

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**City offices to reopen Jan. 3; Christmas tree pickup available**

**WATSONVILLE** — City offices will reopen on Jan. 3 after the holiday closure.

From Jan. 8-12, residents can place their Christmas trees on the curbside next to their garbage bin on their regularly scheduled pick-up day. Remove the stand, lights, tinsel and all other ornaments.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at the Garbage and Recycling Center at 320 Harvest Drive.

For information, call 768-3133.

**Sommer promoted to RDO store manager**

**WATSONVILLE** — RDO Equipment Co. and RDO Water in Watsonville named Kenny Sommer new store manager.

Effective immediately, Sommer is leading store operations, which includes both RDO Equipment Co.'s agriculture and lawn and garden equipment offerings, and RDO Water's irrigation solutions.

Originally from the Twin Cities area, Sommer began his career with RDO Equipment Co. in 2014 at the Burnsville, Minn. construction store. After moving to California to take a temporary position in the Salinas store, he transitioned to parts manager of RDO Water - Salinas and Watsonville in January 2016.

"Coming from the Midwest, the agriculture and irrigation business is very different here," he said. "I'm eager to spend more time with our customers, understand their business, challenges and needs, and offer them better service."

With the Watsonville store offering both equipment and irrigation, Sommer believes his experience puts him in a good position to lead a "total solutions" approach, saying, "One of my main focuses is driving our single-service enterprise. Having worked on both the

RDO Equipment Co. and RDO Water sides of the business, I'm excited to partner with department managers to offer more total solutions opportunities to our customers."

Ted Mills, general manager of RDO Equipment Co. in Salinas and Watsonville, agrees that Sommer's broad-base knowledge is an asset and is confident that both customers and team members will benefit from him leading the store.

"Kenny's background in different divisions of the company as well as departments within stores is a great foundation for the role of store manager," Mills said. "Combined with his professionalism and can-do attitude, he'll provide great leadership to our team and it will result in better experiences for customers."

**Aptos/La Selva Fire offering CPR classes**

**APTOS** — The Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District is offering free CPR classes.

The classes will take place Jan. 16 from 6-8 p.m., Feb. 15 from 6-8 p.m. and March 17 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The class is not a professional certification, but serves as a basic instruction for adult, infant and child CPR, as well as a brief segment on defibrillator pad use. Minors welcome, with adult supervision.

Classes are held at the Administration Office, in the upstairs meeting room at 6934 Soquel Drive, Aptos (ADA lift available in rear of building). Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

To register, contact Admin. Asst. Sarah Melton at 685-6690 or sarahm@aptofire.com.

**County accepting early property tax payments**

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY** — Due to recent federal legislation impacting the deductibility of state and local taxes, a number of residents have inquired about early payments and prepayments of property taxes prior to Jan. 1, 2018.

The county will accept early payments for the second installment of 2017-18 property tax bills, which are due in February

and not considered delinquent until April 2018. The county will also accept early payments of supplemental property tax bills due to a change of ownership or the completion of new construction.

However, the county cannot accept prepayments or deposits on future property tax bills that have not been issued. Residents have several options for property taxes payments, including:

- Online e-check. Go to www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Departments/TaxCollector.aspx for details.

- Credit or debit card. There is a 2.5 percent convenience fee for using your credit card to pay your property taxes.

- In person. Go to 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, Room 150, through Friday, Dec. 29. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mailed payments may be sent to the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office at P.O. Box 1817, Santa Cruz, 95061-1817. Make sure payments are postmarked no later than Dec. 31, and to include your parcel number on your check and payment stub, if available.

Use of "bill pay" services via financial institutions does not guarantee timely payment, and is not recommended at this time.

**Vision Santa Cruz County survey to close Dec. 31**

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY** — The County of Santa Cruz is undertaking its first strategic planning process, called Vision Santa Cruz County. As part of the county's outreach efforts, it is seeking public input on the county's vision, values, strengths and weaknesses.

To date, officials have received feedback from hundreds of residents through a series of community meetings, and nearly 2,000 more through an online survey.

The survey is scheduled to close Dec. 31.

It is available at the Vision Santa Cruz County website, www.santacruzcounty.us/sp.

**Presentations highlighted in annual**

**DIAMOND TECH INSTITUTE GETS LANDSCAPING UPGRADE**



Contributed

Diamond Tech Institute of Watsonville was the beneficiary of K&D Landscaping, Inc.'s monthly beautification project. The landscaping company met with English teacher Ian Licata and principal Marci Keller to discuss the wish list the students in the garden club had in mind. On Dec. 18, crews spent the day removing dilapidated bushes and replacing them with bright plants and protective mulch, said Kelsie White of K&D Landscaping. Vision Recycling donated the mulch. Crews also installed three trees and a green screen to keep the garden area private for the students. "It was so great to see the joy and excitement on the teachers' faces when we showed up that day," White said.

**Register-Pajaronian News leader of the Pajaro Valley**

**At Dominican Hospital:**

**GARCIA-RUVALCABA**  
Dec. 25, 1:56 a.m., to Leticia Annette Ruvalcaba and Mario Alberto Garcia, Watsonville, a 6-pound 4-ounce girl, Anny Annette

**CRUZ SALGADO**  
Dec. 22, 7:58 p.m., to Brenda Italia Salgado Diaz and Luis Alonso Cruz, Watsonville, a 7-pound 4-ounce boy, Alonso Maximiliano

**GIBBONS SMITH**  
Dec. 22, 7:36 a.m., to Kathryn Summer Gibbons, Santa Cruz, a 3-pound 12-ounce girl, Malaysia Jacquelyn Jazzy

**OVIEDO GONZALEZ**  
Dec. 21, 6:09 p.m., to Saini Dalia Gonzalez Velazquez and Jesus Oviedo Pompa, Freedom, a 7-pound 4-ounce girl, Saini

**VAN DALE**  
Dec. 21, 6:02 p.m., to Erin Elizabeth and Benjamin Robert Van Dale, Aptos, a 5-pound 7-ounce boy, Duke Benjamin

**VAN DALE**  
Dec. 21, 5:53 p.m., to Erin Elizabeth and Benjamin Robert Van Dale, Aptos, a 5-pound 7-ounce girl, Ivy Elizabeth

**SANDOVAL DIAZ**  
Dec. 19, 1:14 p.m., to Sarahi Ruth Diaz Reyes and Jose Ramon Sandoval Cruz, Davenport, a 5-pound 13-ounce boy, Antonio

**BIRTHS**

**FONTIUS**  
Dec. 19, 10:02 a.m., to Krista Harris Fontius and Daniel Charles Fontius, Aptos, a 6-pound 1-ounce boy, Cayden Paul

**HERNAN**  
Dec. 16, 10:24 p.m., to Nisan Saile O'Connor and Michael John Hernan, Santa Cruz, a 7-pound 9-ounce girl, Hazel Saile

**DO YOU HAVE OR NEED A Medicare Supplement? Turning 65 Soon? Losing Group Insurance? Need Individual or Family Coverage?**

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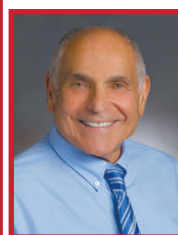
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