

CHILD CARE LINKS

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

The Five



BILLY HATHORN

Holiday decorations adorn the Pleasanton (Texas) Express office as the fast-growing city 38 miles from San Antonio holds Christmas celebrations this weekend.

I'm not talking about the five senses, "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," the 5-second rule, the Jackson Five, quintuplets or "The Five" on Fox News.

It's all about the five U.S. cities named Pleasanton and how the other four — in Texas, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska — are celebrating the holidays.

It turns out that if you missed our Hometown Holiday Parade on Dec. 1, you could dash down to Pleasanton, Texas for that city's "Merry on Main" festival tonight and all day tomorrow.

The city's Pleasanton Express newspaper reports that the event includes an ice slide, pictures with Santa, cookie contests, fireworks, Christmas caroling and a lighted parade — all on Main Street.

Pleasanton, Texas is a fast-growing city as it attracts developers and transplants from California and eastern cities moving to the area for jobs in San Antonio, just a 38-minute drive to the south. Its population of 10,393 is up 16% from the 2010 census.

Pleasanton, Kansas has a population of just 1,176 and is served by the Linn County News, which covers the rural areas around our namesake town. Like ours, Pleasanton, Kansas was named in honor of Civil War General Alfred Pleasanton, whose name was misspelled by both cities when they were incorporated.

The paper's big story this week was "Light up Pleasanton," a festival free to the public running from 6-8 p.m. tomorrow in the grassy lot

at Ninth and Main.

Pleasanton, Nebraska residents will travel the 19 miles to big city Kearney (population 33,520) to visit Santa at his downtown Cottage on the Bricks and ride the free train and enjoy hot cocoa at Yanney Heritage Park.

Like our town, the Nebraska Pleasanton (population 350) was incorporated in 1894. It got its name from its location in the Pleasant Valley of the Loup River. It's also a village, with far less municipal government powers than a town or city.

The smallest Pleasanton-named town in the country is located in Decatur County, Iowa, with a population of 46, down three from the 2010 census.

Founded in 1854, it was originally called Pleasant Plain, but the name was changed to avoid confusion with another community of that same name in the state.

That Pleasanton's news is delivered by the Journal-Reporter, headquartered in nearby Leon, where businesses, most grocery stores and retailers that serve the rural area are located.

Thanks to Leon's Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club, tonight's home lighting decorations contest that the two organizations sponsor will include Pleasanton homes as well as those in Leon.

From large to small, it's a joyous time of year for all five Pleasantons. ■

Editor's note: Jeb Bing is editor emeritus for the Pleasanton Weekly.

His "Around Pleasanton" columns typically run on the second and fourth Fridays of every month.

About the Cover

Hundreds of families that benefit from Child Care Links and its providers stopped by for a holiday breakfast last week at the organization's headquarters in Pleasanton. Serving them on the buffet line are (from left) Mason Hekl, volunteer and freshman at Amador Valley High School; Rachel August, volunteer; Christy Duncan Anderson, volunteer and executive director of The Albertsons Companies Foundation and Safeway Foundation; Ryan Duncan Anderson and Mary Hekl, both Child Care Links board members, and Kelly O'Lague Dulka, Child Care Links CEO. Photo by Jeb Bing. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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Pleasanton Weekly

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

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



Connie Quintanal
Project management

Well, this may sound selfish, but this year, the gift I'm looking forward to giving the most is to my husband, our daughter and myself. After working for 40 years, I will retire the first part of 2019!



Kayla Mueller
Dental hygienist

My sister, for sure. She has had a really difficult year. So I'm eager to give her a lovely, heart-felt gift that will lift her spirits.



Scott Miller
Actor/comic

I'm most looking forward this holiday season to gifting my most consistent companion, my loving cat Izzy (which is short for Isabelle). Throughout a year of physical challenges, Izzy was very patient with her daddy's slowing down in getting her what she needs while still making sure she showed me how important I am to her no matter what.



Mary Cassidy
Physical therapist

I am most excited to give a donation of \$58 to International Rescue Committee (IRC), which is a global humanitarian aid, relief and development organization. That \$58 will pay for the education of one girl, somewhere in the world, for an entire year.



Nina Moody
Middle school student

My mom. She is always there to help me and support me, to keep me safe and warm, to take me places and to make sure I always have everything I need. She also makes sure I'm always prepared for everything. I don't have enough money to buy her a gift that is as valuable as she is to me, but I will make or build something for her that takes a lot of thought and effort, and I know she will love it.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Sister city events

The Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association is hosting a traditional Christmas posada this Sunday evening from 7-8 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street.

The free holiday celebration will feature music, carols (in English and Spanish), dessert and refreshments.

The association is also recruiting students for its annual exchange program, during which local high school students spend three weeks with a host family in Tulancingo, Mexico during the summer, and vice versa in Pleasanton.

An information session is set for next Thursday (Dec. 20) in the Pleasanton Public Library on Old Bernal Avenue from 7-8 p.m. To learn more, visit ptsca.org.

New chancellor

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District has narrowed its search for a new chancellor to three finalists, all of whom took part in open public forums on each of the district's two main campuses earlier this week.

The finalists are Lisa Avery, president of Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus in Portland, Ore.; David Dore, campus president and vice chancellor of workforce and economic development at the Pima Community College District in Tucson, Ariz.; and Walter Tribble, superintendent/president of Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey.

The district seeks a successor to Jannett Jackson, who resigned in August. Two interim chancellors, Susan Cota and Thomas Fallo, have served since August.

—*Bay City News Service*

Future Forum

The Future Forum has announced a new leadership team to oversee the group, which was founded in 2015 by local U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin) to bring together the youngest Democrats in Congress to focus attention on issues and opportunities for younger generations.

Swalwell, who served as two-term chair, will become chair emeritus for the group that now boasts 50 members. Rep. Stephanie Murphy (Florida) will serve as chair, with vice chair duties split among Reps. Jimmy Gomez (Riverside), Antonio Delgado (N.Y.) and Abby Finkenauer (Iowa).

Future Forum leads a national listening tour to engage with young Americans where they live, work and go to school. Members of the group have introduced legislation to address college affordability, student loan debt and entrepreneurship, among other topics. ■

PUSD unveils recommendation for new school on north side

Plan to split and expand Donlon Elementary site expected to be decided on next week

By ERIKA ALVERO

After months of surveys, community input meetings and multi-agency studies, Pleasanton Unified staff have settled on an official recommendation for dealing with enrollment growth in the northern part of the city: build a new school on the site of Donlon Elementary School.

The recommendation was unveiled publicly during Tuesday night's regular school board meeting,

for a discussion and presentation one week before the board is set to hold a workshop on the capacity issues — at which time the district hopes to arrive at a decision.

“There's no other option for this growth that's really feasible, other than using the Donlon property ... There's a lot of mitigations that need to happen to make it happen, but that is the only option we can really focus on,” said Trustee Mark Miller, who sat on the Feasibility Study

Group for this project, along with newly appointed Board President Valerie Arkin.

No action was taken, as this was more of an informational preview of what the Feasibility Study Group — which consisted of administrators and officials from both PUSD and the city of Pleasanton — had been debating over the past few months.

Though not specified by staff during the meeting, the agenda for next week's workshop (posted about

an hour after the conclusion of the meeting) clarifies that with the new school option, Donlon's existing building would be converted into a TK-3 campus, while the new school would be for fourth- and fifth-grade students.

The estimated project cost is \$61.25 million — mostly for the new school's construction, but the estimate also includes \$6.34 million

See **NEW SCHOOL** on Page 7

Council members sworn in

Testa, Narum, Thorne begin new terms

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton City Council celebrated a changing of the guard this week, as new Councilwoman Julie Testa was sworn into office alongside re-elected Councilwoman Kathy Narum and Mayor Jerry Thorne during a special council meeting.

Narum and Testa finished first and second, respectively, in the four-candidate race for two City Council positions during the Nov. 6 general election, with newcomer Testa essentially taking the seat available with incumbent Councilman Arne Olson not seeking reelection. Thorne won his fourth and final term as mayor while on the ballot uncontested.

The three election winners took their positions on the dais following a swearing-in ceremony in front of a crowded council chamber Tuesday evening. Each then offered brief remarks, reflecting on their campaigns, thanking their supporters and looking to their term ahead.

“I think it goes without saying that this is a very special evening for me because I am beginning my last term as your mayor,” Thorne said, referencing the city's term limit for mayors.

After completing his final two-year term in 2020, Thorne will have 25 years of city service experience under his belt, between his time as mayor, councilman and Parks and Recreation Commission member.

“It has been extremely rewarding, and I would recommend public service to anyone who is so inclined to step up to the plate and give it a try,” the mayor said. “Serving this community in an elected role has its challenges, it certainly does ... but it also has



JEREMY WALSH

With the municipal election results certified, the new Pleasanton City Council is ready to get to work. From left: Councilman Jerry Pentin, Councilwoman Karla Brown, Mayor Jerry Thorne, Councilwoman Kathy Narum and Councilwoman Julie Testa.

a lot more rewards than it does challenges.”

Thorne added, “Now it's time to put the rubber to the road, and we've got a whole lot of stuff to do in these next two years.”

Narum offered similar sentiments during her short speech.

“I will champion endeavors that will continue to make Pleasanton a great place to live, to work and to play,” she said. “I pledge to be accessible, to listen to differing points and to be transparent in my decision-making.”

Narum is beginning her second and final full term as a councilwoman, a position she's held since winning a special mail-only election to fill a vacant seat in May 2013.

“Good governance is a priority for me. Our community deserves respectful debate and leaders who strive for consensus,” she added. “By our example, we can teach the next generation to construct solid public policy based on building

blocks of consensus and unbiased reason.”

Narum, like Testa, earned a four-year term that runs through November 2022.

A longtime community advocate and 2016 mayoral candidate who previously sat on the city's Human Services Commission (1995 to 2007), Testa brings a second slow-growth voice to the dais alongside second-term Councilwoman Karla Brown — who backed Testa's campaign.

“During the campaign, I learned even more about Pleasanton residents and how you want to shape and preserve our city,” Testa said. “My top concerns will always focus on our quality of life, our children, our families, our seniors and protecting what we value about our city.”

She added that she was humbled by the level of support she received at the polls.

See **SWORN IN** on Page 7

City talks bike/ped safety

New barrier coming to sidewalk of concern on Foothill Road

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton City Council signed off on separate plans detailing desired improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians on Foothill Road and on the Interstate 580 overpasses, but the public debate last week focused on one temporary safety measure soon to be installed near Foothill High School.

Several families turned out to urge city leaders to fix what they call hazardous conditions on a stretch of sidewalk used by schoolchildren between Muirwood Drive (south) and Puri Court, an asphalt path with no real buffer to northbound Foothill Road, where driving speeds often exceed 45 mph.

City officials agreed, telling the council they have plans to construct a short-term solution over schools' winter break, putting in a new railing to help protect pedestrians and cyclists. Longer-range options for that segment are also spelled out in the newly adopted Foothill Road Bicycle Corridor Plan.

“It's pretty clear to me the most important aspect of this is the safety for our children getting to Foothill, to Lydiksen and to Hart Middle School,” Councilwoman Kathy Narum said in support of the plan on Dec. 4.

Student safety was the theme during the public hearing, specifically along a 250-foot stretch of walkway on the east side of

See **SAFETY** on Page 6

PUSD receives high marks in California Dashboard update

District scores well for state, local indicators; suspension rate in need of improvement

By ERIKA ALVERO

The California Department of Education recently released updated performance ratings of the state's schools, and Pleasanton Unified School District overall saw high results in most categories, though the district's suspension rate still needs to be addressed, according to the report.

The California Dashboard is an accountability system that takes a holistic look at how schools and

districts perform in six categories: suspensions, chronic absenteeism, graduation rate, college and career readiness, English learner progress, and academic proficiency in English language arts and mathematics, along with five local indicators, which are based on data available only at the local level.

The latest update, released Dec. 6, is based on 2017-18 data.

"The consistent excellence and gains in academic performance

and engagement are a testament to the strong commitment and high achievement of our students, teachers, families and broader school communities," Superintendent David Haglund said in a statement.

PUSD met standards for all five local indicators, and scored in the blue — the highest level out of five — in the categories of graduation rate, college and career readiness and academic proficiency in ELA and math.

The dashboard uses a "color" scoring system, with blue as the highest rating, followed by green, yellow, orange and finally red.

The district scored at the second-highest, "green" level for chronic absenteeism and the second-lowest, "orange" level for suspension rates; English learner progress did not have a color rating this year, as that data will be based off a newly implemented test.

"As identified in PUSD's organizational goals, we remain committed to providing alternatives to suspension, restorative practices,

the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, and other related supports to reduce our suspension rates and best serve all students," Haglund added.

On the positive side, the district saw a 2.4% increase in the overall number of graduating students who are college and career ready, along with a 1.6% increase in PUSD's graduation rate, said district officials.

However, according to the state's dashboard, the district has room to grow in terms of suspension rates.

The suspension rates indicator had two components: the overall suspension rate (number of students divided by total enrollment) and how the rate compared to the previous year.

"While the number of suspensions is relatively low in the district, there was a 0.3% increase in the number of students who were suspended across PUSD during the 2017-18 school year," district officials said. "Nonetheless, the

district saw a decrease in the number of African-American students and students with disabilities being suspended, moving these student groups from red to yellow on the state indicator."

The five local indicators included parent engagement, access to a broad course of study, local climate survey, implementation of academic standards, and basics: teachers, instructional materials, facilities. PUSD met standards for all of these, district officials said.

The California Dashboard also reported scores for the individual schools within the district, again with blue indicating the highest performance level, followed by green, yellow, orange and then red. It should be noted that graduation rate and college and career readiness were only measured at the high school level, and chronic absenteeism only for elementary and middle school students.

To see how individual PUSD schools performed, see the online version of this story at Pleasanton-Weekly.com. ■



CITY OF PLEASANTON

How to fix Mission Hills slide

Pleasanton city officials are asking residents of all ages for their input on how to renovate the popular big slide at Mission Hills Park. The 30-year-old slide has become difficult to maintain to an operational standard, according to city officials, who want to know what people like about the slide and what should be done to improve it going forward. A public outreach meeting is scheduled for residents to share their thoughts this Saturday (Dec. 15) from 1-3 p.m. at the park at 600 Junipero St. For more information, contact city landscape architect Matt Gruber at 931-5672.

SAFETY

Continued from Page 5

Foothill Road where the sidewalk turns into a narrow asphalt path, with fencing on one side and Foothill Road traffic on the other separated only by a curb.

Foothill Road is Pleasanton's major west-side thoroughfare, and the segment with the troublesome sidewalk is a route children use to get to their schools, including Lydiksen Elementary and Foothill High, from neighborhoods to the south.

Because of the skinnier width of that sidewalk, it's hard for kids on their bikes or on foot to be side-by-side or pass each other, not to mention the narrow sidewalk is right up against the busy road, according to families.

"I like to ride my bike to school but I can't do it that often because of the very narrow and dangerous sidewalk," Will McConlogue, a Lydiksen third-grader, told the council. "I feel afraid when I'm on this sidewalk, and I am sure other kids do too."

In recent weeks, city officials devised a two-part plan to address the safety concerns in the short-term.

It starts with installing a new railing between the sidewalk and Foothill Road during the winter school break. The railing includes a design feature to ensure bicycle handlebars won't catch on it.

They also plan to replace the asphalt sidewalk with a concrete one as part of the city's annual streets resurfacing program during the upcoming spring and summer

— though that project is contingent upon the adjacent retaining wall being able to withstand replacing the asphalt with concrete.

The city's long-range vision calls for that segment of Foothill Road to be widened, plus adding a new retaining wall, to accommodate buffered bike lanes and a multi-use trail. That long-term plan requires right-of-way acquisition, which would likely occur as part of potential development of the adjacent private "Merritt" property — but that could be years down the road, according to city staff.

The handful of residents who spoke to the council last week said they supported the temporary solution, but they didn't want city leaders to lose sight of creating a permanent solution as soon as possible.

"I feel like every day that we delay is a day of increased risk for our community, and it's one more day where we're gambling with the safety of our students," parent Jolene McConlogue said. "Make this area a top priority and further improve this roadway simply because we are so close to a school zone and it's affecting, like mentioned, several thousand students each day."

Will Wollesen, a Foothill Knolls resident, raised concerns about the speed limit on Foothill Road as well as the viability of the city's railing plan, which he called "sort of the Band-Aid solution."

"While I want an immediate fix, I want something that makes sense and that is comprehensive and that is a long-term solution, so I encourage efforts to continue

in that regard to make it a solid and good fix," he said.

Council members seemed to support city staff talking with the Merritt property owners about an easement to allow the city to construct the long-term solution sooner. But City Manager Nelson Fialho pointed out the difficulty will be the city would not offer any assurances to the owners about a potential future development project during early easement negotiations, which could last a year or more.

In the end, the council unanimously approved the Foothill Road Bicycle Corridor Plan, which calls for a variety of improvements from Dublin Canyon Road to Castlewood Drive.

"This is a huge step forward," Councilwoman Karla Brown said. "We know it's been on the priority list and we know it's been something we've been looking at. It is government. Government takes a while. We'll find the funding. We'll get to work on it."

The council also voted 4-1 to adopt the new I-580 Overcrossings Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Plan, which focuses on proposed design changes to the freeway overpasses at Hopyard Road, Hacienda Drive and Santa Rita Road.

Brown dissented, opposing the city spending money and staff time on studying all three overpasses (instead of just Santa Rita alone) when the other two intersections have safer underpasses nearby.

To read more about the two bicycle plans, read the online version of this story at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. ■

Public Notices

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FLOAT MUSIC
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File No.: 551755
The following person(s) doing business as: Float Music, 7479 Ginger Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hamoon Goudarzi Nozari, 7479 Ginger Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Hamoon Goudarzi Nozari, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2018 (Pleasanton Weekly, November 23, 30, December 7, 14).

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The following person doing business as: Confidential Counseling, 3300 Stoneridge Creek Way, T326, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Marcia M. Robbins, Psy. D., MFT, 3300 Stoneridge Creek Way, T326, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Marcia M. Robbins, Psy. D., MFT, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein Jan. 1, 1988. Signature of Registrant: Marcia M. Robbins, Doctor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Nov. 15, 2018. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018).

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Stray tabby with special needs finds a new home

Monet heads to Livermore for the holidays thanks to Valley Humane Society

By ERIKA ALVERO

The holidays came early for Monet, a special-needs tabby just adopted out from Pleasanton's Valley Humane Society.

Monet is a 7-year-old orange tabby with some severe challenges. She has tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), and leaves an occasional urine drip, for unclear reasons — making it extra hard for her to be adopted.

But last week, she found a home, joining a Livermore family who has another FIV-positive cat.

When she was found as a stray, Monet had a severe gash mid-tail, requiring total amputation.

The FIV test means that she must live indoors so as not to infect other cats. And although Monet is able to hold her bladder and use her litter box when needed, she does experience the occasional urine drip. (Valley Humane compares the drip to "a person who might experience a tiny leak when they sneeze.")

However, she is a sweet cat and has completely recovered from her tail amputation surgery — the fur

has even grown back, said Melissa Adkins, marketing communications manager for the nonprofit organization.

The family who adopted her decided that they wanted another feline friend.

"They checked out several area shelter websites, and Valley Humane was the only group with a special-needs cat," Adkins said. "They came down and (of course) fell in love with her and took her home."

A Senior Pet Adoption Grant awarded by the Petfinder Foundation

allowed Valley Humane to waive her \$100 adoption fee, along with providing for a plastic Kuranda cat tower, a high-sided Modkat litter box with washable liners, and helping with her prescription

diet for about two years.

The Valley Humane Society, located at 3670 Nevada St., has a Home for the Holidays promotion going on during the month of December: adoption fees for all adult dogs and cats are half-off.

The organization is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■

NEW SCHOOL

Continued from Page 5

for traffic mitigation and \$380,000 for improvements to the existing Donlon school. The projected enrollment for the TK-3 is 700 students, while the new 4-5 school is expected to see 500, according to staff.

The need to expand capacity is due to rising enrollment in the northern part of Pleasanton, a trend seen recently and projected to continue for at least five years.

According to district demographers, the area is expected to see a peak enrollment of almost 2,900 students in 2023, an increase of about 460 students from fall 2017. On the other hand, southern schools' enrollment levels are expected to remain stable or even decrease.

Donlon and its eastern neighbor, Hart Middle School, are two of the schools primarily affected, and so discussions revolved heavily around these sites. In their recommendation, though, staff have also proposed halting work on Hart Middle School options until work has begun on the school's science lab improvements.

Deputy superintendent of business services Micaela Ochoa, who

presented the item Tuesday night, emphasized that much more detail on the recommendation would be revealed later in the week when the agenda for the board workshop was posted online. That meeting is set for next Tuesday (Dec. 18).

Donlon neighbor Audrey Purnell was the first of three public speakers to come forward. She expressed the concern that the new school would further exacerbate traffic congestion for the surrounding neighborhood.

"I'm just going to tell you, it's a traffic nightmare for us that live in Val Vista," Purnell said.

She added that neighbors such as herself really needed to be included in the conversation.

"It's more than an inconvenience," she said. "This change, it affects the quality of our life, it's stressful. It's twice a day for 285 days a year."

Melissa Schussel, a fifth-grade Donlon teacher, came forward to advocate for teachers' input to be solicited, adding that the October "staff presentation" referenced by Ochoa earlier didn't adequately flush out the sketches on the table, and that November was the first time she had heard of the split school option.

"I want to be a part of the solution,

I want to have input, say, what can we do to fix this, because we know it is a concern for everybody," Schussel said. "But we need people to come and talk to us."

She also said that some of the dates selected for these discussions collided with teachers' conference weeks and other busy times — including next week's workshop.

The newly appointed Board Vice President Steve Maher agreed with Schussel's points on teachers being consulted in this process, adding that there also needed to be more even representation from the various school sectors and grade levels.

"Everyone needs to be represented, kindergarten and fifth grade," Maher said. "Kindergarten needs are different than fifth-grade needs. Same with third grade. Same with our counselors, psychologists."

Other options that had been on the table included adjusting school boundaries, building a new elementary school, converting Donlon and/or Hart into a K-8, and increasing enrollment capacities by expanding select school sites.

Next week's board workshop is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday (Dec. 18) in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave. ■

term in November 2014. He opted not to seek re-election this year.

"I want to thank the city officials and voters, who put their trust in me. I also want to thank our terrific staff and this council for an excellent working relationship," Olson said in closing. "It's been great serving and living in Pleasanton."

His fellow council members also praised Olson during his final meeting, and he received a certificate of recognition for his city service on behalf of the State Senate from local State Sen. Steve Glazer, who was on-hand to administer the oath of office to Narum.

Thorne took the oath of office from Alameda County Superior Court Judge Stephen M. Pulido, while former mayor Tom Pico swore in Testa.

The swearing-in was the only business on the agenda for the new council, a ceremony scheduled as

a special meeting because Alameda County election officials took nearly the full 30 days to certify ballot results.

Narum easily retained her council seat with 15,800 votes (or 33.31%), according to the final totals.

Testa finished with 12,362 votes (26.07%) to earn the second seat, comfortably ahead of the two other challengers in the race: former parks and recreation commissioner Joe Streng (20.82%), who was backed by the Chamber of Commerce and councilmen Olson and Jerry Pentin; and lesser-known candidate Joseph Ledoux (19.51%), a Berkeley police officer who lives in Pleasanton and had the support of the city's police and fire unions.

Appearing on the ballot without a challenger, Thorne won re-election with 23,093 votes (or 95.13%), with the remaining votes going to various write-in candidates. ■



ERIKA ALVERO

Hour of Code

Pranav Nethi was among a group of Foothill High School students taking part in the Hour of Code last week. A nationwide event that happens during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 3-9), Hour of Code aims to engage students in computer science, especially women and underrepresented minorities. Foothill's event was organized by junior Atreyo Chakrabarty and happened after school on Dec. 7.

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SWORN IN

Continued from Page 5

"I look forward to collaborating with my fellow council members and city staff to address these challenges," Testa said. "Please know, Pleasanton residents will always come first in every decision I make."

Before the swearing-in ceremony, Olson offered parting words prior to stepping down.

"I've enjoyed serving these past four years. I've learned a lot about our city, and I've met many people who love living here and who care about Pleasanton," he said. "I believe this has been a good City Council. We've approached our policy deliberations with civility."

Olson, a retired bank executive who served two terms on the Planning Commission from 2006-14, was elected to his lone City Council

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Sheriff's office marks anniversaries of local cold-case homicides

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office last week called attention to somber anniversaries for a pair of decades-old, unsolved homicide cases near Pleasanton, with investigators also putting out a renewed call for information to help them solve the cold-case murders.

Dec. 3 marked 45 years to the day since the bodies of Michael Marie Shane, 30, and Kathy Sue Pethel, 27, were discovered on the west side of Fallon Road north of Interstate 580 in Dublin, sheriff's officials said in their "Cold Case" post on social media.

Friends said both women were planning to hitchhike to the Los Angeles area on Dec. 3, 1973 for a custody hearing. The pair were last

seen alive in San Francisco between 12:30-2 a.m. that morning, walking on Oak Street toward Ashbury Street, a major hitchhiking corner in the city.

The double homicide case has remained unsolved since.

One day earlier last week, the sheriff's office remembered the 35th anniversary of the day that teenager Kellie Jean Poppleton was found dead in Sunol.

Poppleton, a student at Conrad Noll School in Fremont, was last seen on the corner of Darwin Drive and Fremont Boulevard, sheriff's officials said on social media last week. Poppleton's body was discovered on the side of Killkare Road in Sunol on Dec. 2, 1983.

Witnesses reported seeing a black Pontiac Trans Am near the scene prior to the teen's body being found, investigators said. Poppleton's death has also remained unsolved over the decades.

Sheriff's officials often acknowledge cold-case homicide anniversaries through posts on social media, along with the message, "Our victims are never forgotten." They released a photo of Poppleton as part of their post, but no photos were available of Shane or Pethel.

Anyone with pertinent information about either case can contact the sheriff's Cold Case Homicide Unit at 510-667-3661 or the anonymous tip line at 510-667-3622. Reference case No. 73S-3974 for the Shane/Pethel homicides. Reference case No. 83-13639 for the Poppleton homicide.

In other news

• A 32-year-old Sacramento man died in a collision between two big-rigs on westbound Interstate 580 in Dublin early Tuesday afternoon, according to the California Highway Patrol.

A 2000 Peterbilt driven by the Sacramento man and a 2016 Freightliner driven by a 26-year-old man from Miami, Fla., were both going west on I-580 at about 12:36 p.m. Tuesday when, for some reason, the Sacramento man allowed the front right of his truck to collide into the left rear of the other truck, according to CHP Officer Tyler Hahn.

The Sacramento man then lost control of the Peterbilt and it swerved

to the right and overturned, according to Hahn.

The man was crushed and emergency crews pronounced him dead at the scene.

The Freightliner driver continued west and exited the freeway at Tassajara Road and was later contacted by the CHP and is cooperating with investigators, according to Hahn.

The driver of the Freightliner and a 24-year-old woman from Miami, Fla., who was a passenger in his big-rig weren't injured in the collision.

The Fallon Road on-ramp to westbound I-580 and two far right westbound lanes were closed until around 5 p.m., according to Hahn.

• Late Monday morning, a BART train fatally struck a man between the Castro Valley and West Dublin-Pleasanton stations, according to the transit agency.

The agency first had reports of a train hitting someone on the tracks between the two stations at around 11:15 a.m., at which point the agency immediately suspended service in both directions, BART spokeswoman Anna Duckworth said.

"It's unknown how this person came to be on the tracks," Duckworth said. The man died on-scene, and his identity has not yet been released.

Limited service was partially

restored around 12:45 p.m., with trains single-tracked through the area, she said. The coroner arrived on the scene around 2:30 p.m., and five minutes later train service was fully restored, according to Duckworth.

• BART directors voted unanimously last week to approve a new four-year contract with the transit district's police officers that will give them a 16% pay raise over the next four years.

BART officials said salaries for police officers are rapidly rising nationwide and the new labor package is needed to bring their officers closer to average salaries in the Bay Area.

The agreement includes a one-time 6% salary increase as well as annual raises ranging from 2.5%-2.75% over the life of the four-year contract.

"This is an important contract not only for our current officers but for recruitment efforts," BART Police Chief Carlos Rojas said in a statement.

"Bay Area law enforcement agencies often are competing to hire the best candidates out of a shrinking pool of qualified applicants. This agreement will make us a more attractive destination for potential hires," Rojas said. ■

—Pleasanton Weekly staff and Bay City News Service

Employment

Job Opening at Open Heart Kitchen

Part Time Delivery Driver/
Site Supervisor \$15.52/
hour. The Delivery Driver is responsible for delivering meals between other sites using company vehicles and picking up food donations at varying locations as needed. The Site Supervisor is responsible for supervising the operation of Open Heart Kitchen's Children's Bag Lunch assembly to produce 2600 Bag Lunch bags every week. To apply, please email operationsdirector@openheartkitchen.org or call 925-580-6793.



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Seeking passionate, experienced journalist

The Pleasanton Weekly is seeking an enthusiastic and talented staff reporter with previous journalism experience working in print and digital news environments. The reporter will cover and edit stories ranging from meetings to breaking news to features for our award-winning print and digital publications.

Beyond excellent reporting and writing skills, a bachelor's degree in journalism or a related field, previous experience covering government agencies, demonstrated news judgment and the ability to prioritize tasks and handle stress of daily deadlines and multiple priorities are required. The ability to deliver clean, vibrant copy while working to very tight deadlines is crucial. Photography skills, social media and copy editing experience are a plus. The candidate must also be able to work the required hours, which include some night assignments and occasional weekend hours. Bay Area candidates only; preference given to those with knowledge of the Tri-Valley.

This is a full-time position based at our Pleasanton office with benefits including medical/dental, a 401(k) plan, vacation and holiday pay. This is the East Bay Division of Embarcadero Media Group and includes the Pleasanton Weekly, PleasantonWeekly.com and DanvilleSanRamon.com.

Send resume and clips that show a variety of work to Gina Channell, publisher, gchannell@embarcaderomediagroup.com, by 8 a.m. Jan. 11. No calls please. EOE.

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 6

Drug violation

■ 4:30 p.m. at Owens Drive and West Las Positas Boulevard

Theft

- 8:43 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 9:30 a.m., 2300 block of Foothill Road; theft of auto
- 10:01 a.m., 4800 block of Willow Road; theft from auto
- 10:48 a.m. on the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 12:21 p.m. on the 4900 block of Owens Drive
- 2:52 p.m. on the 7200 block of Valley Trails Drive
- 4:14 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Alcohol violation

- 3:13 a.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- 3:20 p.m. on the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

Dec. 5

Alcohol violation

- 9:47 p.m. on the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

Theft

- 8:53 a.m. on the 6000 block of Sterling Greens Circle
- 3:20 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Drug violation

- 6:57 a.m. on the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane
- 9:18 a.m. on the 600 block of Merlot Court
- 10:04 a.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Dec. 4

DUI

- 12:06 a.m. at Tassajara Road and I-580 westbound
- 11:48 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Drug violation

- 12:21 p.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
- 9:33 p.m. at Owens Drive and Johnson Court

Theft

- 10:44 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 4:33 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:36 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 7 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft of auto
- 8:51 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Dec. 3

Vandalism

- 3:53 p.m. on the 4800 block of Willow Road

Theft

- 3:55 a.m., 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; theft of bicycle
- 9:34 a.m., 6400 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

Domestic battery

- 9:53 p.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Dec. 2

Domestic battery

- 10:40 a.m. on Johnson Drive
- 9:53 p.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Theft

- 5:41 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 7:21 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



UPCOMING MEETING

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approve the City Council assignments to various committees and boards and the appointment of the Vice Mayor for calendar year 2019
- Introduction of proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Joint Powers Authority and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 1974 with term ending December 31, 2021

To explore more about Pleasanton,
visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER



Reflecting on another successful Amador Basketball Classic

Also: Amador girls soccer organizing 'flocking' fundraiser

The Amador Valley boys basketball team came through in a big way last weekend, taking the title of the 58th annual Amador Basketball Classic (ABC) that ran Dec. 6-8.

It was the first ABC win for the Dons since 2013, but the real news is the tournament is still going strong after all these years.

As is always the case, it's the volunteers that make events go and that's no exception here as Michael Gallagher and his crew of volunteers did a wonderful job of running the tournament. That gave Amador a chance to win its own tournament.

The Dons took the semifinal game with a 64-62 overtime win over St. Francis of Mountain View and followed that with a 62-50 win over Franklin of Elk Grove in the finals.

Leading the way for the Dons was Tournament MVP Jaden Sheppard, who averaged 20 points per game. Also making the All-Tournament Team were Demetre Aaron and Brad Couture. In a total team effort, other standouts for the Dons were Tyler Nanny, Patrick Gallagher, Jules Bellosguardo, Ty Castro and John Venzon.

Michael Gallagher was joined by Ellie Miller, Andrea and Bill Sadler, Kirsten Cash, and Tara Fairchild in making the tournament a success. I had a lot of fun helping out by announcing a pair of games so Gallagher — the Amador announcer — could take a break!

I have seen probably 40 years of tournament action, including my high school years when I was a student at Amador. This was the tournament in Northern California, attracting some of the best NorCal teams and usually one powerhouse from Southern California.

Former NBA star Jason Kidd led St. Joseph's in the ABC for his first three years of high school, including a stint where he was teammates with Calvin Byrd, who went on to Villanova.

In fact, during Byrd's senior year, Villanova was in the Bay Area to play Cal and the entire Wildcats team — and legendary coach Rollie Massimino — came to the Amador gym to take in a St. Joe's game.

There were perennially loaded teams such as Stagg of Stockton and Merced as regular attendees. There was a great run of Oakland Tech

teams with players such as Wolfe Perry (Stanford, actor on "The White Shadow") and Doc Shavers.

So, what happened?

Starting in Kidd's senior year, high school basketball got to the point where national tournaments came into vogue. Some tournaments were even offering travel expenses to get teams to come across the country and play in their event.

Now you can catch high school games regularly on TV at tournaments or showcases. These have hurt the traditional tournaments.

But thanks to people like Gallagher and his crew, the ABC rolls on — just two years from the 60th edition of the event.

I love this tournament and have volunteered to help Gallagher

moving forward to try to restore some luster and popularity to the event. Even though his son is a senior for the Dons, Gallagher is committed to continue to work with the ABC and is already looking ahead to No. 60.

In a day where it is tough to get people to volunteer, it was refreshing to see the crew at the ABC. Well done everyone!

Foothill girls basketball

The Falcons pulled off a 44-28 win over El Cerrito to end last week.

In the win, Gianna Lyng and Reese Lombardi each had 9 points to lead the attack.

Earlier in the week, the Falcons lost to Liberty 34-25 (Hope Alley 12 points, Lombardi 6 points); lost

to Oakland Tech 41-25 (Lyng and Lombardi 6 points each); and lost to Berkeley 68-43 (Lyng and Alley 11 points each).

Katelynn Jensen and Lauren Twamugabo had 9 rebounds and 8 rebounds per game, respectively.

Amador girls soccer fundraiser

The Dons are having a "flocking" fundraiser that sounds like a great time!

What is flocking? Think of a friend, co-worker or family member you would like to flock out of love or to celebrate a birthday. The chosen lawn will be playfully decorated with a sea of pink plastic flamingos set up by your very own Amador girls soccer on a Friday or Saturday night.

How does this work? Contact Sara Campbell (saradion@comcast.net) and she will arrange for your chosen lawn to be flocked. Your flocked friend will then have the options of picking one of the below choices:

- I appreciate the flocking but am not able to donate funds at this time.
- I would like to make a generous donation of (insert dollar amount) toward the removal of the pink flamingos.
- In addition to the above donation, I would like to suggest the following person and address as the next surprise flocking victim: (insert

name).

If you are interested in spreading the pink love and help raise funds for the team, email Sara Campbell at saradion@comcast.net.

How much does this cost? The cost of flocking will be \$25 minimum: 10 flamingos for \$25, 20 for \$50, 30 for \$100. They accept PayPal and Venmo.

NCS football

The San Ramon Valley High varsity football team capped a hard-fought 2018 season with a championship, defeating Freedom Falcons (Oakley) 28-21 in the North Coast Section Division I title game on Saturday.

The Wolves battled in a back-and-forth contest held at Heritage High in Brentwood that saw SRVHS grab the lead for good in the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

San Ramon Valley's victory came with a measure of revenge, as the Falcons beat the Wolves in a closely contested game in Week 4 of the regular season 37-24, leaving many to favor the Falcons in the championship. But the Wolves were able to overcome the challenge behind the power running of junior Jacob Himan, who rushed for over 180 yards and two touchdowns.

It was Freedom who ended Amador Valley's postseason run, in the NCS quarterfinals Nov. 24. ■

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Christmas Services

Dec. 23rd – Services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Awaiting Hope: My Soul Magnifies the Lord. Chancel Choir will sing.

December 24th – Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. (families), 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
(string quartet, choir and candlelight)

December 30th – Service at 10:30 a.m.

Finding the Way Home



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Free Holiday/Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 16th 4 pm

'Tis the season for **Bells, Brass and Carols!**

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Featuring: the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore Sanctuary Choirs, with Jo Ann Fosselman, guest conductor; Janet Holmes, Music Director and organist; Annette Musso, piano; and the Amici Brass and percussion.

3 Bell Choirs (Celebration Chimes, Praise Bells and the younger Bell Buddies) will also perform.

Directed by Cathryn Griggs. Highlights include Julian Wachner's "The Snow Lay on the Ground", Dan Forrest's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" and John Ferguson's arrangement of "Night of Silence".

What better way to enjoy the holiday spirit than with beautiful music!



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PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) seeks up to three (3) volunteers to serve on the PUSD Audit Committee. Applications are due to the PUSD District Office by 5 p.m. on January 4, 2019. Interested parties can find membership requirements and complete instructions for applying on the PUSD website (www.pleasantonusd.net) or contact the PUSD Business Services Department (925) 462-5500.

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Megan Rouse (left) and Amy Miller flank Child Care Links CEO Kelly O'Lague Dulka at Champions for Children fundraiser for child health programs at Stanford University's School of Medicine. Rouse is president of the Dublin school board, Miller is a board member representing Area 2.

NINA HOUREL

CHILD CARE LINKS

MAKING HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER FOR THOSE IT SERVES

STORY BY JEB BING

Child Care Links, a private nonprofit agency that has served children in the Tri-Valley for more than 40 years, has now become a leading provider of a wide range of services and programs from providing food, clothing and baby diapers to needy families as well as helping them find child care.

Located at 6601 Owens Drive in Pleasanton, Child Care Links advocates for quality child care and acts as a link between government social service agencies and families.

Last year alone, according to Kelly O'Lague Dulka, Child Care Links' CEO since Jan. 1, the organization has provided more than \$15 million to child care providers that aided the area's most economically vulnerable with its services.

In 2017, the agency also provided 34 training and specialized parenting programs for more than 500 parents and child care providers, with even more being held this year.

Dulka said she is especially proud of the achievements of Child Care Links' new Diaper Pantry, which she launched shortly after joining the agency. It's already provided more than 1,000 children with free diapers, with Dulka going online at Facebook and with other promotions to seek more donations to the popular service.

"We're also providing parents and caregivers access to a variety of necessary resources, including literacy materials and car seats, as

well as parent education and support," Dulka said.

She added: "We provide coaching, training and support for child care professionals, in-home child care providers, licensed and exempt centers and caregivers who are family, friends and neighbors.

"We also serve as a resource to families who need financial assistance to pay for child care while they look for jobs. We know that keeping parents in the workforce is one of the best ways to get families out of poverty."

Dulka is a licensed clinical social worker with more than 25 years of experience working with children and families. She holds a master's degree in Social Welfare from UC

Berkeley and a master's in pastoral ministries from Holy Names University.

She received her clinical training at Stanford University Medical Center and later joined the staff of the Children's Health Council in Palo Alto as a child therapist.

She was hired by Child Care Links in January after serving at the Tri-Valley YMCA and the YMCA of the East Bay for 5-1/2 years as vice president of youth development.

In her first year as the CEO at Child Care Links, Dulka said the question she was most frequently asked was, "What exactly does Child Care Links do?"

Her answer: The organization is not a child care provider. Rather,



KELLY O'LAGUE DULKA

Child Care Links' new Diaper Pantry has provided more than 1,000 children with free diapers since it opened last January.

it offers child care subsidies, resources and referral services.

"We work every day to lift children out of poverty, to ensure that the youngest, most vulnerable residents in our county get the care and support they need," she explained.

She said that kids living in poverty, even a short time, are less likely to be ready for kindergarten, more likely to go to school hungry, less likely to graduate from high school, more likely to be incarcerated, and, sadly, very likely to suffer negative effects for the rest of their lives.

"So, yes, we do offer a wide array of programs and we do connect families with high-quality child care," she said. "But our primary mission is to ensure that every child has the resources and support they need to thrive."

On average, the families that Child Care Links serve live below

the poverty line, with household incomes well under \$24,000. Many have children in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore schools where one-eighth of all students, or about 5,000 kids, receive free or reduced-price lunches.

"These families are crying out for services," Dulka said.

She noted that communities like those in the Tri-Valley that invest in

children from low-income homes find that literacy rates for these youngsters are higher, high school graduation rates are higher and there's a greater contribution to society by those helped.

"This benefits the entire area," she added.

According to Dulka, studies show that the future success potentials of children can be predicted starting at the third-grade level. If children at this age aren't succeeding in school, then without help they're likely to have social problems later on.

"Our job at Child Care Links is really to love and nurture kids and the people who care for them, whether it's their parents, child care providers or the larger community," she said.

She added: "Our care typically goes to young low-income families who are living very much below the pov-

erty line. This includes families faced with unexpected pregnancies, single moms, those struggling to get back into the workforce or going to school to complete their education.

"They don't have money for child care so we provide the subsidies. We screen their eligibility to make sure they're qualified. Then we find for them a qualified child care

'We work every day to lift children out of poverty, to ensure that the youngest, most vulnerable residents in our county get the care and support they need.'

Kelly O'Lague Dulka
CEO



JEB BING

Child Care Links staff members join CEO Kelly O'Lague Dulka (standing) in wrapping gifts that will be distributed to needy children Dec. 22. Seated from left are Lenisha Brewer, development and communications associate; Gayel Machado, child care resource and referral specialist; Nina Hourel, director of business services; Vanessa Dilks, director of community services; Jenel Veligenti, training and outreach coordinator, and Hani Halim, facilities director.



KELLY O'LAGUE DULKA

Vanessa Dilks (left), director of community services at Child Care Links, joins business services director Nina Hourel at recent Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce mixer.

provider, working with licensed care facilities throughout the area. We also pay those providers to care for them.

"At the same time, we try to provide wrap-around services. Our eligibility specialists are really family resource specialists who connect those we serve to agencies that also can help, including Open Heart Kitchen for food and Tri-Valley Haven or Shepherd's Gate in cases of domestic violence."

With only 44% of children in Alameda County being ready for kindergarten at 5 years of age, Child Care Links also helps those served to take advantage of basic reading programs offered by public libraries in the Tri-Valley.

Parent education is another priority. Dulka said she's frustrated by the number of parents she sees who don't know how to parent. They know what to do at work or in their hobbies or in classes they take in art or computer science, but not much about parenting.

"They have a baby and the hospital thrusts that baby at them and off they go," Dulka said. "So, we work with these families to become better parents, and we connect them to a wide range of services."

Child Care Links also:

- Recognizes that many it serves are first-generation residents whose children have never attended public schools, so it helps them get connected with their school districts.

- Connects individuals to Tri-Valley One Stop, a service of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District that helps both students and the general public connect with employers.

- Provides courses for child care providers, applicants, directors and employees to meet new licensing requirements that went into effect last Jan. 1 with mandated renewal training every two years.

But without doubt, the holiday season is one of the happiest and most rewarding times of the year for Dulka and her operations team, volunteers and the thousands of children they serve.

At holiday-themed parties of parents and children served by Child Care Links providers, hundreds joined the organization's staff of paid workers and volunteers for food, refreshments and gifts.

Then next Saturday (Dec. 22),

Dulka, her management team, staff and volunteers, in partnership with the Toys for Tots campaign, will hand-deliver gifts of children's clothing, socks, jackets, books and toys to more than 1,000 families that are registered with Child Care Links.

"We're busy wrapping the gifts now for this most rewarding effort," Dulka said. "It's our chance to wish everyone a merry holiday season." ■



VANESSA DILKS

Camryn Dilks, daughter of Child Care Links community services director Vanessa Dilks, enjoys some playtime at the organization's headquarters at 6601 Owens Drive in Pleasanton.



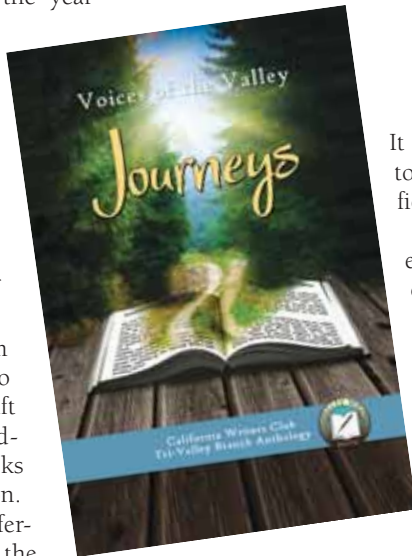
'Tis not only the season to snuggle up with a good book — 'tis also the weather.

If holiday book-giving isn't already a tradition among your family and friends, this might be the year to start.

Visits to Towne Center Books on Main Street or book departments in stores can yield nice gifts — for oneself or for others. The Museum on Main also sells unique gift items, including history books about Pleasanton.

Two local offerings have hit the shelves just in time for the holidays.

The Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club has published a collection of writings, "Voices of the Valley: Journeys."



Tradition of giving

Books! The perfect gift for anyone

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

It has 88 works by 47 local contributors, including short stories, flash fiction, memoirs and poems.

"This anthology has something for every reader," said Eloise Hamann, one of the two branch co-chairs in charge of producing the book.

The anthology is the fourth published by the Tri-Valley Branch since 2011.

"This year's offering forges fresh paths into tales of adventure, whimsy, humor, fantasy, satire, drama and family relationships," said Jordan Bernal,

the other co-chair. "The writings in this collection exemplify that life is indeed a journey."

"Life's journeys may be straightforward, but most are filled with twists and turns,"

Bernal continued. "It is the unexpected sojourns through life's challenges that often showcase not only our differences, but also our similarities."

The book also includes the contributions of 10 high school writers from a contest sponsored by the writers club, which addresses the needs of both professional and aspiring writers. For more information, visit www.trivalleywriters.org.

"Voices of the Valley: Journeys" is available in paperback for \$15 at Amazon.com; the Kindle edition is \$3.99.

Also out in time for the holidays is "The American Lab," the first comprehensive history of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, written by director emeritus C. Bruce Tarter. The lab

was the center of his life for more than 50 years, starting in 1962 when he was an intern. In five years he was on site again as a theoretical physicist and he rose the management chain to his tenure as the lab's eighth director.

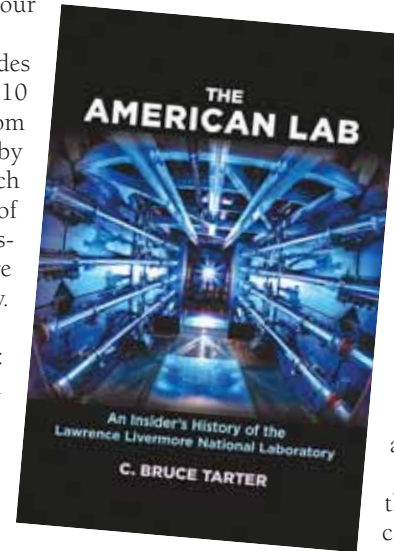
"The American Lab" presents LLNL in three parts beginning with the dawn of the Cold War, the founding of the lab and its struggle to break out of the shadows of Los Alamos and Lawrence Berkeley labs. Tarter covers its evolution into laser science, energy, environment, biology and basic science; details the beginning and end of Star Wars, launched by President Reagan in 1983; and the establishment of the Stockpile Stewardship Program.

"It is a place few outsiders came to love, though many respected its level of achievement," Tarter said.

The hardcover edition sells on Amazon.com for \$65, with the Kindle edition at \$61.

Another nice thing about the gift of books is that they can be paired with other items, such as a cozy throw or a new mug and selection of

teas, for a cozy combo to make recipients look forward to January with pleasure. ■



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A role for Bridget

Pleasanton resident Bridget Werner, 5, is playing the role of Lulu in the national tour of "Waitress the Musical" when it is at the Sacramento Community Center Theater later this month. Bridget, who enjoys taking jazz and tap lessons, will appear in the musical Dec. 27 and 28, and Jan. 1, 2 and 4. Her mother, April Werner, said the parents had to wait in another room while their little girls tried out with a few lines from the play. She called the audition "super fun," noting that the parents were supportive of all the children.



Traditions

Music! Movies! Celebrate the season with holiday offerings right here in the Tri-Valley.

* The Amador Theater is playing host to the city's Civic Arts Stage Company youth production of



"Mary Poppins Jr." from today through Dec. 23. The young actors will

bring to the stage the Disney/Cameron Mackintosh play with its magical mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs and breathtaking dance numbers.

Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets and other information, visit www.firehouse.org or call 931-4848.

* The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., invites everyone to enjoy a free afternoon of "contra" dance instruction and fun. Contra dancing is similar to square dancing and Scottish country dancing, done by long lines of couples with a live caller. The event is from 2-4 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 16), appropriate for adults and children 10 and older. No dance experience or partner is necessary.

* Branden & James will be at the Firehouse Arts Center presenting "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!" at 2 p.m. this Sunday. The show will include their popular songs, ranging

Holidays mean special shows

Seasonal celebrations continue onstage around the Valley

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

from "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" to "Silent Night," plus classical covers including the Beatles and "Phantom of the Opera."

In addition to their main roles as vocalist (Branden) and cellist (James), both men are fine pianists and move flawlessly around the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Branden & James give their holiday concert at the Firehouse Arts Center on Dec. 16.

musical stage in this holiday production. Also, Branden will share stories from family members who worked on "America's Got Talent" and toured with Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley.

Tickets are \$18-\$28. Go to www.firehouse-arts.org, call 931-4848, or purchase at the Firehouse Theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

* At the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, "The Doo Wop Project Christmas" is onstage at 7:30 p.m. next Thursday (Dec. 20), featuring stars of Broadway's smash hits "Jersey Boys" and "Motown: The Musical."

Tickets are \$40-\$60; go to lvpac.org, call 373-6800, or visit the Bankhead box office at 2400 First St. in Livermore.

* The next night, the Bankhead is presenting an "Irish Christmas in America" at 8 p.m. next Friday (Dec. 21), with music, song, dance and stories. The traveling show, noted for its humor and energy, is in its 14th year, produced by Irish fiddler Oisín Mac Diarmada. Tickets



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Musicians and dancers from Ireland will perform a spectacular Christmas program at the Bankhead on Dec. 21.

are \$30-\$50.

* Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center is screening two favorite holiday films at the Bankhead next Saturday (Dec. 22). At 3 p.m., bring the kids to see "The Muppets' Christmas Carol." Then return at 7 p.m. to see Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson and Liam Neeson and others in "Love Actually," which intertwines nine stories showing the complexity of one emotion: love.

"The Muppets" is free but tickets are required, with a limit of four per family. Tickets for "Love Actually" are \$5. Visit lvpac.org or call 373-6800. ■



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Music

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - "WE WAIT FOR THE STAR" At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, a concert to celebrate the joys of Christmas, will be presented by the CCOP Music Ministry, featuring the Adult Choir, Teen Choir, Children's Choir, Cantors, and Instrumentalists. catholicofpleasanton.org.

"HOLIDAY MAGIC" The San Ramon Community Chorus and Dancers present a free performance of "Holiday Magic" at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15 in the Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Go to

SanRamonPerformingArts.com for more information or call 973-3343.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVERMORE HOLIDAY CONCERT At 4 p.m. on Dec. 16 in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore, enjoy a free concert of festive Holiday and Christmas music, including the singing of carols. For more information, call 447-2078 or visit fpcl.us.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING ALONG PERFORMANCE At 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 16 in the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, the San Ramon Arts Foundation presents the Annual Sing-Along performance of Handel's

Messiah. Visit SanRamonArts.com for tickets and more information.

Theatre

"MARY POPPINS JR." From Dec. 14 through Dec. 23, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays only at 2 p.m., "Mary Poppins Jr." will be performed at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$12, \$15, \$18; discounted tickets for children age 12 and under, or Senior 62+ are \$7, \$10, \$13. Tickets are available at firehousearts.org, by calling 931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Ave. Free parking available.

Family

FOOD PANTRY AT VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH The Food Pantry at Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Drive, is open from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings to serve anyone who needs food. No proof of residency is required, just come and get a couple of bags or more.

Support Groups

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) TRI-VALLEY CONNECTION SUPPORT GROUP The National Alliance on Mental

Illness (NAMI) Tri-Valley Connection Support Group, meets Wednesdays, from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, to educate and support those experiencing a mental illness. Visit nami-trivalley.org.

Business

ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE MEETING At 7:30 a.m., on the third Thursday of the month in the Remillard Conference Room, 3333 Busch Road, The Committee meets to promote Pleasanton for its competitive advantages as highlighted in our Pleasanton Economic Assets Report.

Senior living care options with significant savings for qualified* residents

"Every day is a great day at The Parkview."

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

- Private apartment living in a service-rich environment with three meals plus snacks every day and housekeeping
- Assistance as needed with everyday activities that have become difficult
- Medication management
- An engaging calendar of recreation, events, excursions and lifelong learning

Best of all, Rex was welcomed to The Parkview with open arms. Gayle says his favorite pastime is laying in her lap watching TV.

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* Below Market Rate Program, sponsored by the City of Pleasanton and Bridge Housing. Residents must have a physical need for assistance as well as meet financial requirements. Please inquire for program qualifications.

Embrace the holiday during an open house

Tastes and smells of the season create a warm, inviting atmosphere

A key to a successful open house is making potential buyers feel at home. One way to get them to stay a bit longer and get better acquainted with the property is to have food and beverages available.

Simple snacks and finger foods that can be enjoyed while looking around are best. Holiday sweet treats have the added benefit of sweet smelling spices like cinnamon, clove, apple and orange to create a warm and inviting atmosphere in your home and entice home buyers during open houses.

Here are a few easy-to-make items to offer at your open house during the holiday season.

Cinnamon caramel swirl bars

Prep time: 25 minutes

Cook time: 35 minutes

Servings: 24

- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1 package (14 ounces) caramels, unwrapped
- 1/4 cup milk

Heat oven to 350 F. In medium bowl, mix flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Set aside.



FAMILY FEATURES

In large bowl, mix brown sugar, butter, eggs, vanilla and pecans until well blended. Add flour mixture; mix well. Reserve 1 cup batter. Spread remaining batter into lightly greased, foil-lined, 13-by-9-inch baking pan. Bake 15 minutes, or until firm.

In microwavable bowl, microwave caramels and milk on high 2-3 minutes, or until caramels are completely melted, stirring after each minute. Cool 5 minutes, or until slightly thickened. Pour over baked layer in pan, spreading to within 1/2 inch of edges. Drop reserved batter by spoonfuls over caramel layer. With knife, cut through batter several times for marble effect.

Bake 15-20 minutes, or until center is set. Cool in pan on wire rack. Lift from pan. Cut into bars.

Holiday hot tea

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 2 hours, 30 minutes

Servings: 12

- 12 cups sweet tea
- 2 cans (12 ounces each) frozen limeade juice concentrate
- 1 orange, thinly sliced, plus additional for garnish (optional)
- 12 whole cloves
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup fresh cranberries
- 1 cup ginger ale
- 1 pinch of raw sugar, for garnish (optional)

In large slow-cooker, combine sweet tea, limeade concentrate, orange slices, cloves, cinnamon sticks, vanilla, cranberries and ginger ale; stir.

Heat on high 30 minutes then reduce heat to low for 2 hours, or heat on low 2 hours then reduce setting to warm overnight.

Invert moistened glass rims in sugar then fit orange slice over rim, if desired.

Note: For easier serving, place cloves in tea ball or double layer of coffee filters sealed with kitchen twine. ■

—Family Features



GETTY IMAGES

JANICE HABLUETZEL
THE EXPERIENCE IS ALAIN PINEL



May the beauty of the Christmas season bring you peace and happiness.

Happy Holidays!



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janicetherealtor.com

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Happiest of Holidays
from our house to yours



As this year winds down we want to say thank you to our clients, friends and family for your continued trust. We look forward to a wonderful 2019!

~ Katie Moe & Jenny Shiblaq

Contact Katie or Jenny to discuss your 2019 real estate goals



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925.216.9083
katie@katiemoe.com
BRE#01507863

KATIE MOE REALTOR
J. Rocheliff
REALTORS

www.KatieMoeTeam.com



JENNY SHIBLAQ
925.202.9026
jenny@katiemoe.com
BRE#02049561

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 5-9.

Pleasanton

- 7350 Ashwood Court** L. & A. Sanchez to E. & Y. Kim for \$1,005,000
 - 741 Bonita Avenue** Northam 1993 Family Trust to L. & J. Longmire for \$1,200,000
 - 2657 Calle Alegre** Seebach 1992 Trust to B. & K. Kweon for \$1,330,000
 - 3670 Carlsbad Way** J. & M. Rafique to N. Wu for \$925,000
 - 6132 Crater Lake Court** M. Faerber to Y. & J. Yeh for \$916,500
 - 4161 Cristobal Way** Allen Leigh E Living Trust to S. Yen for \$902,000
 - 49 Golf Road** J. & J. Hines to L. & C. Lam for \$1,300,000
 - 1291 Kolln Street** V. Van to H. & Q. Li for \$895,000
 - 479 Mavis Drive** P. & S. Wald to S. Wald for \$450,000
 - 4820 Pipit Court** Henson C & J Living Trust to M. & J. Jun for \$1,160,000
 - 4006 Schween Court** Purwar Family Trust to J. & P. Bodin for \$1,272,500
 - 3416 Stacey Way** Heimbaugh Family Trust to S. & N. Lam for \$1,150,000
 - 4083 Stanley Boulevard** O. & Y. Fomin to S. & S. Mallela for \$815,000
 - 1009 Via Di Salerno** Ahuja P P & K W Trust to B. Sha for \$2,589,000
 - 2673 Vista Diablo Court** J. & K. Shimasaki to P. & K. Pattanayak for \$1,400,000
- Dublin**
- 8890 Bellina Commons** Cavanagh Family Trust to H. Shah for \$780,000
 - 5624 North Dublin Ranch Drive** S. & K. Desai to R. & M. Teegala for \$1,123,000
 - 3356 Madden Way** P. & M. Chilenski to Y. & H. Chow for \$1,420,000

- 4681 Mangrove Drive #50** Powers Sharon A Trust to N. & K. Chari for \$836,000
- 11613 Regio Court** K. & L. Vaden to S. & T. Patel for \$1,059,000
- 3989 Strafford Court** M. Slack to Hsg Consulting Services for \$440,000
- 5098 Volterra Court** O. Etemadi to S. & Y. Bandla for \$1,750,000
- 11920 West Vomac Road** H. Liddell to T. & J. Cercone for \$950,000

Livermore

- 4601 Almond Circle** Mendelsohn Family Trust to K. & E. Fuller for \$820,500
- 1882 Aquarius Street** Beeve Rod V & Mary A Family Trust to N. Bass for \$780,000
- 2364 Avon Place** T. & R. Sanders to H. & D. Nelson for \$1,100,000
- 333 Basswood Common #12** L. & J. Valle to B. Tsang for \$630,000
- 285 Bellington Common #2** J. Schulman to N. & M. Allu for \$630,000
- 342 Coleen Street** Walling Family Living Trust to K. & S. Gupta for \$744,000
- 1741 Corte Sueno** M. Scheidt to A. Pannu for \$737,000
- 2431 Detert Street** C. Youngs to Cantu Robert & Dianne Family Trust for \$1,260,000
- 546 Dovecote Lane #4** F. & R. Wilson to A. & L. Johns for \$699,000
- 1122 El Rio Court** S. Bolyard to P. & A. Ward for \$895,000
- 1679 Elm Street** T. Shen to K. Poon for \$700,000.00
- 871 Everglades Lane** Z. Demitrov to R. & W. Tillie for \$705,000.00
- 468 Everglades Lane** D. Rowe to N. & J. Tran for \$675,000
- 753 Hanover Street** R. Gabbani to C. & J. Espinoza for \$675,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Nov. 5-9)

Total sales reported: 15
Lowest sale reported: \$450,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,589,000
Average sales reported: \$1,150,000

Dublin (Nov. 5-9)

Total sales reported: 8
Lowest sale reported: \$440,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,750,000
Average sales reported: \$1,004,500

Livermore (Nov. 5-9)

Total sales reported: 29
Lowest sale reported: \$360,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,400,000
Average sales reported: \$737,000

San Ramon (Nov. 5-9)

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$415,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,950,000
Average sales reported: \$1,073,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Discovery Bay

3 BEDROOMS
2523 Cherry Hills Drive **\$565,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Dee Teigland 285.2459

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS
3606 Capoterra Way **\$899,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema 260.2220/413.6544
4172 Clarinbridge Circle **\$770,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Tyler Moxley 518.1083

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS
2841 Hoya Commons **\$750,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-5 John Ledahl 989.4994
1393 Spring Valley Common **\$479,500**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Jo Ann Luisi 583.1106

4 BEDROOMS
1042 Lomitas Ave. **\$999,950**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Jo Ann Luisi 583.1106

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS
6350 Alisal St. **\$1,699,000**
 Sun 2-4 Douglas Buenz 785.7777
6356 Benner Court **Call for pricing**
 Fri 10:30-1:30/Sun 2-4 Dave & Sue Flashberger 463.0436
4575 Carver Court **\$978,000**
 Sun 2-4 Dave & Sue Flashberger 463.0436

4 BEDROOMS
520 Bunker Lane **\$1,799,000**
 Sun 2-4 Douglas Buenz 785.7777
6244 Gibson Court **\$1,000,000**
 Sun 2-4 Dave & Sue Flashberger 463.0436

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

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If you want to refinance and take cash out of your home for college expenses or for home improvements, or you want to stay in your home forever and a reverse mortgage is your goal, it is my job to assist you and help you plan a road map for your mortgage needs. I hope you and your family have an incredible 2019. Call or e-mail me today if I can help.

Debi Zentner
Loan Officer of the Year 2018-2011
Office: (925) 426-8383 x 53
Cell: (925) 200-6381
 debi@divmg.com
 NMLS # 241540



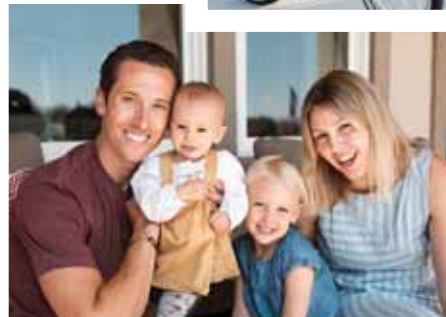
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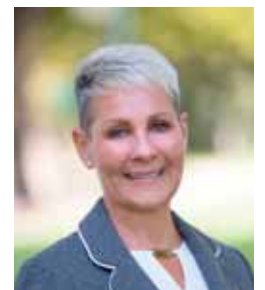
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Min Xu
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Eva Ti'a
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Karen Carmichael
Client Services



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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

520 Bunker Lane

4 BR, 3.5 BTH luxury home in Castlewood on premium 2/3 Acre lot with beautiful views!
Offered at \$1,799,000



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

6350 Alisal Street

2800 sq ft one story on FLAT 1.5 Acre lot with detached bonus rm, huge shop area, and more!
Offered at \$1,699,000



LARGE LOT

387 Mullin Court

Gorgeous home featuring 5 BR + Loft, 4.5 BTHs, 3 car garage, and huge .28 Acre cul-de-sac lot
Offered at \$1,799,000



PENDING SALE

4774 Sutter Gate Avenue

Modern 5 BR, 3 BTH home newly remodeled and expanded with designer finishes & pool
Offered at \$1,649,000



PENDING SALE

7138 W. Woodbury Court

Upgraded one story Pheasant Ridge home with 5 BR, 4 BTH in premium cul-de-sac location
Offered at \$2,050,000



PENDING SALE

528 Bunker Lane

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Offered at \$2,395,000

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NON-MLS LISTING Deer Oaks, Pleasanton



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**5 Bedrooms | 5 Full Baths
6170 SF per Seller | .94 Acres**

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\$2,775,000

SOLD



3839 Antonini Way, Ruby Hill
5BR, 5.5BA, 5877+/- Sq. Ft.
\$2,740,000

SOLD



2508 Wilde Avenue, Pleasanton
5BR, 3.5BA, 3525+/- Sq. Ft.
\$2,255,000

SOLD



1121 Navalle Court, Pleasanton
4BR, 3BA 2662+/- Sq. Ft.
\$1,310,000

SOLD



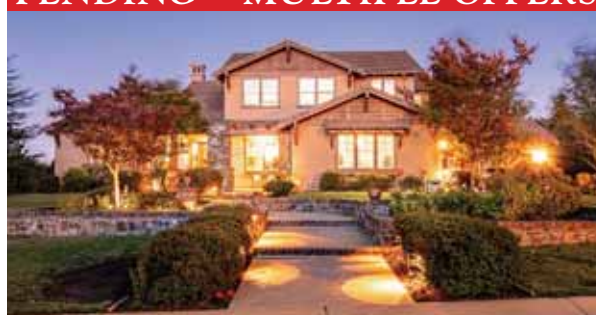
480 Montori Court, Ruby Hill
4BR, 3BA, 2680+/- Sq.Ft.
\$1,569,000

SOLD



1517 Whispering Oaks Way, Pleasanton
4BR, 3.5BA, 3168 +/- Sq. Ft. w/ Guest House
\$1,353,858

PENDING ~ MULTIPLE OFFERS



4326 Campinia Place, Ruby Hill
5BR, 4BA, 4600+/- Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$2,099,000

PENDING



2245 Doccia Court, Ruby Hill
4BR, 3BA, 3252+/- Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$1,800,000



DeAnna Armario
Team Leader/Realtor



Liz Venema
Team Leader/Realtor



Kim Hunt
Team Manager/Realtor



Lisa Desmond
Realtor



Kevin Johnson
Realtor



Amanda Davlin
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License # 01399250
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HAYWARD \$949,950

3811 Oakes Drive | 5bd/3ba
Jo Ann Luisi | 925.583.1106
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Tyler Moxley | 925.518.1083
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LIVERMORE \$750,000

2841 Hoya Commons | 3bd/3ba
John Ledahl | 925.989.4994
License # 01419146
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Linda Futral | 925.980.3561
License # 01257605
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PLEASANTON \$699,000

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Kris Moxley | 925.519.9080
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Dee Teigland | 925.285.2459
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