

Dientes' COO wins national leadership award

Tiffany Turner, chief operations officer at Dientes Community Dental Care, was recently honored with the prestigious Emerging Leader Award at the NACHC's annual conference in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 16.

Every year, the award is given by George Washington University's Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy to young leaders whose work has helped further health care and better health for medically underserved patients and communities.

Throughout the pandemic, initiatives founded by Turner enabled Dientes to reopen its clinics following strict protocols after a two-month shutdown for most visits. Turner's efforts have also resulted in zero Covid-19 outbreaks at all Dientes clinics. In addition, Turner was celebrated for mentoring and promoting women of color to leadership positions.

City internship opportunity for high school students

Incoming high school juniors and seniors have the chance to intern in a city department or a department with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District and earn \$1,000 this summer.

The City of Watsonville, Pajaro Valley Unified School District and Cabrillo College came together to create the Summer in the City program. The program was designed to give youth an opportunity to address real city issues and gain work experience. A total of 30 students from Watsonville High, Pajaro Valley High and Aptos High will be selected to participate.

Students selected for the program will attend class at City Hall, Monday-Friday from 8:30am-12:30pm, and will then head to their department internship from 1:30-5pm. The program will count towards 2.5 elective credits upon completion.

To learn more about the program application and for more information, contact Elizabeth Padilla at elizabeth.padilla@cityofwatsonville.org or call 831-768-3018.

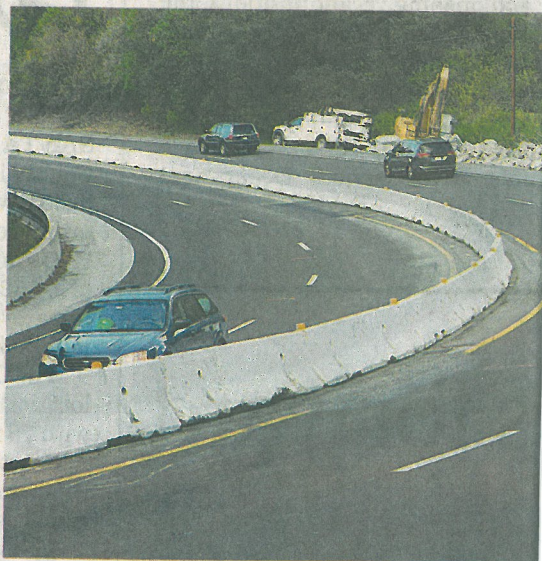
By TONY NUÑEZ
OF THE PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE—Ella's at the Airport will indeed change hands after the City of Watsonville and owner/operator Ella King came to an agreement on a five-year lease that is set to be transferred to new owner/operator Chielo Apac.

The Watsonville City Council approved the lease and transfer

as a consent agenda item at its Tuesday night meeting. The elected leaders reached a settlement with King that protects the City's interests in the action on the matter.

The move ends a messy period that ended to a mess between King and the City Municipal Association. A settlement that can be reached by the city council members.



LONG-AWAITED PROJECT Work has begun on a wildlife undercrossing at Laurel Curve on Highway 17.

Construction begins on wildlife undercrossing

STAFF REPORT

SANTA CRUZ—The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has begun nighttime work on a wildlife undercrossing near Laurel Curve on Highway 17, which is expected to reduce traffic to one lane in the north and southbound directions.

The work is slated to begin on Tuesday on Highway 17, from 0.6 miles south of Laurel Road to 0.2 miles north of Laurel Road.

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