from the Valley floor up to the very tip of the spire. Off to the left is Mont Blanc and one of its remaining glaciers.



Bridges to Alaska: From left: Renee Bridges, Jim Bridges, Lisa Bridges, Scott Bridges and Sherry Jicinsky-Bridges at National Glacier Park in Alaska. The family went on an Alaskan cruise last summer to celebrate two big birthdays: Renee's 76th and Jim's 81st.



Weekly and a view: During their summer 2017 trip to Europe, the Ottaway family just had to stop and take a picture of this lovely view in Switzerland, with their Pleasanton Weeklys in hand. Here are Marianne, Alisa and James.



Days celebrate 25 years: Patrick and Nancy Day took a 10-day tour of Ireland to mark their 25th wedding anniversary. Here, the Weekly joined them at Ballyseede Castle.



North, to Alaska: The Garber family of Savana, Evan, Jim, Katalina and Virginia stopped in Skagway, Alaska while on a family cruise as part of celebrating the 20th wedding anniversary of Jim and Virginia.



Ho Chi Minh statue: The Sweeney family went to visit their daughter Danielle and her husband Collin, who currently live in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She is teaching at a private Singapore elementary school and he is in business.



Hawaiian throwback: Rich Pascual recently stumbled upon this “Take Us Along” photo of wife Mariefe from 2006 when the pair took a trip to Oahu, Hawaii.



Happy graduation! It was a Cabo San Lucas family celebration for Holly Grudovich, who graduated from Chico this June. From left are Paul Martens, Sue Connolly, Cara Palmer, Joey Palmer, Scott Palmer, Abbie Palmer, Ben Palmer, Gina Grudovich, Gregory Grudovich, Holly Grudovich, Greg Grudovich and Veronica Peltier.



Fun in the surf: Steve, Ashley, Toby and Michelle Glock enjoyed surf and sun at the Hapuna Beach State Park on the Kohala Coast. This park near Waikoloa is a jewel just off Highway 19 with modern facilities and shaded picnic areas for families to enjoy a great day in paradise. Remember sunscreen, hats and cover-ups. Aloha!



Submerged crocodile: Matthew, Marisol, Alexis and David Collet checked out the Mask Temple, one of the excavated Mayan ruins in Lamanai, Belize. Construction was finished on the Mask Temple by 200 BCE. The masks on this temple are adorned with a headdress representing a crocodile (Lamanai translates to “submerged crocodile”).



On a bullet train to Kyoto: The Smith family of Emily, dad Lance and Julia are studying the back pages while preparing to travel from Tokyo to Kyoto during their two-week journey in Japan. This N700a model bullet train travels at up to 270 kph.

Music

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT: SAINT-SAÛNS AND WIENIAWSKI Sursum Corda Chamber Music Series at St. Clare's Church, Saturday, Dec. 23, 5 p.m., 3350 Hopyard Road. Featuring violinist Anita Dumar (semi-finalist, Sphinx Competition) and pianist/conductor Stefano Flavoni playing works by Saint-SaÛns, Wieniawski, and Coleridge-Taylor. \$30 includes pre-concert talk and wine and appetizer reception. www.stclares.brownpapertickets.com.

UNITY OF TRI-VALLEY Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin, is having a Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m., which includes the Unity Carolers Choir and congregational singing as well. All are welcome. There will be no Sunday morning service that day. www.unityoftrivalley.org. 829-2733.

Talks & Lectures

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS Virtually Speaking Toastmasters Club meets from noon to 1:00 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.

Comedy

THE BIG, FAT YEAR END KISS OFF The 25th Annual Big Fat Year-End Kiss-Off Comedy Show: Firehouse Arts Center, Wednesday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m. A rollicking celebration of

the good, the bad, and the ugly of 2017. Stand-up, improvisation and loosely written sketches guaranteed to mock, scoff and taunt with taste. Starring political satirist Will Durst, Debi Durst, Michael Bossier, Johnny Steele, Mari Magaloni and Arthur Gaus. (PG-13) Reserved seating tickets are \$20.00, \$25.00, \$30.00; available at www.firehousearts.org, 931-4848, or at the center box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

Food & Drink

BEER TRAIL Tri-Valley Craft Beer Trail. Five beer stops between now and January 31 equals \$20 to Sunflower Hill. Visit Tri-Valley's seasonal beer trail passport, is back. Through Jan. 31, beer-lovers can download a passport or pick one up at any stop on the Tri-Valley Beer Trail or Tri-Valley hotel, visit at least 5 out of our 22 breweries, taprooms or ale houses, and for every passport with five stamps that you turn in, Visit Tri-Valley will donate \$20 to Sunflower Hill, a local, nonprofit organization working to create a sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs. Bring your passport in to Visit Tri-Valley, 5075 Hopyard Rd., Suite 240, or you can scan and email your passport to tourism@VisitTriValley.com. Once the passport is received, Visit Tri-Valley will make the corresponding donation. For more info, visittrivalley.com.

Health & Wellness

MOTHERS WITH A PURPOSE Mothers With a Purpose meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second and

fourth Thursday of the month at the Foothill High School Library, 4375 Foothill Road. Mothers with a Purpose was formed by local moms to offer support to families affected by addiction. Visit www.motherswithapurpose.org.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind will be meeting from 1 p.m.-3 p.m., on the second Saturday of each month at Valley Memorial Hospital, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, right across the street from Trader Joe's. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call Carl at 449-9362.

Lessons & Classes

KURUKULA EMPOWERMENT & SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES FOR GIRLS & WOMEN Self Defense for Girls, adult women. Mean Girls Prep, Ages 10-14, Livermore. Mom and Girls Middle School Prep. Girls and Moms Basic Self-Defense Ages 10-Adult. Mean Girls/Relationship Safety Workshop Ages 10-16. Mom and Girls Middle School Prep. See full schedule at: empower@kurukula.org.

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY USER GROUP The PT Users Group meets at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The usual format is 2-3 presentations by various presenters. Topics include internet use, email, photos, security, help with Windows 7/8/10, smart phones, tablets. Cost is \$2.00 to \$2.50. Call 931-5365.

Sports

BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN & TRAILS COMMITTEE Advises Parks and Recreation Commission and City's Traffic Engineering Division on bicycle, pedestrian and trail related items. Committee reviews and prioritizes potential projects, provides input on policies related to bike ways and trails, and promotes community education. Next meeting, Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, 6:30 p.m., 5353 Sunol Blvd. Pleasanton Senior Center, www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

WEDNESDAY FUN RUN Weekly Wednesday Fun Run. Five miles around Dublin. Families and pets are highly encouraged. All levels. Meet up Time: 6:15 p.m., start run: 6:30 p.m. Dick's Sporting Goods, 2820 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Bring water. trivalleyrunning.org.

LIVERMORE PLEASANTON UMPIRES ASSOCIATION The Livermore Pleasanton Umpires Association is a 503c non-profit organization that has been part of the local sports scene for nearly 50 years. The Livermore Pleasanton Umpires Association is looking for umpires for the upcoming 2018 fast pitch softball season. We serve the high school as well as the youth programs in Livermore and

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/M. ADKINS

Lady Day

Spend your holiday with Billie Holiday. The 3-month-old is playful with her kitten pals and appreciative of gentle petting. Her distinctive markings make her extra special. Stop by Valley Humane Society at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton today to meet Billie. For more information, call 426-8656 or visit valleyhumane.org.

Pleasanton. Training and meetings will begin in early January 2018. Those interested should contact Brian Jensen, 640-4932 or email, lfsavr@gmail.com.

Seniors

FRIENDS OF THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER 'NEWCOMER'S WELCOME' Friends of the Pleasanton Senior Center sponsors a twice-monthly "Newcomer's Welcome" from 10:30 a.m.-noon on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Tour the facility, hear about programs and activities; questions are welcome and will be answered, and light snacks served. Free lunch at the Sage Cafe after, no reservations needed. Go to www.seniorcenterfriends.org.

EYE GLASS ADJUSTMENTS AND CLEANING Stop by the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., 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.

SENIOR MEN'S 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 at 12 p.m. on the 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. San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Road, San Ramon.

Community Groups

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB Meet your Tri-Valley neighbors, have fun and learn more about our beautiful community. Open to new and established residents of the Tri-Valley. Activities include monthly coffees and lunches, day trips, games, book club, wine club, shared interest groups, community service, outdoor

activities such as hiking, bocce, walking, and golf. For dates and times contact 215-8405 or pnewcomers@gmail.com. Go to www.PleasantonNewcomers.com. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

AL-ANON AND ALATEEN Have you been affected by someone's drinking? Al-Anon and Alateen offer hope and strength for families and friends of problem drinkers. Contact 277-7661 or help@AlanonTriValley.org. Go to www.alanonTriValley.org. Pleasanton.

PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB The Pleasanton Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. No dinner will be served. For more information visit pleasantonlionsclub.org.

THIS SIDE UP FOUNDATION This Side Up Foundation presents our First Annual "Clothes"ing Out 2017 Clothing Drive. Donate your gently loved clothes to our clothing drive. We will gladly pick up your bags of clothing. Call or text us at 510-299-7874 with your address and we will arrange a pickup/drop off location for your donations before Dec. 29. Contact Maddy at 523-1065, if you have questions.

PLEASANTON-TULANCINGO SISTER CITY All are welcome to join for "Taco Tuesday" at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Fiesta Taco, 1989 Santa Rita Road Unit J. We are an active organization promoting cultural exchange, goodwill and friendship. We have a youth and adult exchange program. Call 989-6882 or go to www.ptsc.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 p.m.-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.

YOUTH COMMISSION The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Operations Services Center, 3333 Busch Road.



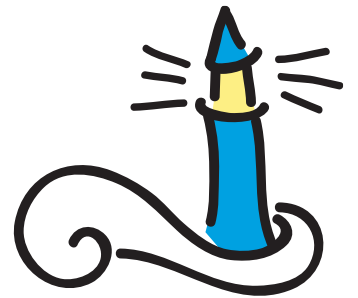
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Singhal receives Gold Award

Pleasanton resident Aanya Singhal, a junior at Foothill High, recently received a Gold Award — the highest honor presented by the Girl Scouts — in recognition of her project creating the inaugural "Medical Occupations Career Night" at Kaiser Permanente hospital in Oakland. Nearly 50 under-represented East Bay high-schoolers attended the event, hearing from speakers across the medical and hospital administration fields and taking part in interactive activities. Singhal also sits as a student member on the Girl Scouts of Northern California Board of Directors.

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INDEX

- BULLETIN BOARD 100-155
- FOR SALE 200-270
- KIDS STUFF 330-355
- MIND & BODY 400-499
- JOBS 500-585
- BUSINESS SERVICES 600-690
- HOME SERVICES 700-799
- FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE 801-899
- PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICES 995-997

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140 Lost & Found

Found sunglasses
Found sunglasses at Pleasanton BART. Found approximately Dec. 2 or 3 in the evening, on the Pleasanton side of the BART station in the passenger pickup area. Wire rimmed glasses. Contact 1luckyruckus1@gmail.com

145 Non-Profits Needs

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. Call 1-800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

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Jobs

500 Help Wanted

Senior Systems Engineer
Senior Systems Engineer - Pleasanton, CA. Duties: Make configurations, action installations & attend to break/fix events at a mid-high complexity level. Attain & maintain expert level Cisco certifications & provide escalation assistance. Reqs: BSc. Degree or foreign equiv. in Comp. Sci. Info. Sys., Comp. Eng. or closely rel. plus 2 yrs. of exp. in the job offered or Sec. Eng. or closely rel. Exp. which may have been obtained concurrent. must incl. 2 yrs. of exp. in handling High-end Cisco Routers & Switches; Design of security perimeter for intranet & internet threat detection & mitigation; & Wireless Network Design & Implementation. Must be Cisco Certified Network Professional & Cisco Certified Security Professional. Please send resume to: Ms. Jennifer Duenas, Dimension Data North America, 5201 Great America Pkwy. Ste. 122, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

525 Adult Care Wanted

Caregiver for Adult with special needs
Part time caregiver needed in Pleasanton family home: Monday through Thursday, 3:30-6:30 for a 35 year old female with special needs- cerebral palsy/wheelchair. Fridays and week ends as needed but not required. Driving to appointments desired but not required. Must have valid California drivers license and auto insurance. Total care required: feeding, bathing, dressing, changing. Duties also include meal prep, light housekeeping, laundry for her special needs family. Female applicants ideal. Very competitive pay. Will run background check. Please email with resume to apply: or phone 925-997-4194.

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801 Apartments/ Condos/Studios



Palo Alto
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Charming one bedroom apartment just two blocks from University Ave. APT B unit with hardwood floors throughout. This place has a nice size living room with a closet, dining area connected to full size kitchen with garbage disposal and plenty of cabinets. There is a full size remodeled bathroom. There is on-site free washer/dryer, parking space available contact Via 240-335-2801 or email

Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

HEALING INTENTION BODYWORK FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 537544
The following person doing business as: HEALING INTENTION BODYWORK, 164 RAY ST., PLEASANTON, CA, 94566, ALAMEDA COUNTY, is hereby registered by the following owner: AIMEE AUSTIN GRAJEDA, 4075 VINEYARD AVE #22, PLEASANTON, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT: AIMEE AUSTIN GRAJEDA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on NOVEMBER 3, 2017. (Pleasanton Weekly, DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22)

SIGNATURE MOBILE NOTARY SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 538486
The following person doing business as: SIGNATURE MOBILE NOTARY SERVICES, 5729 West Las Positas Blvd., #303, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner: Kerrie Watkins, 5729 West Las Positas Blvd., #303, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Kerrie Watkins, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein December 4, 2017. Signature of Registrant: Kerrie Watkins, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 4, 2017. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2017 and Jan. 5, 2018).



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SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton

(Oct. 30 to Nov. 1)

Total sales reported: 15

Lowest sale reported: \$450,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,450,000

Average sales reported: \$997,333

Dublin

(Oct. 30 to Nov. 1)

Total sales reported: 12

Lowest sale reported: \$570,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,975,000

Average sales reported: \$949,667

Livermore

(Oct. 30 to Nov. 1)

Total sales reported: 13

Lowest sale reported: \$541,500

Highest sale reported: \$1,589,000

Average sales reported: \$890,077

San Ramon (Nov. 21-22)

Total sales reported: 8

Lowest sale reported: \$840,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,422,500

Average sales reported: \$1,079,750

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

Dublin

5497 Aspen Street A. & D. Garibaldi to N. & B. Goel for \$1,200,000

7781 Chantilly Drive B. Bivona to T. Chong for \$570,000

6098 Kingsmill Terrace M. Nguyen to N. & W. Dadgar for \$1,975,000

4687 Mangrove Drive #47 F. Peng to P. & S. Yang for \$760,000

8160 Mulberry Place M. Huynh to S. Soe for \$735,000

6723 Poplar Way J. Walton to 1314 Ventures for \$675,000

4518 Sandford Court A. & J. Delfante to S. Ananthula for \$745,000

6792 Syrah Drive D. & Y. Snyder to V. Manegari for \$1,350,000

6808 Syrah Drive R. & S. Nourai to V. Palla for \$1,210,000

8738 Wicklow Court J. & S. Heydeman to A. Sinha for \$815,000

11445 Winding Trail Lane Cestaro Trust to V. Desikan for \$690,000

7078 Wineberry Way J. Loera to H. Sandhu for \$671,000

Livermore

1464 5th Street Devany Trust to E. & D. Perez for \$700,000

1277 Accra Court Gallagher Trust to J. & L. Rodriguez for \$850,000

198 Alden Lane Renner Trust to J. Liang for \$1,279,000

1768 Bobwhite Road J. & B. Wathor to R. & C. White for \$1,589,000

1942 Cartier Drive D. Stoneham to D. & K. Turner for \$541,500

1486 Chaparral Way G. & D. Arellano-Womack to A. & K. Lombard for \$800,000

850 El Rancho Drive S. Pervere to R. & K. Ditto for \$665,000

2169 Gabriella Lane Gambhir Trust to M. Jahner for \$1,395,000

2632 Gelding Lane F. & B. Mastrobuoni to F. & K. Brauer for \$850,500

840 Havasu Court Pasternak Trust to A. Singh for \$695,000

2924 Sage Common Q. Xu to A. & S. Shaik for \$741,000

562 Selby Lane N. Decastro to A. & N. Zhyzhkevych for \$755,000

1259 Shelburne Road J. Teasley to Y. Song for \$710,000

1551 Arlington Road Grittani Trust to D. & J. Alley for \$640,000

375 Basswood Common #3 Shea Homes to A. Ebadi for \$573,000

3142 Belmont Court Hukari Trust to N. Thysell for \$1,850,000

2384 Bettona Street R. & B. Lewis to Lefebvre Trust for \$1,298,000

5633 Bridgeport Circle JBA Enterprises to E. Keesis-Segura for \$725,000

1925 Carnation Circle H. Hernandez to Y. & K. Rosen for \$709,000

1769 Elm Street M. Nolasco to E. & M. Gomez for \$560,000


574 Escondido Circle M. & S. Marcus to D. Coelho for \$1,200,000


291 Fennel Way T. & S. Toor to C. Botto for \$755,000


Source: California REsource

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COMING SOON IN SPRING OF 2018



Vintage Heights

Downsizing isn't easy until you see this beautiful one story home. 4 bdms, 2.5 baths, 2600 sq ft with a 3 car garage. Beautifully appointed. Granite slab kitchen. Wonderful garden, patio and spa.

ANOTHER SALE PENDING - 9 OFFERS



Vintage Heights

Beautiful custom home w/ views of Mt Diablo. Granite slab kitchen. 4 bdms, 3 baths. Over 3000 sq ft. Iron baluster staircase, vaulted ceilings and more. **Pending over asking price of \$1,550,000**

JUST SOLD - \$45K OVER ASKING



4622 Mason Street, Pleasanton

Stunning one level home with granite slab kitchen, beautiful LVT wood flooring, new carpet, dual pane windows, landscaping and more! **\$945,000**

JUST SOLD - OFF MARKET SALE!



4642 Sierrawood Lane, Pleasanton

Wonderful tri-level in Highland Oaks! Some sellers prefer a quiet off market sale without going through all the work to get a home to market. We have many families waiting for a home. **Call for details.**

JUST CLOSED ESCROW - 3 OFFERS!



6857 Siesta Court, Pleasanton

Simply adorable one level home. 3 bdms, 2 baths. Granite kitchen with shaker cabinets and large pantry. Dual pane windows, new carpet. **\$810,000**

COMING SOON - JANUARY 2018



Vintage Hills, Pleasanton

4 bdrm, 2.5 bath with 1600 sq ft townhome situated walking distance to all three schools, shopping and downtown! Spacious kitchen, new carpet, flooring and paint.



Happy Holidays!

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1029 HOMETOWN WAY, PLEASANTON

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JUST SOLD

SOLD

2707 RANCHO CANADA DR, BRENTWOOD
Offered at \$650K

5046 RANCH HOLLOW WAY, ANTIOCH
Sold at \$480,000

SOLD

COMING SOON

3 CATALPA LANE, SAN RAMON
Sold at \$865,000

6213 HIDDEN MEADOW CT, SAN JOSE
\$1,700,000



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