

# Pleasanton Weekly

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## Raising the stakes

Horse trainer  
Jeff Bonde sets  
his sights on  
a successful racing  
season at this year's  
Alameda County Fair  
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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## Kay Huff's ladies' day gains in popularity

It's fair time starting next Wednesday and once again hundreds are signing up for Kay's Ladies' Day at the Races, scheduled this year for post time at 12:15 p.m., Friday, July 10 at the Alameda County Fair. Organized by Kay Huff in 1992, it's become one of the fair's best "fun" raisers at the fairgrounds each year and, for many of the women who join in, their first time to a racetrack. Active in the Walnut Grove Elementary School's parent group when her two sons were in primary grades, Kay talked several friends into spending a day at the fair. They ran into other friends and the eight of them decided to try their luck at the races. They placed a couple of bets based on horses that looked good or a jockey's shirt color they liked, won a few dollars on their hunches and ended up having a thoroughly fun afternoon. "Let's do it again next year," one friend told Kay, and then others, who had heard about the day at the races, asked to be invited if she ever does it again. She did and the next year, in 1993, there were 23 following Kay into the grandstands. That number has grown every year.

Those were the days when snail mail and conventional phone calls ruled, adding to Kay's already busy summer schedule as a soccer and baseball mom and helping her husband and local architect Charles Huff at his office in the old train station building downtown. Active in the American Association of University Women, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Kay, like Charles, keeps busy on the civic and social circuits, ranging from the Museum On Main to downtown booster groups. As women in these groups learned about Ladies' Day at the Races, they, too, signed up and the event has become one of the fair's most popular. With the advent of email, Kay was able to expand her outreach even farther with more than 650 on this year's list, including a number who were children when their mothers first joined Kay at the races.

On race day, everyone is there for the obligatory photo at 2:30 p.m. Kay always shares her grow-

ing and updated album of photos from earlier years, an album that now has 30 pages. The ages of those participating range from late 80s to 20-somethings and, this year, two who are very young: a six-week-old girl and a boy born just last Wednesday.

Along with the album portrait, the ladies also pose holding a copy of the Pleasanton Weekly for a traditional photo we publish later in our newspaper.

These photos are part of the emailed invitation to this year's event. Two years ago, a photographer from one of the daily newspapers tried to get a picture, but she grew frustrated as the ladies held up their Weeklies every time she started to shoot. After a few pleas, she finally got her picture.

Even though the ladies aren't yet writers for the Racing Sheet, quite a few have parlayed their once first-time walks up to the betting windows into winnings, one pulling in \$300 and another last year with \$200.

Even ethnic pride has its pull, with Huff Ladies whose maiden names are Klingelhofer, Hufnagel, Spielvogel, Rominger and Stuhlmuller betting on a German-named horse. It won.

Another time, the three Kays—Kay Huff, Kay Ayala and Kay Daniels—bet on a horse named "K is Slick." It came in first. Learning that Russell Baze, considered a top jockey, was riding in a trifecta with two other longshots, Kay Huff felt good vibes and plunked down \$12. She won \$610. Another woman, dressed in orange, bet on a horse whose jockey was also wearing orange. She didn't win. This year, Bernie Billen of Valley Community Bank, who'll be in Texas and Oklahoma during Kay's Ladies' Day at the Races, has asked that bets be placed in her name on any horse or jockey who is from one of those states or has raced there. Quite a few, admitting to having fun watching the races, have become regulars at the track during its limited season of horseracing in Pleasanton.

Kay says that no one joins her group to win at the track, although many think she's now the handicap expert and seek her advice when it comes to betting.

Most come, though, armed with binoculars, newspaper racing statistics and tip sheets from barkers out front. They always bring along extra spending money for the fairgrounds parties that follow the races, including an evening at the fair concert. ■

## About the Cover

Jeff Bonde, seen here with one of 40 horses he oversees training for at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, comes from a long line of horsemen in his family. The Pleasanton resident is gearing up for 15 days of horse racing at the Alameda County Fair, which begins July 1. Photo by Janet Pelletier.

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## What's the best bumper sticker you've ever seen on a car?



### Lisa Wilhelm

I saw a funny one the other day that was on the back of a Jeep and the writing was upside down and read, "If you can read this please flip me over."

### Alex Mantoni

I saw one on a really nice Mercedes that read, "If you can read this I can slam on my brakes and sue you." It made me laugh and it made me slow down.



### Mike Kelly

I saw one that read, "I believe in life before death." We are used to hearing the saying that everybody believes in life after death so this one really got me thinking about enjoying life while you can and living your life to the fullest.

### Kristen Miller

Around the time of the inauguration I saw a bumper sticker that had the inauguration date and it read, "The end of an error." I am a huge Obama supporter and since I wasn't a huge Bush fan, I was happy to see something like that.



### Meagan Breiland

There's a bumper sticker that reads, "Coexist." The letters are made up of major religious icons such as the Christian, Muslim and Jewish symbols. I think it sends a really great message about unity which is why I like it so much.

—Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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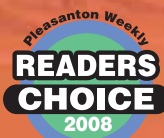
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## DIGEST

### Showcasing Indian culture

Girl Scouts Swathi Narahari of Troop 32314 and Megha Jain of Troop 32477 are organizing "A Vision of India," a cultural performance showcasing Indian dancing and songs. The event for their Gold Award will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday in the multi-purpose room at Foothill High School and will raise money to buy a chair to help with free eye surgeries in villages around Hyderabad, India. The girls plan to prepare an eye health awareness program, travel to India and present the program to the community. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. For more information, contact [avisionofindia@gmail.com](mailto:avisionofindia@gmail.com).

### Read over the summer

The Pleasanton Public and Alameda County libraries are holding adult reading programs throughout summer. Pleasanton's library's theme is "Reading Out West" where readers can earn points to win prizes through July 25. The county library's theme is "Books Around the Bay" and runs through Aug. 15. To learn more about the programs, visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library) and [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org).

### 'Red, White and Blues'

The Independence Day celebration starts early with the First Wednesday Street Party from 6 to 9 p.m., July 1 in downtown Pleasanton. Festivities include music from The Crisis in the beer and wine garden; red, white and blue cupcakes from Noland's Cake Shop; classic cars on display by P-town Push Rods; as well as vendor and community group booths down Main Street. For details, visit [www.pleasanton-downtown.net](http://www.pleasanton-downtown.net).

### Let your voice be heard

June 28 is the last day to vote in the Pleasanton Weekly's Readers Choice contest. Choose the best places to eat, drink, shop and spend time in dozens of categories. Ballots are available at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com) until June 28 and winners will be announced in print and online July 17.

### Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

## School board adopts budget without final

By EMILY WEST

Without a final budget adopted by the state and a July 1 deadline to outline the district's finances, the school board passed the budget for PUSD in the current and upcoming school years.

It's been a bumpy road on the way to adoption, with the state fiscal crisis leading Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to call for mid-year cuts and the state budget been given four revisions in recent weeks.

Locally, many parents and employees spoke to the board at regular and special meetings during the school year. While the board did cut many of the community's favored programs, they put a

### Trustees to meet Monday over personnel items

four-year parcel tax on the June 2 ballot to give voters a chance to save the programs. Measure G was defeated and the board was able to save some positions for 2009-10 by putting off a post-employment benefits payment.

School board member Pat Kernan has long expressed his displeasure in having to outline the district's financial picture without concrete numbers from the state. At Monday night's meeting, he said he was grateful for the feedback

received from the community.

The books for 2008-09 have yet to be closed, but the budget is estimated at \$120.4 million. While the board passed a \$112.1-million budget this week, Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of Business Services, said the budget is considered a living document that will likely be different by this point next year.

Trustee Jamie Hintzke said she would rather make cuts earlier, as mid-year cuts makes planning ahead and developing contracts difficult.

"I made a strong comment [to Sen. Ellen Corbett's office] that it would be really great to

See **SCHOOLS** on Page 8



JAY FLACHSBARTH

### In the spirit

Winners of the 10k and 5k competitions in Sunday's Spirit Run were announced this week by the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, which sponsors the annual Father's Day event. The winner of the men's 10k race was Steven Chavez (pictured) of San Ramon (35:50). In the 5k, the winner was Samuel Hyams (16:07). In the women's 10k, the winner was Anna Guin of Walnut Creek (40:58). In the women's 5k, the winner was Stephanie Bambury at 19:35. In the last 10 years, more than \$280,000 has been raised for scholarships that are awarded after an application and interview process to deserving Pleasanton graduates who need financial help to attend college.

## Park district to hold Ridge meeting Monday

By JANET PELLETIER

After a widely-attended public scoping meeting on the future of the Pleasanton Ridge where cyclists expressed their frustrations, the East Bay Regional Park District is moving forward on future planning with a land use plan meeting Monday night at Amador Valley High School.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at the high school, 1155 Santa Rita Road. If it's anything like the scoping

### Public can offer ideas, comments to be included in new land use plan

meeting, held in March and attended by 150 people, it could be a full house.

Many who came to the March meeting were from the mountain biking community, cyclists who say they've been frustrated with the way the park district is treating them as opposed to

equestrians and hikers.

Days before that meeting, held at the Veterans Memorial Building downtown, the park district laid hay and set up metal gates on single-track trails on the ridge, angering mountain bikers who prefer the narrow trails over the wider, bulldozed paths for their challenge and opportunity to ride separate from other trail users. Parks officials said they purposely blocked the narrow trails in an

See **RIDGE** on Page 8

## Court of Appeal considers Oak Grove housing plan case

After oral arguments, court has  
90 days to make decision

By JEB BING

Justices on the state Court of Appeal heard oral arguments last week over whether petitioners who called for a public vote on a City Council decision to allow the 51-home Oak Grove housing development to proceed followed the rules in gathering more than 5,000 signatures from registered voters to force a vote.

During their 40 minutes of discussion before the justices June 18 in San Francisco, attorneys Benjamin Shatz and Andrew B. Sabey debated the ruling by Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch who ruled that the petition by a citizens' group was invalid. The group, Save Pleasanton's Hills, first organized by former Councilwoman Kay Ayala, gathered the signatures in less than 30 days as required by law, submitted them to the county registrar for certification, but then was blocked from proceeding by Roesch's decision that supported a suit by Oak Grove's developers that called the group's tactics improper.

At the hearing, Shatz of the Los Angeles law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, who represents the citizens' coalition, asked the appellate court to reverse Roesch's decision and allow the petitions to be certified. He said the developers, Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic were wrong in their claim that the coalition failed to have all of the documents needed to show those who signed the petitions that specifically related to the Oak Grove development agreement approved by the council.

But Sabey, of the San Francisco law firm Cox, Castle & Nicholson, who represents the Lins, argued that the decision by Roesch was made after extensive reviews of case law and California statutes and should be allowed to stand. He said the Save Pleasanton's Hills coalition had no basis for challenging the decision by Roesch who ruled that its petition failed to comply with state law that requires all relevant materials related to the petition to be carried by those seeking signatures. He said representa-

See **OAK GROVE** on Page 8

## City turns on lights to 2 new traffic signals

One on East Vineyard, other at Bernal and I-680 expected to improve traffic conditions

By JANET PELLETIER

Two new traffic signals—one on the east side of town and another where Bernal Avenue meets Interstate 680—are now fully up and operating.

A traffic signal at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Pietronave Lane is expected to improve access to Vineyard Avenue for residents, particularly during the morning and evening peak commute periods. A vertical grade at the intersection limits sight distance, prompting the need for a traffic signal, according to city spokeswoman Joanne Hall.

City traffic engineer Joshua Pack said there are future plans to add a crosswalk for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians that will allow people to connect to a future trail system there, located at the south side of Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, but the city has set no specific timeframe.

"It will have pedestrian crossings on both sides crossing Vineyard Avenue and also, an equestrian push button is being put in so people on horses can actually press the button and cross the street so they don't

have to get off their horses," Pack said. "Eventually, Old Vineyard Avenue is going to turn into a really nice trail facility and there will be a Vineyard Corridor trail running through portions of Vineyard and meandering its way east to west. They're in the planning stages right now on that."

A second traffic signal turned on at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Interstate 680 is anticipated to reduce the average delay at the intersection and providing protected left turns for vehicles exiting or entering the freeway southbound.

"The signal's going to provide improved access specifically for vehicles making a left turn onto southbound 680," Pack said. "Right now, the delay is pretty significant, especially during the morning."

City engineers, inspectors, contractors and subcontractors conducted final tests on the signals prior to activation, including a thorough analysis of the vehicle detection system, signal timing and operations parameters, pedestrian push buttons, and an emergency vehicle pre-

emption system that allows fire and police vehicles to turn a red light green for quicker response to an emergency situation.

The new signal at Vineyard Avenue and Pietronave Lane, just east of Vintage Hills and Western Garden Nursery, is also in communication to the city's Traffic Operations Center, located in Pleasanton City Hall, through a wireless communications antenna located at the intersection. Upon activation, staff can remotely view fixed-in-place video detection cameras, modify traffic signal timing and receive alarms and event notifications in real-time, Hall said. While the new signal at Bernal Avenue and I-680 will be operated by Caltrans, the city has installed a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera at the intersection to monitor traffic conditions in the area.

The cost for both signals was \$416,000 and funds came from mostly developer impact fees—monies that developers pay to offset the impact to traffic circulation in the area. ■

## Battered women's shelter needs funds

Shepherd's Gate has already cut salaries, staff

Shepherd's Gate, a Tri-Valley-based shelter for homeless and abused women and children, has announced it needs to raise \$150,000 by the end of the fiscal year, which is this coming Tuesday.

The money is needed to meet program, ministry and operational needs of the nonprofit, which receives no government funding.

"The community has been wonderful and generous, but we were finding that many people have been saying, 'We didn't know you had such a need,'" said Shepherd's Gate associate director Carla McRee. "We wanted to raise awareness that the current summer situation is very urgent, and we need your help

more than ever."

Currently, the organization said the board of directors, McCree and executive director Steve McRee have drastically cut expenses, including cutbacks in staff salaries and have had to lay off some longtime staff members. So far, no women and children have been turned away due to lack of funding.

With facilities in Livermore and Brentwood, the shelter serves more than 650 battered and homeless women and children each year. Some arrive with just the clothes on their backs, seeking a fresh start. For more than 25 years, some 9,000 women and children have been served. Shepherd's Gate provides Christ-

centered housing and services such as professional counseling, drug and alcohol recovery, and job skills training to help women and children break cycles of abuse, addiction and homelessness.

A local group, which has asked to remain anonymous, has offered to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 for donations received through Tuesday, according to Shepherd's Gate.

For information or to donate, contact Jennifer Harp at 443-4283, ext. 204. Donations can be sent to 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore, CA 94551 or made by going to [www.shepherdsgate.org](http://www.shepherdsgate.org).

—Janet Pelletier

## The Rose Hotel honors troops

Operation Hometown Welcome

When America celebrates its independence this Fourth of July, The Rose Hotel is doing its part by honoring veterans. The Operation Hometown Welcome program, launched in 2005, provides veterans with a variety of services.

In addition to a night's stay at the hotel and a continental breakfast, participants will also receive an official NFL football autographed by John Madden, an Operation Hometown Welcome T-shirt and a gift certificate toward treatment MD Spa on Main Street.

Originally set up to honor local servicemen and women as they return home from service in Iraq and Afghanistan, it expanded last year to include all personnel returning from any overseas tour of duty. To

qualify for the program, servicemen and women need to submit a copy of their orders to the Rose Hotel's front desk staff.

In addition to Operation Hometown Welcome, The Rose Hotel also has two other programs that support the U.S. military. The first is The Greatest Generation, which is held in conjunction with Pleasanton's Veteran's Day Parade and honors World War II veterans. The second is Operation DVD, where the hotel collects new and used DVDs to ship to service personnel on active duty and their families.

For more information about all three programs and how to help, call 846-8802.

—Ryan Young



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# Three local sites make list of 'Best Family Campgrounds'

Del Valle, Sunol and Chabot selected for amenities, scenery and educational facilities

Three of the East Bay Regional Park District's campgrounds were named the best in the nation for park amenities, outdoor scenery and educational facilities.

They include the campground at Lake Del Valle, Sunol Regional Wilderness and Anthony Chabot Regional Park. The honor was bestowed by ReserveAmerica's Camping Club, a community of active family campers, which honored a total of 100 family campgrounds.

The parks district had three of 11 sites statewide included on the list. EB Park District officials say the quality of the campgrounds is often measured in the number of visitors, with

weekends already booked through the end of August. In addition, park staffer say that this is the earliest in the season that sites have been booked this far in advance, which likely is a reflection on the economy and people opting for inexpensive vacations close to home.

But while weekends may be booked, sites are still available mid-week at all three locations. Campsites can be booked a maximum of 12 weeks in advance to as little as 24 hours.

At Del Valle, located just south of Livermore, visitors can choose from drive-in campsites, partial hookup sites for RVs as well as take a dip in

Lake Del Valle, which offers swimming, fishing, a boat launch and boat rentals.

Sunol's family campground has four primitive walk-in campsites and a visitor center, nature programs, trails, equestrian trail rides are all within walking distance.

The Anthony Chabot campground has 75 campsites, 12 with RV accommodations, 53 drive-in sites and 10 walk-in sites. The campground is within 10 miles of golfing, fishing and boat rentals.

Information on ReserveAmerica's "Top 100" can be found at [www.thecampingclub.com](http://www.thecampingclub.com).

—Janet Pelletier

## Zone 7 GM declines full pay increase

In a nod to the difficult financial climate, Zone 7 Water Agency General Manager Jill Duerig opted to not take a 3 percent salary increase. She did accept a 1 percent cost-of-living increase approved by the water board.

Although Duerig's contract has provisions that allow compensation

of up to 5 percent on top of regular salary based on merit, she and the board agreed to forego the increase this fiscal year in light of the economic conditions, according to a statement released by the water agency, which wholesales water to 80 percent of Pleasanton residents.

Her salary with the 1 percent

increase will be \$213,900, which includes an \$800 monthly stipend to cover auto expenses for attending Bay Area meetings, according to Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer.

Last year, Duerig turned down a 2 percent pay increase, according to Zone 7.

—Janet Pelletier

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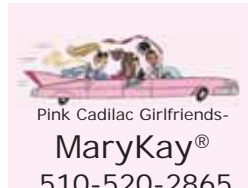
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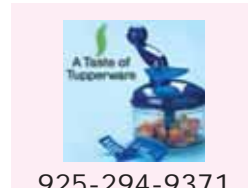
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## OF NOTE

### Students help OHK with benefit concert

Amador Valley High School, along with other area high schools, held an to-be-annual benefit concert, called Open Heart Jam, May 15 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds to support Open Heart Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that feeds the hungry in the Tri-Valley area while running solely on volunteers who donate their time and money to the foundation.

Simrin Jhangiani, along with two other students, formed a committee in January and began contacting leadership teachers from all the high schools in the Tri-Valley area in the hope that their school would be interested in the cause. Six schools came together to help out OHK.

At the concert, there were many booths that sold mixed CDs of all the bands' original songs and a voting booth where people voted for their favorite bands. The group collected about \$5,000 to give to OHK.

### RIDGE

Continued from Page 5

effort to nudge mountain bikers into using the wider trails. Officials have said that the single-track trails are damaging to the environment and can cause erosion. But mountain bikers expressed their discontent at the public meeting, saying the narrow trails should be open for use as well as included in any revised trails map the district produces.

They'll have a chance, as will anyone who attends, to voice their input on how the park can be improved as well as sharing what is liked about the recreation area at Monday's meeting, where a longer-term vision for the ridge will be set in writing.

For more information about the meeting, or for those who cannot attend but wish to comment, email Julie Bondurant, senior park planner for EB Parks, at [plan\\_pleasanton-ridge@ebparks.org](mailto:plan_pleasanton-ridge@ebparks.org). Parking will be available in the faculty lot off of Del Valle Parkway. ■

"As the youth of the city of Pleasanton, we hope to set good examples for our fellow teenagers by showing them how them how hard work can take you a long way, as well as enlightening them with our love of community service," Jhangiani said.

### Local students win ValleyCare scholarships

The ValleyCare Health System Auxiliary, which annually awards scholarships to area high school seniors planning to enter the health care field, recently named scholarship winners at their annual appreciation luncheon May 12.

Foothill High School student Erika Hay a recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship at an annual appreciation luncheon May 11. Erika plans to study nursing at Las Positas College.

Marisa Fraticelli of Amador High School won \$4,000 to use in her pursuit of a nursing career as she heads to San Diego State.

Students awarded a scholarship from the ValleyCare Auxiliary receive funds on an annual basis. In order to continue receiving the

scholarship funds, students must maintain their eligibility by remaining full-time students studying course work leading to a career in the medical field. They must have continuous enrollment at the same college or university and maintain C or better grade point average.

The ValleyCare Auxiliary raises funds for these scholarships through sales at their gift shops and the thrift shop.

### Coast Guard Academy accepts Amador student

Amador Valley High School student Patrick Stueve has been recognized by the United States Coast Guard for superior academic achievement and leadership potential. He will be sworn in as a member of the Coast Guard Academy's Class of 2013 on June 29.

The academy, located in New London, Conn., is the smallest of the country's five military service academies. Less than 400 appointments are offered annually from a pool of more than 3,300 applications. Stueve is the son of CDR Tim and Cherie Stueve (USCG retired) of Pleasanton.

### OAK GROVE

Continued from Page 5

tives of the coalition failed to have a number of documents Roesch said were vital to offer to those interested in signing the petition.

Among the group's many omissions of text, Sabey argued, was a copy of the Development Plan, the focal point of and actual legislation adopted by the PUD (Planned Unit Development) ordinance Ayala and the Save Pleasanton's Hills coalition was seeking to referend.

But Shatz disagreed.

"The way the law is written is that the state election code says that you have to supply the text of the ordinance, which the petitioners did," he said. "That means the words that are written in the ordinance. It also means that the exhibits to the ordinance. It also means things that are attached to the ordinance and things that are incorporated by reference."

"But here what is called the development plan doesn't have any of those things," he added. "It wasn't

copied word for word into the ordinance. It wasn't attached. It wasn't part of the council's ordinance. If everything the Lins had wanted were attached, then the referendum petition would be three feet tall. And nobody would be able to flip through all of that and understand it and read it and sign off on it."

He continued: "The election code statute calls for the text of the ordinance to be available. It doesn't say the text of the legislation. It's no different than the words written in a book. If the book refers to other things well that's not part of the text of the book. So that's really what this is about."

In their questions, two of the justices--Henry E. Needham and Mark B. Simons--appeared to have a full understanding of what the Pleasanton case is all about. Needham, especially, grilled Sabey on why the petitioners should not have the right to take their issue to the voters. The third justice, Terence L. Bruiniers, asked no questions.

The justices have 90 days in which to decide on the appeal. ■

### SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5

cut now in our first budget and not come back with mid-year cuts," she said.

The board was also asked to approve several personnel items at its meeting this week, but Hintzke requested some of the decisions to be deferred to a special meeting on this coming Monday.

"I felt like there was a lot in the personnel documents," she said. "I had a lot of questions and I wanted to ask them in public."

She received phone calls from people who had the same questions, she said, relating to why some positions were coming back.

"I'm trying to frame my questions [to the board] in a way that people can learn from what I'm

asking," she said. "I think it's part of trying to keep things as transparent as possible."

Recently, Hintzke expressed to the board her desire to have the community educated in school finances and is keeping a positive attitude about her role as a school board member.

"A lot of people have said to me, 'Wow, what an awful time to be on the school board,'" she said. "It's not fun and it's a really difficult time, but I have a lot of knowledge about school finance and what a better time to put it to use."

The next school board meeting is at 7 p.m. June 29 at the school district offices, located at 4665 Bernal Ave. The special meeting is scheduled as the last before the summer break, which is said to be at 7 p.m., Aug. 18. ■

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## GUEST OPINION



BY MARSHALL KAMENA

### Livermore is not considering airport expansion, just rezoning

There have been statements made recently that the City of Livermore is considering an expansion to the Livermore Airport. I want to assure you that this is simply not the case. Future development at the airport is permitted by the 1975 Airport Master Plan, although the addition of runways or lengthening of runways is not permitted. In 2008, the City Council authorized staff to prepare a rezoning proposal for the Livermore Airport. The purpose of the rezoning is to address community concerns about development at the airport by constraining future development to a level less than that allowed under the 1975 Airport Master Plan.

Currently, airport development is governed by broad development standards under the existing "Education and Institutions" zoning district. Allowable development defined by the 1975 Airport Master Plan envisions significant development on the airport property, and anticipates intensive aviation activity at build-out of the Livermore Airport. Establishing a new airport zoning district will provide greater specificity and clarity regarding allowed uses and development standards (such as setbacks and building heights). Because the airport rezoning will be more restrictive, and thus inconsistent with the 1975 Airport Master Plan, a proposal to rescind the 1975 Airport Master Plan will be considered concurrently with the airport rezoning. This will include a General Plan amendment to delete references to an Airport Master Plan and Master Plan Update. It should be noted that an Airport Master Plan is an optional policy document, and the city is not required to keep one in place. No change in the configuration of the airport, lengthening or addition of

runways is being proposed.

The final wording of the airport rezoning document is being prepared. Concurrently, a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared which will evaluate and fully disclose the impacts of the airport rezoning. When completed, the Draft EIR will be circulated for a 45-day public review period. The proposed airport rezoning document will be available for review at that time. Public comments on the Draft EIR will be collected by the city at the end of the review period, and addressed in a final EIR. The final EIR will be made available to the public, and public hearings will be held by the Planning Commission and the City Council on both the final EIR and the airport rezoning. Subsequently, a final Council decision will be made about the airport rezoning and its environmental impacts.

The City is just beginning this rezoning process. Thus far, the city has solicited comments on the types of potential environmental impacts that the consultant should study in the EIR. Final drafting of the rezoning document and the technical studies that support the EIR are being developed by staff and consultants.

The proposed airport rezoning will address community concerns while maintaining the airport as a valuable community resource. The Livermore Airport is a key driver of the local economy, contributing over \$57 million in economic activity locally, and sustaining 577 jobs. Furthermore, the Airport provides over \$1 million in tax revenues to local agencies, such as the City of Livermore, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and the Livermore School District. Most importantly, the airport serves as a key disaster relief air transportation hub in the event of a catastrophe such as a major earthquake.

Information about the proposed Airport Rezoning is available on the city's webpage at [www.ci.livermore.ca.us/airport](http://www.ci.livermore.ca.us/airport).

*Marshall Kamena was elected mayor of Livermore in November 2001 and re-elected in 2003, 2005 and 2007.*

## LETTERS

### Street closures necessary during Farmers' Market

Dear Editor,

It just seems it will be a matter of time before someone is run over in the crosswalk during the Farmers' Market on Saturdays.

Closing Main Street one block in both directions will give shoppers the feeling of safety crossing the street. Possibly even the use of some of the police volunteers who do a terrific job during First

Wednesday street parties could help out.

**Rick Martinez**

### Pleasanton good place for business

Dear Editor,

As a business resident in Pleasanton living in Contra Costa County, many like me do our business entertaining and operational purchasing in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore. Since Contra Costa County is a difficult business environment, your city becomes our best location for business activities.

**Hal Bailey**

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Is a constitutional convention needed?

A recent survey by the Bay Area Council, a business group that is proposing a constitutional convention to deal with California's dysfunctional government, shows that voters who were surveyed earlier this year overwhelmingly feel the state is headed in the wrong direction. A total of 82 percent said the state is on the wrong track, with only 11 percent stating it's moving forward in the right direction. The opinion research, done by the firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates, a firm the city of Pleasanton has used in conducting local surveys, found that perceptions of the state government have been growing steadily more negative over the last several years, with voters only as recently as October 2007 about evenly split on how government was doing. Moreover, the state's \$24-billion (and growing) budget deficit now far outdistances voters' concerns by a 94 percent margin, compared to 64 percent who are worried about the quality of schools or fewer than 50 percent over the amount they pay in taxes. Large majorities disapprove of the performance of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (60 percent) and the state legislature (71 percent) compared to 65 percent of California voters who approve of the job President Obama is doing.

All of this plays into the hands of those seeking a constitutional convention to revise the way the state government operates. Yet even though voters are unhappy with the direction of the state government, few are familiar with the concept of calling a constitutional convention and thus approve it with caution. Some see it as a scorched earth option for political reform, that delegates to such a convention would likely look at ways to un-do the two-thirds rule that has in recent years stymied the legislature's effort to adopt budgets on time. There's also concern that a constitutional convention could accomplish what could not be done otherwise, such as reversing propositions 13, 11, 8 and many other voter approved changes. These critics see a convention a way to make it easier to raise taxes in a state that has the country's highest income, sales and gasoline taxes already and the highest corporate tax rate in the West.

"California is broken—that point is no longer debatable," said Jim Wunderman, chief executive of the Bay Area Council. "This government is not only dysfunctional; it is destructive to our future."

Wunderman points out that the state's founders gave us the tool to call for a constitutional convention, either through our elected leaders in the legislature, who, as fed up as we are, can authorize a convention with a two-thirds vote, or we can bypass any gridlock in Sacramento with a "citizen's constitutional convention." Changes from either would go on the ballot for a majority vote.

As rash as an act as this might seem, this is not uncharted territory. Nearly 30 years after the state was founded, California received a new government from a constitutional convention.

While we're not ready to weigh in on the merits of another constitutional convention, we support the detailed analysis being given the proposal by the Bay Area Council. Its survey shows growing dissatisfaction of our state government's action today. California's Constitution was always meant to be a living document that could adjust to the times. It seems the time has come to consider making serious adjustments. ■

**WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES**

**There are no scheduled meetings the week of June 29 – July 3rd.**

The offices at City Hall will be closed Friday, July 3rd in recognition of Independence Day.

The City Council meeting for July 7th has been cancelled. The next regular scheduled meeting will be July 21st.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- July 6th – Civic Arts Commission
- July 8th – Planning Commission
- July 9th – Parks & Recreation Commission

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME**

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, please visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

**POLICE REPORT**

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

**June 13**

**Drug/alcohol violations**

- 1:07 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 1:32 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness, disturbing the peace
- 10:35 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession
- 4:22 p.m. at the intersection of Anderson Street and Rose Avenue; DUI, under the influence of a controlled substance
- 9:47 p.m. at the intersection of Rheem and Stoneridge drives; driving with marijuana, underage DUI

**Animal bite**

- 9:17 p.m. in the 6700 block of Hansen Drive

**June 14**

**Theft**

- 4:11 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 5:38 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

**Vehicular burglary**

- 1:31 p.m. in the 400 block of Arlington Court

**Vandalism**

- 3:56 p.m. at the intersection of I-680 and Corte Monterey

**Drug/alcohol violations**

- 12:06 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and West Las Positas Boulevard; DUI
- 1:51 a.m. at the intersection of Owens and Andrews drives; DUI
- 4:24 a.m. at the intersection of Dublin Canyon Road and Canyon Meadows Drive; DUI
- 6:02 p.m. in the 4000 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness

**June 15**

**Vandalism**

- 9:04 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- 11:00 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road
- 12:46 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road
- 1:13 p.m. in the 5600 block of Black Avenue
- 4:09 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue

**Drug/alcohol violations**

- 4:07 p.m. in the 3500 block of Stanley Boulevard; marijuana possession, controlled substance possession, possession of marijuana for sale

**Robbery**

- 1:06 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

**June 16**

**Theft**

- 2:15 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 7:02 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 7:31 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall; stolen vehicle

**Vandalism**

- 9:27 a.m. in the 1200 block of Concord Street
- 5:18 p.m. at the intersection of Singletree Way and Payne Road

**Burglary**

- 7:16 a.m. in the 4300 block of Mirador Drive; vehicular
- 11:23 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shop lifting
- 3:27 p.m. in the 6000 block of Allbrook Circle; vehicle break-in
- 8:17 p.m. in the 400 block of Vineyard; vehicular

**Battery**

- 12:16 a.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue

**June 17**

**Grand theft**

- 8:10 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

**Vandalism**

- 7:59 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- 9:49 p.m. in the 5800 block of Corte Margarita

**Burglary**

- 9:36 a.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway

**Marijuana possession**

- 11:16 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

**June 18**

**Grand theft**

- 12:05 p.m. in the 5200 block of Arrezzo Street
- 7:03 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**Vandalism**

- 4:33 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue
- 7:35 p.m. in the 6100 block of Paseo Santa Cruz

**Assault with a deadly weapon**

- 7:38 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**Robbery**

- 11:21 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Birch Creek Drive

**June 19**

**Theft**

- 2:12 p.m. in the 1200 block of Stoneridge Mall Drive; theft
- 2:39 in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft

**Vandalism**

- 8:55 a.m. in the 3900 block of Old Santa Rita Road

**Vehicular burglary**

- 10:26 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

**Public drunkenness**

- 11:27 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Springdale Avenue

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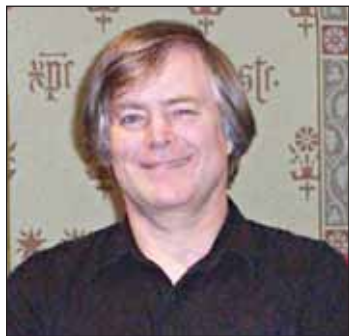
Pleasanton cellist played with San Francisco Symphony

A private memorial service will be held in San Francisco Saturday for Lawrence Granger, 57, of Pleasanton, who died June 14 of heart failure following surgery for a brain tumor three days earlier. Arrangements were made for immediate surgery at UCSF Medical Center, but three days later, while in recovery, his heart gave out.

Mr. Granger spent 30 dedicated years with the cello section of the San Francisco Symphony, where he performed under the baton of Seiji Ozawa, Edo de Waart, Herbert Blomstedt and Michael Tilson Thomas. He also cut a larger-than-life figure in the community, as a teacher, coach and mentor all in one, as an intense chamber player, as a highly regarded concerto soloist with numerous orchestras around the Bay Area, from Saratoga to Livermore, and Oakland to Fresno and, last but not least, as a great friend.

Mr. Granger was born in San Diego on March 1, 1952 and, growing up in a military family, spent his school years moving across the country, to Pennsylvania, Virginia, California, Illinois, and finally, in 1966, back to California for good. He graduated from Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo in 1969.

After short stints at Stanford University (where he was a member of the ROTC) and University of Southern California, he graduated from Cal State East Bay with a bachelor's degree in 1975. While still a student, he won the principal cello chair with the Oakland Symphony. He also played for three years with the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra. In 1979, he became a member of the San Francisco Symphony. Since then, he frequently appeared with his colleagues at the symphony's Chamber Music Sundays, performed string quartets with the California Chamber Play-



ers and various ensemble combinations with his wife Priscilla at the piano.

When Larry and Priscilla married in 1988, they decided to make their home in Pleasanton. Mr. Granger was approached by Dominique Piana with the idea of starting a local chamber music group, to which he responded enthusiastically. Thus, the Pleasanton Chamber Players was born.

In 1990, he joined the faculty of his alma mater, Cal State University East Bay where he touched a great many people's life, whether students or colleagues, with his tireless devotion. He was also active in the recording industry, often at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch, participating in numerous radio and television commercials, and movies such as Soap Dish and Ricochet. He recorded "Secret Thoughts," a work written for him by composer and CSUEB professor Frank La Rocca, on the CRI label, and the Cello Concerto by Peter Lewis for New Albion.

Mr. Granger is survived by his wife, Priscilla Carter Granger of Pleasanton; his parents, Howard and Dorothy Granger of Riverside; and sister, Jocelyn Granger of Fremont.

In addition to the private memorial service, the CSUEB music department is planning a separate memorial for in the fall. ■

## OBITUARIES

### Deral Bernard "Ben" Chamberlin

Deral Bernard "Ben" Chamberlin died peacefully June 10 at home in San Ramon after a yearlong illness with cancer.

Mr. Chamberlin was born Dec. 31, 1939 in Wheaton, Minn. He grew up in Minneapolis, was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, then moved to California. He was a self employed industrial engraver for Chamberlin Mfg. Co. enjoying a 40-year career in San Leandro and Hayward. He enjoyed sailing, camping as a family, his terrific grandchildren, devoted family and loyal friends. He found joy in old tractor restoration and antique farm equipment shows. We fondly embrace memories of his Harley Davidson adventures.

Mr. Chamberlin is survived by his daughters, Kathryn Sowell and Karen (Ian) Tervet of San Rafael; sisters, Kathe Abrams and Ruth (David) Yarusso from Minnesota; grandchildren, Stephen Sowell, Madeleine and Elizabeth Tervet. He also leaves behind several nieces, nephews and many other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by Barbara (Krausert), his wife of 27 years; parents, Deral and Agnes Chamberlin; brother, Ronald; and sister, Marlys Chamberlin.

A memorial service to celebrate his life was scheduled to be held June 19 at Graham Hitch Mortuary.

### Morris W. Mote, Jr.

Morris W. Mote, Jr. died June 9 after a short battle with cancer. He was 89.

Mr. Mote and his first wife, Eleanor, brought the Youth For Understanding program to the Tri-Valley in 1966 and hosted more than 20 students until Eleanor died in 1982 at the age of 59. They served together as the area representatives at the peak of the YFU program, bringing international understanding to many other host families in the Tri-Valley.

Born in Alameda, Mr. Mote grew up in the Denver, Colo. area in a single-parent household, headed by his mother, Isabel. He served with the U.S. Navy in World War II and was an ensign in flight school when the conflict ended. A graduate of Colorado School of the Mines, Mr. Mote spent most of his professional career working as a metallurgist for Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore. He worked on a number of weapons programs starting in 1959 until his retirement in 1987. G. Cook Story and Mr. Mote collaborated working on the B-83 nuclear bomb at Sandia.

He moved his family to Pleasanton when he accepted the position

at Sandia. He was an avid gardener, growing vegetables, fruits and berries wherever the family lived. The olallieberry plants and their fruit that flourished at the family's Adams Way home in Pleasanton have been shared with numerous other households and remain a family favorite.

After his 34-year marriage to Eleanor, Mr. Mote married Mary Alice Mote and they lived in her home in Saratoga. She died in 2006 after 19 years of marriage. He returned to live in Pleasanton with his daughter, Betty Gail Hunt and her family.

Mr. Mote was an elder and an active member of the Presbyterian church in Pleasanton and later in Saratoga. He sang in church choirs for virtually all of his adult life.

He is survived by daughters, Glenna Mote of Point Richmond, Betty Gail Hunt of Pleasanton, Nora Mote of Montara and Sally Mote-Yaffe of Livermore; six grandchildren; half-brother, David Mote of Richmond and half-sister, Linda Mote Sanchez of Sacramento. Brothers, Dick Mote and Robert Mote, and sister, Betty Deane, preceded him in death.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568; the Youth for Understanding program, 6400 Goldsboro Road, Ste. 100, Bethesda, MD 20817 or the Colorado School of the Mines undergraduate scholarship program. A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. July 12 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court.

### Thomas Fiori

Thomas Fiori died June 6 at the age of 52.

He was born Aug. 5, 1956 in Michigan. He came to Dublin at a young age. He worked for the Dublin Unified School District for 30-plus years. He loved his special needs daughter, his wife, the fire department, where he was a volunteer, Calstar, tree trimming, motorcycles and being happy.

He is at rest now from a heart attack he suffered while driving with a friend.

He is survived by his wife, Christine; his daughter, Mary; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Maryann; father, Louis; and sister, Christina.

A memorial will be held at 1:30 p.m. June 27 at Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Ave., Livermore. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Uncle Credit Union, in care of Christine Fiori, account #2243975.

### James Eugene Eccher

James Eugene Eccher died June 18 at the age of 51.

Mr. Eccher was born Sept. 24, 1957 in Denver, Colo. He is survived by his parents, William and Florence Eccher, of Pleasanton; daughter, Jill Eccher of Dublin; sister Mary Eccher and her husband, Walter Molz of Danville; and

former wife, Barbara Eccher of Gig Harbor, Wash.

Mr. Eccher graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1975. Throughout his life, he enjoyed boating, camping, garage sales, gardening and the outdoors. He owned a cabin in Arnold, Calif., where he and his dogs spent a lot of time. He liked riding his Harley motorcycle and meeting his friends at Tully's in Pleasanton for coffee.

A memorial will be held at 3 p.m. June 30 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton.

### Ray F. Snider, Jr.

Ray F. Snider, Jr., longtime resident of Pleasanton, died in his sleep June 14. He was 86.

Mr. Snider Jr., an attorney at law who privately practiced in Castro Valley for 30 years, received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Cal Berkeley Law School in 1953, and served as a U.S. Naval Lt. JG in World War II. He was an avid reader who never ceased his lifetime love of learning. His great interests included cosmology, genealogy, "tractoring" his farmland, political debating, and emailing friends and family. He loved life, laughter, stimulating conversation and most of all, his family.

He is survived by Jeanne, his companion of 25 years; his sister, Lynn, of Texas; and by Mildred, the mother of his four beloved children: Klayna, Tres, Melantha and Trina. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren, all a great source of his pride and joy.

A celebration of his life was scheduled to be held June 22 at Casa Real.

### Vivian May Tracy

Vivian May Tracy died June 15 at the Pleasanton Convalescent Home at the age of 80.

Mrs. Tracy was born Sept. 28, 1928 to Ben and Ethel Graves in Osceola Township, S.D. and moved to the Bay Area as a teenager. She was employed by Bay Meadows racetrack when she retired.

She was married to Jerome Tracy and Don Miller. Jerome Tracy preceded her in death in 1985 and Don Miller in 1998.

She is survived by two daughters, Jerry Hunter of Pleasanton and Cary Tracy Pugh of Eldorado Hills, Calif.; sister, Naomi Mears and brother, Merle Graves; four grandchildren, Doug Hunter, Tracy Hunter, Jordon Pugh and Jared Pugh and two great-grandchildren, Dax Hunter and Jacob Herrmann.

A memorial service was planned for June 25 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Valley Humane Society.

## BIRTHS

### Thomas Ross Vespi

John and Caroline Yu Vespi of Pleasanton announce the birth of their son, Thomas Ross Vespi, born at San Ramon Regional Medical Center at 12:16 a.m. May 7, measuring 7 pounds, 13 ounces and 20 inches long. Proud



grandparents are Rosendo "Ross" and Adelina Yu of Pleasanton and Betty Vespi of Pleasanton.

### May 20

Rebecca and Jeremy Price, a girl

### June 3

Kimberly and Stephen Luark, a boy

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center.

### May 19

Heidi and Matthew Werner, a boy



ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Jockeys and their horses charge out of the starting gates during a race at the fairgrounds in this file photo. This year, there will be 15 days of horse races, as opposed to the regular 12 days, beginning July 1.

# Raising the stakes

Horse trainer Jeff Bonde sets his sights on a successful racing season at this year's Alameda County Fair



JANET PELLETIER

A worker gives a horse his daily bath at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

By DENNIS MILLER

For Pleasanton horse trainer Jeff Bonde, it's pretty obvious why being successful during the Alameda County Fair is so important.

Actually, there are two reasons.

"It's more meaningful to be able to win in your hometown," said the 54-year-old Bonde, who was raised in Pleasanton and graduated from Amador Valley High School. "You get to see a lot of people who you might not normally see. You definitely aim harder in your hometown."

But the single dad of four boys, who range from 8 to 15, has added incentive to win when the Alameda County Fair comes to Pleasanton.

"That carnival is not cheap," Bonde said with a laugh. "You end up having to rent a box because they have friends come over. But they love the fair. It's one of their highlights of the year."

Bonde will have his training prowess on display locally from July 1-19, when this year's extended version of the Alameda County Fair takes place. There will be 15 days of racing this year, as opposed to the 12 days in the past. Racing will take place over three weeks, with the track running Wednesday through Sunday during the 19 days of the fair.

Bonde is a local favorite when the fair rolls into town, partly because of his talent as a trainer and partly because of local ties. That he went into the business was almost predetermined, as the industry runs deep in the Bonde bloodlines.

Bonde grew up around horses, with his father Duke Bonde Jr., uncle Bob Dupont and brother Gary all working shoeing horses for years, while his grandfather Duke Sr. was a trainer.

"I had two loves in life," Bonde said. "I wanted to be a football player and I loved horses. I never grew, so it just kind of evolved into (horse racing). My father taught me how to shoe, but I was most interested in the competitive side (of horse racing). The older you get, you might not be able to compete yourself, but you still can with your horses."

Bonde, who started hanging out around the track at 12, began working for trainer Jerry Dutton around the age of 15, then took out of his first trainer license at 18. He's had a number of career highlights, picking up his first graded stakes win in 1992, taking the San Francisco Handicap with Athenia Green, who was also the National Claimer of the Year. In 1999, Bonde saddled Spain in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, where the horse finished fourth. In 2001, Bonde led all Northern California trainers with stakes win, taking nine, with the biggest being San Nicolas in the \$100,000 Forty-Niner Handicap.

Some of Bonde's other top horses have included: High Tech Friend, Epic Honor, Red Sky's, Mr. Double-down, General Royal and We Are Strike Ng. The best of the lot may have been Mr. Doubledown, who after five stakes wins in 1998, appeared headed for the Breeders' Cup Sprint before being sidelined.

"I've been hired by some people who were big in the game," Bonde said. "I've raced in almost every state and been in a couple of foreign countries to buy some horses. It's been a great life as far as I'm concerned."

There's no doubting Bonde's had a successful career up to this point, but there's still the lingering dream of running a horse at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May.

"I don't know of any trainer where it's not his dream to win the Kentucky Derby," Bonde said. "It's still the measuring stick of a champion."

Bonde is the first to admit, it's an uphill battle for a trainer not named Jerry Hollendorfer in Northern California to have a Derby starter.

"When you have our ZIP code in Northern California, you can't go out and buy a ready-made (Kentucky Derby) horse," Bonde said of the large amounts of money it takes to buy a championship horse. "We have to go out, buy young horses and hope one blossoms into a Casual Lies type of horse."

Casual Lies was the Pleasanton-based horse owned and trained by Shelley Reilly, which finished second by a length in the 1992 Kentucky Derby, capturing the hearts and imagination of the racing world. The best chance for Bonde to take his shot at the Derby as he mentioned, is to find that magical 2-year-old who develops into one of the top in the nation the



JANET PELLETIER

Horses train for the races, which begin July 1 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Trainer Jeff Bonde, who oversees the training of 40 horses at the fairgrounds, trots out mostly 2-year-olds for racing.

next year. And Bonde is certainly among the elite 2-year-old trainers in the region. Every year, Bonde trots out an impressive array of young horses in Pleasanton, and is always a threat to take each of the 2-year-old races at the fair.

"I have a lot of them," Bonde said of 2-year-olds. "There's sort of an art (to training them). I've been lucky buying the right ones over the years."

Bonde's stable this year as usual, is a young, but talented group. So far in 2009, he's run six 2-year-olds, taking four races and running third in the other two. Which horses out the talented lot will run in Pleasanton is still to be determined. Some will probably make their debut during the fair.

"I've got several more getting close (to running)," he said. "I'm not exactly sure who's going to run here. Our hope is we will have a good shot (at the fair 2-year-old stakes). But if you're going to win with a 2-year-old, you're going to have to have the best prepared horse. Sometimes it's not the best horse, but the most prepared horse which wins."

That means a lot of work, which Bonde certainly turns in, rarely seeing a day off.

"If you're trying to stay on top, there's not many (days off)," he said. "A jockey and a trainer get judged by every day of their life. It's a competitive business, where money is a big issue. If you're not producing, they'll go somewhere else."

Not only is it often seven days a week of work, but it's hardly banker's hours as well. Bonde's typical day begins around 5 a.m. at the stable, checking on his horses, before getting them out on to the track for some work. In addition, there's an endless amount of paperwork and correspondence with the owners

of the horses. Maybe the morning business wraps up around 11, but the day is far from over.

"Then in the afternoon, comes the horseracing," Bonde said.

This means heading over to Golden Gate Fields in Albany for the races. Even at the end of a day's racing, it's back to the stable for a final check on the horses.

"On dark days, you might get done by 11 a.m.," he said. "But on race days, you might not get home until 9 p.m. Then you do it all over again the next day."

Bonde is hoping an increase in racing dates for Pleasanton may help shorten some of those long days. With Bay Meadows closed, it appears Pleasanton will pick up some additional days of racing outside of the annual Alameda County Fair meeting. It's a win-win situation for Bonde, as not only will he spend more time in his hometown, but he also sees Pleasanton benefiting as a city from the increased racing schedule locally.

"I am very hopeful that occurs," he said. "First, it will be much more pleasant to run here than in Albany. And the downtown area needs help with the current economy. The people who come out to attend the races would go downtown to the stores and the restaurants—anything like that would help the city."

Being home more each day is crucial to Bonde as his boys get older. And getting older means they are closer to choosing a career path, which may or may not involve the horse racing industry.

"The boys all like animals, but they are very much into sports," he said. "Whatever they want to do, I'm behind them and will be happy to help in any way I can. When you decide on your profession, you better like what you're going to do." ■



JANET PELLETIER

Bonde's stable this year is young. He is continuing the family tradition, as his father, uncle and brother worked shoeing horses, while his grandfather was a trainer.

## Alameda County Fair

### FAIR HOURS

Closed Mondays

Tues.-Thurs. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

July 4 - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

### CARNIVAL HOURS

noon until closing

### TICKETS AND PROMOTIONS

#### Military Appreciation

**Weekend:** July 3-5 Free fair admission for you and a guest with valid military I.D. Veterans free with proof of service.

#### \$2 Tuesdays:

July 7 and 14 Admission is \$2

#### Seniors Free

**Wednesdays:** July 1, 8 and 15 (62 and up receive free admission)

#### Kids Free

**Fridays:** July 3, 10 and 17 (Kids 12 and under receive free admission)

The fair parade has been cancelled this year.

## Civic Meetings

**PLEASANTON RIDGE REGIONAL PARK LAND USE PLAN** East Bay Regional Park District is planning a new Land Use Plan for the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park and is hosting a meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, June 29, at Amador High School, Multi Purpose Room, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. For information, visit [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org).

## Clubs

**LIVERMORE LIONESSE CLUB** The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at their regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly. The Lioness Club is a service club, sponsored by the Livermore Lions Club, that helps many worthy causes in our community. Lioness main focus areas are women, children and family issues, in addition to helping the blind. Call 443-4543 for more information.

## Concerts

**BURTON AND COMPANY TO PERFORM** The next Concert in the Park will feature Burton and Company, a jazzy rhythm and blues band, from 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, July 3, at Wayside Park, at the corner of First and Neal streets. The next

band will be Rock Explosion on Friday, July 10. Visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

**'THE CRISIS' TO PERFORM** Concert in the Park will feature "The Crisis" which is sponsored by the Alameda County Fair from 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, June 26, at Wayside Park, at the corner of First and Neal streets. Burton and Company will perform jazzy rhythm and blues on Friday, July 3. Visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

## Events

**'SUNDAY STROLL'** Pleasanton Kiwanis Club presents "Sunday Stroll" at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 28, meeting at Gay 90's Pizza, 288 Main St. Cost is \$35, including wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres at seven restaurants. For tickets, call Dawn Wilson at 846-5858 or Vic Malatesta at 484-0789.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN RE-ENACTMENT** "A Visit with Abraham Lincoln: Civil War Presentation #2" by re-enactor Roger Vincent, will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1, at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St. Cost is a \$2 donation. Call 462-2766 for reservations.

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MEETING** Learn how to earn an immediate and residual income and position

yourself for the explosive growth in the Telecommunications and VoIP industry from 7-9 p.m., every Thursday, at Hotel Sierra, 2323 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, call Roy Carney at 548-3511.

**HOPYARD GOLF SCRAMBLE** The Hopyard Golf Scramble will start at noon, Monday, June 29, on the Hill Course at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Dr. Cost is \$150. Proceeds benefit the Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center and the ValleyCare Health Library. Lunch at the course by McNamara's Steakhouse in Dublin and dinner at the Hopyard Alehouse and Grill. Call 373-4567.

**INNOVATION FORUM** This one day event is designed to showcase the Tri-Valley as a science and technology center from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday, June 30, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Cost is \$65 for members; \$75 for non-members. Call 447-1606.

**THANK YOU VETERANS PERFORMANCE** Enjoy free entertainment featuring Nilam Patel, Sandra Kay, Debra Knox and the Knoxability Band from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at the Livermore Veterans Hospital, 4951 Arroyo Rd. This event is free. Visit [www.writeous-mom.com](http://www.writeous-mom.com).

**WAR STORIES WITH GEORGE WAGNER** Come and listen to war stories with George Wagner, a World War II veteran, from 10-11:30 a.m., Thursday, July 2, at the Vintage Lounge in the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. This event is free, but pre-registration is required; call 373-5760.

## Exhibits

**ABSTRACT EXHIBIT AT LIVERMORE CIVIC LIBRARY** 'Abstract Point of View' is the theme of the June art exhibit at the Livermore Library and 22 local artists have gathered a collection of 36 pieces, which will display from June 1-30. The library is open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 606-1088 or visit [www.livermoreartassociation.org](http://www.livermoreartassociation.org).

## Film

**RIVER OF RENEWAL** Stephen Most, author/filmmaker of the book/film, "River of Renewal," will show his film and answer questions from 7-9 p.m., Saturday, June 27, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. This event is free, but \$3 donations will be accepted. Refreshments will be served and there is wheelchair access. Call 462-3459.

## Fundraisers

**A VISION OF INDIA** Megha Jain and Swathi Narahari are undertaking a "Gold Award" project with the Girl Scouts and will host "A Vision of India" which will feature Indian classical and Bollywood dances from 2-5 p.m., Sunday, June 28, at Foothill High School, Multi-purpose Room, 4375 Foothill Rd. Cost is \$10. Proceeds will be used to buy an ophthalmic chair for a non-profit hospital in Hyderabad, India. Call 890-4271.

**BINGO NIGHT** Pleasanton Seahawks will host Bingo at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, June 27, at Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Receive a free treasure hunt game with every Bingo buy in and two pull tabs drawings for \$50 and one for \$75 or buy in for as

little as \$17. Proceeds benefit the Seahawks. Call 606-7777.

**CHICKS WITH STICKS** Hit the links at Poppy Ridge Golf Course to support Shepherd's Gate Tuesday, July 14, at the golf course located at 4280 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$99 per player, including a cart, range balls, green fees, box lunch and buffet dinner. To sign-up, visit [www.poppyridgegolf.com](http://www.poppyridgegolf.com).

## Health

**LIFE LINE SCREENING** Faith Chapel Assembly of God will host a preventive health event for local residents offered by Life Line Screening from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, July 17, at the church, 6656 Alisal St. Must pre-register for the screening; call (888) 653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com).

## Kids & Teens

**DAFFY DOINGS AT THE LIBRARY** Enjoy the funny slapstick-approach to magic and juggling by Daffy Dave at 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This event is free and is for all ages. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

**DRAMA CAMPS** Got drama? New camps start every two weeks for both our performing arts and our Seussical musical academies. Actors ages 8-18 enjoy action-packed days that culminate in memorable performances. For more information, call Linda at 413-8161 or visit [www.trivalleyppa.org](http://www.trivalleyppa.org).

**WILD AMERICA** Take a journey through the wilderness of North America with Wild Things, Inc. to meet some of the same animals encountered by the early pioneers at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This event is free and tickets will be available a half an hour before each show. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SEMINAR** Learn about the Top Ten Myths of

College Admissions from 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, June 29, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Hear about how colleges really evaluate applicants. This event is free. For information, contact Diane Keller at 963-2932 or drkellercc@yahoo.com.

**OPTIMIZING YOUR HEALTH WITH GENETICS AND INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE** Learn about a scientific, yet individualized approach to nutrition and health with Pam McDonald, PCP, NP, author of, "The APOE Gene Diet" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, at the Livermore Public Library-Civic Center, Community Room A and B, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. This event is free and is open to the public. Call 251-9828.

## Miscellaneous

**BEAUTIFUL DONATION OF JADE** American Cancer Society Discovery Shop will feature a wonderful donation of Jade jewelry on July 1, at the shop in Pleasanton. The shop is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Proceeds benefit cancer patient services, research and advocacy. Call 462-7374.

**EAGLE PROJECT/BLOOD DRIVE** Tyler Lomas will host a blood drive for his Eagle Project from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Receive a free "VIP voucher" for the August 20 Vans Warped Tour. Call 640-6381 or visit www.givelife.org.

## Seniors

**DAY TRIPPERS TRIP TO SANTA ROSA** Enjoy a trip to the Charles Schultz Museum and Luther Burbank Gardens from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, leaving from the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$58 for residents; \$62 for non-residents, including docent led tour and box lunch at Schultz Museum. Reservations are required; call 931-5365.

## Sports

**COACHES NEEDED FOR FASTPITCH SOFTBALL** Lady Hustle Fastpitch is looking for coaches for all age levels for the fall season. For more information, visit www.ladyhustle-fastpitch.com or contact Teresa

Borchard at ronbo4@pacbell.net or 785-0846.

**FOOTBALL CAMP** Train with current and previous NFL football players at Football Summer Camp held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, July 7-11, at Valley Christian High School, Dublin. Cost is \$350. Call 560-6200.

## Support Groups

**CLUTTERLESS (CL) SELF HELP GROUP** Overwhelmed? Is clutter stressing you out? Do you want to do something about it? Meet with this support group at 7 p.m., every Monday, at the St. Mary and St John Coptic Orthodox Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Dr. Call 200-1943 or visit www.clutterless.org.

**WIDOW/WIDOWERS GRIEF RECOVERY** Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Share your experiences during this 10-week class

from 7-9 p.m., every Wednesday, July 7-Sept. 9, at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Cost is \$5 for workbook and pre-registration is required. Call 833-9013.

## Volunteering

**AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** Tour the Pleasanton Blood Donor Center and learn about ways to greet, inform and thank our community's blood donors or help post flyers at key locations from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, July 9, at American Red Cross Pleasanton Blood Donor Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave. Advanced sign-up is required; call (510) 594-5165.

**TRI VALLEY YOUTH COURT** Adult and teen volunteers needed this summer for the Tri Valley Youth Court (TVYC). Teens can serve as Advocates (youth attorneys), or as Court Clerks and Jurors which would work from 5:30-8 p.m., on the first Tuesday of each month, at the Gale/Schenone courthouse. For more information, visit www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com or call Tonya at 337-7175.

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## Liberating voices

*Poet laureate Deborah Grossman seeks to cultivate stories and poets one word at a time*

By EMILY WEST

Whether it's in their own words or through a famous poet like Robert Frost, Deborah Grossman wants people have a voice through poetry.

The 21-year Pleasanton resident was confirmed as the city's newest poet laureate by the City Council last week, having been selected by a committee of community members in May. Grossman will take on the voluntary two-year post that was recently filled by school library aide Martha Meltzer.

"Deborah is a wonderful and skilled poet," said Civic Arts Manager Andy Jorgensen. "She is a professional writer who makes her living using words. I have been incredibly impressed with her enthusiasm and the sheer creativity of some of her ideas for continuing on as poet laureate."

Jorgensen said the goal of the poet laureate position is to expand the participation and appreciation of literary arts in the community. In addition to reading poetry at civic events and being a liaison for the Civic Arts program, the candidate organizes the Century House Poetry reading series in throughout the year.

Like poetry, the job description has room for interpretation, which allows the candidate to offer ideas for bringing poetry to the community. Meltzer left a significant impact with the youth of the community, starting a teen poet laureate program at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools.

In addition to continuing the youth and other programs established by former poets laureate, Grossman plans to add some new offerings. The first would be the "Celebrating Famous Poets" series, which will begin by honoring Robert Frost. She also plans to partner with local poets to bring "Poetry Rocks in Many Languages." The sessions would have the poets read a poem in the original language and then the translation. Grossman would also like to have programs offered at the Senior Center.

"I want to bring as many voices to the floor," Grossman said. "I want to include the children, the mature adults, everybody. I want to bring the joy of creativity to the table. I'm really strong about getting folks of all ages involved, even if it means reading someone else's poem."

She has encouraged several people—from a neighbor to her great-



JANET PELLETIER

Deborah Grossman is the newest poet laureate to represent the city. During the two-year volunteer post, she plans to continue current poetry programs as well as add more offerings.

granddaughter—to give the literary art form a try. Oftentimes, she said, the outcome is a pleasant surprise to the writer.

"My poetry is basically a narrative genre, a story teller," she said. "I was influenced when I was younger by the likes of E.E. Cummings, Carl Sandburg, many of the classics, and more recently, Elizabeth Bishop, Ellen Bass and Al Young, the poet laureate of California. It's a mixed, eclectic background."

Her love of words began in the fourth grade, Grossman said, when she compiled favorite poems and stories into a small booklet. From there, her love of reading and writing grew. When it was time to choose a major in college, she decided to study history over English because "it seemed more practical at the time."

Her awards have included third place in the Pleasanton Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival in 2002, Theme Poem and Silver awards from the Alameda County Fair, and awards from the annual Bay Area Poets' Dinners. Grossman has also served as a poetry judge for the county fair in 2003 and 2006.

Over the years, Grossman has expanded her writing repertoire to include the role of a journalist. Her work has been featured in Wine Enthusiast, National Culinary Review, the San Francisco Chronicle and the Pleasanton Weekly.

Her latest work of poetry—including those of her mother—is captured in the pages of "Goldie and Me." Grossman describes the work as "exploring the many facets of freedom, family, and food through the lens of poetry," with topics ranging from Sunday car rides to Hurricane Katrina. The book is available at Towne Center Books on Main Street and Amazon.com.

No matter what form of writing being used, Grossman intends to tell stories. Current ideas for new programs include workshops at the senior center, collaborations with the poets laureate of Dublin and Livermore, and periodic events honoring well-known poets.

"I want to continue the featured poets at the Century House," she added. "It's inspiring and beautiful when we have accomplished poets in our midst."

She's also bringing in technology by creating a Twitter account (PleasantonPoets) and an email account (pleasantonpoetry@gmail.com) where she could hear feedback and suggestions from the community. ■

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## POETIC PLEASANTON



BY MARTHA MELTZER

### Signing off

At the June 16 City Council meeting, I handed over the poetic torch to the next poet laureate. The torch is now being carried by longtime Pleasanton resident Deborah Grossman. I have every confidence that the city made a wise choice.

For me, the past two years have been wonderful. I have had the opportunity to share my poetry in print and in person. The city has called upon me to help dedicate a park and to celebrate ground breaking and civic celebrations. I have represented Pleasanton at poetry events up and down the state. I have met poets from all walks of life and varying degrees of fame. I have worked with children from elementary to high school. I have put in many hours, but it has been a labor of love. I wish Deborah all the best and hope that her two years will be as rewarding as mine. I will end with a poem that I read before the selection committee when I was chosen laureate. It's about one of my favorite things, working with children and poetry.

### Explaining the Writing Process to Fifth Graders

*The mind is a hotel  
Hojo Hilton or Huckleberry Inn  
establishments filled with rooms  
housing ideas and memories  
Some for math facts  
others for soccer strategies  
another room has answers  
to the quiz on "A Wrinkle in Time"  
At the end of the hall  
a suite for U.S. states and their  
capitals*

*Poets have poetry rooms in their hotel  
They check in, sigh, unpack their bags  
peek into drawers, unwrap guest  
soaps  
jump on the bed  
leave wet towels on the bathroom  
floor  
call room service to order hot fudge  
sundaes*

*But mostly they sit  
in the uncomfortable armchair by  
the window  
watch listen feel  
as words on vacation stroll into view*

Martha Meltzer is Pleasanton's outgoing poet laureate.

## NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY JEANNE AUFMUTH

### Away We Go

★★★★

Rated: R for language, sexuality and mature themes  
1 hour, 36 minutes

Quirky sentiments ebb and flow in Sam Mendes' latest—and greatest—study of the human condition.

Burt Farlander and Verona De Tessant (John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph) are hurtling towards one of life's great adventures: parenthood. They've moved close to Burt's folks with high hopes of close family ties and free childcare. But the senior Farlanders (Catherine O'Hara and Jeff Daniels) have their own agenda: packing up hearth and home and taking their show on the road to Antwerp. Clunk.

Burt and Verona need roots and they need them fast. Thus they set out on a seminal road trip to find the perfect home for their unborn child.

Think "Flirting with Disaster" for the mommy set. Their grand plan begins with a stay in Phoenix where Verona's former desk buddy Lily (Allison Janney) lives in fractured conjugal bliss with laid-back hubby and a pair of fiendish teens. Nobody's idea of domestic heaven—strike Phoenix.

On it goes with stops in Madison, Montreal and Miami. In Wisconsin the pair hope to re-bond with Burt's childhood friend LN (Maggie Gyllenhaal), an alternative New-Ager who raises her kids by The Continuum Concept and its three cardinal Ss: no sugar, no strollers and no separation. Scratch that.

In Montreal, old college friends have adopted a Brangelina-style brood; in Miami, Burt's instinct that his brother may be the family rock comes crashing down in a vortex of hurt and suffering.

Mendes' genius is in eliciting pitch-perfect performances from every member of an A-list cast whose dark humor is tinted with desperation and sorrow. Each stands out in his or her own right: O'Hara and Daniels playing off their wicked empty-nesting glee, Janney rocking the hilarious mom from hell and Gyllenhaal chewing up the scenery as an ethereal yet potentially psychotic Earth Mother.

Melanie Lynskey delivers a profoundly painful turn as a desperately barren 30-something and Paul Schneider offers equally deft shades of gray to his abandoned husband and father.

The true revelation is funny-woman Rudolph, best known for her ingenious efforts on Saturday Night Live. With great depth of feeling she exudes the joy and confusion of impending motherhood, drawing on rich reserves of family history to shape her fierce desire for a happy home.

All is packaged with a fresh indie feel that's more Coen Brothers than classic Mendes ("American Beauty," "Revolutionary Road") and the perfect tonic for another action-saturated summer.

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# Outside the classroom

Teacher expands on life after the school bell rings

BY KATIE LYNNESS

Teachers might work at school for long hours, but they still live a separate life outside of school which most people do not usually think about. It's sometimes shocking for a student to see their teacher outside of school because it is in a completely different context that they are not used to. However, it can also be shocking for the teachers to see a student of theirs outside of school, too. Sixth grade language arts and history teacher Jan Berry says that usually if a student of hers is with a parent outside of school they act very reserved or the complete opposite and very obnoxious.

Outside of school, Berry enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, swimming and walking. She also enjoys traveling with her husband and over the last two years they have traveled throughout the western states and seen many national parks. She has always enjoyed photography and has continued the interest since her granddaughter was born. In addition, she belongs to two book clubs and they meet every couple of months. She likes to workout at Club Sport, too. She also meets 10 of her friends for coffee every Saturday morning and has been keeping up that tradition for over 15 years.

Her school life and weekend life are not kept separate from each other because she's always thinking

about school, even over the summer. She carries a notebook with her all the time so she can organize the curriculum for the year. If she is reading an interesting book that relates to what she is teaching and wants to share that in school, she plans out when in the year she wants her students to read it. Also, she enjoys seeing her students growing up in Pleasanton's community and likes to see them outside of school with their friends. When Berry was growing up she went to a catholic school and her mom was friends with some of the nuns. The nuns always acted very proper and if she saw them outside of school, the same way they acted in school, so she never saw a teacher acting crazy or doing something unexpected of a teacher.

Many of her friends and family members are teachers as well and she has created a strong bond with her colleagues. Additionally, she was friends for a long time with some of her old teachers from when she was a student. Mr. Reed, her college philosophy professor stayed in touch with her and they used to take each other out to lunch. He would come over to dinner, too, so eventually they became more like friends instead of having just a teacher to student relationship. Growing up, she had a few good relationships with some elementary school teachers and in high school she con-

nected with a biology teacher who treated the students as if they were in college and not high school. The students were challenged when they learned about genetics and dissections of large animals.

For advice for people who want to become a teacher, she believes they have to be positive, organized and disciplined. They have to have high expectations for students, know their students' interests and be prepared to work long hours.

Kids react differently to teachers when they're in public and see their teacher. Kat Zhao, 12, once saw her Chinese school teacher in the mall and felt stunned to see her in a teen store, but at the same time felt happy because she enjoyed seeing her wonderful teacher. Also, Neela Yar, 11, saw her martial arts teacher in Wal-Mart and said, "Hi." They had about a one minute conversation about martial arts. With both of their examples, it seems that they thought teachers acted differently not in a school context.

Although it might feel weird for a kid to see their teacher outside of school it shows them that teachers have lives and don't live at school all the time.

*Katie Lynness is a youth correspondent for the Pleasanton Weekly. She will be entering the seventh grade at Pleasanton Middle School this fall.*

## Lessons from...

### National Drowning Prevention Month

The month of May marked the kick-off of a year-long national campaign for drowning prevention. Historically, cases of toddler drownings begin to rise in May and continue to increase as temperatures climb and doors are left open to let in cooling breezes, and family activities move outdoors.

But organizations like the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) want parents to know that drownings, especially those of young children, don't just happen in warm weather. They warn that

**Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1-4 in California.\***

drownings take place every month of every year, but also believe that **drowning IS preventable.** The NDPA supports the concept of "layers of protection" including barriers around pools and swim lessons, year-round.

American Swim Academy has developed their Aqua Babies program for children 6 months to 3 years of age, specifically to teach parent and child water safety. These parent-participation classes are structured around realistic expectations for children and their stages of development, teaching safety holds and restricting initial swimming and submersion time to encourage critical water comfort skills.

No child is ever drown-proof, but a fun introduction to water safety, taught by certified instructors, will build beginning water skills that lead to a life-long love of swimming and a healthy, active lifestyle. Call today to schedule a free trial class.

\* Statistics from the Drowning Prevention Foundation

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# Sports



## Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com of the best action shot from our child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Pleasanton Seahawks shine at Tiger Meet

The Pleasanton Seahawks turned in many memorable performances at the Tiger Aquatics Memorial Day Long Course Age Group Open Swim Meet May 22-24 in Stockton.

From the novice swim group Resha Panda established an A time, 50 breast and best times in 100 free/50 breast/50 fly. Isabella Chin achieved an A time, 50 breast. The Junior and Pre-Junior group were busy making their own memories. Emily Saccullo made JO and FW in the same 200 breast race. Emma Kauffeld and Meg MacGregor did outstanding in their first long course 400 free and Meg completed her IMX Challenge. Anales Chinn had outstanding fly races. Best times were accomplished by

Michael Martin and Rishab Nair. Adrien Rooney won a first long course JO time, 50 free. Robert Shi, Morgan McGrath, Alex Gilchrist, Maya Gilchrist, RJ Scott, and Kyle Oslund had excellent swims throughout the swim meet.

The Pre-Senior group also brought home numerous memorable swims from the Tiger meet. New Team Records were achieved by Rachel Knowles, 100 fly/400 free 11-12 girls long course. Rachel also established a new PRT, 100 free. New FW times include the following: Rachel Knowles, 100 breast; Cate MacGregor, 100/200 free; Emily Saccullo, 200 breast; and Nick Johnston, 50 free/100 back. New JO times were turned in by many: Chloe Bantock, 100 free/50 breast/100 breast/50 fly/100 fly; Eva Chung, 50 free/100 free; Cate MacGregor, 50 fly/100 fly; Lillian Sun, 800 free/50 fly/50 back; and Kevin McLaughlin, 400 free.

The following swimmers earned 100 percent lifetime-best times: Moriah Simonds, Bridget Booe, Emily Saccullo, Nick Johnston, and Caleb Wang. Other great swims were completed by Katie Woods, Jon Ong, Maxime Rooney, and Bernadine Martin. Additional lifetime-best times include Maggie Kauffeld, 9/10; Brian Lee, 7/9 and Alex Wang, 5/7.

### U18 Rage win at Farwest Regionals

The U-18 Pleasanton Rage defeated the So Cal Blues 4-0 Sunday, to win the U.S. Youth Soccer Farwest Regional Championships in Lancaster, Calif. A persistent Blues team kept the Rage off the scoreboard until the 42nd minute, when forward Maddie Payne headed in the first of her two goals, off a cross from Carlee Payne (no relation). She also scored two goals the day before.

The U-18 Rage was awarded the 2009 Far West Regionals Fair Play Award, a tribute to the good sportsmanship shown during the games.

The team will now represent Division IV at the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships July 20-25 in Lancaster, Mass.



### Rage U13 dominate in the sand

The Pleasanton Rage U13AC girls took home the Santa Cruz Beach Soccer Championship Trophy June 20-21, with members from both the U13AC team and the U13D3 Orange team playing. Coach Tim split the group into two teams, with offensive players forming one team (Rage White), and defensive players forming the other team (Rage Orange). The Rage White team consisted of Rachel, Myranda, Kyra, Maddie, Nicole, Devon, Natalie, and Liz. Rage White steamrolled through their bracket, winning all three games by a combined score of 18-7. The White team was on to the Semi-Finals where they had to face Rage Orange (made up of Kaly, Lauren, Jaimie, Haley, Ally, Kailey, Kendall, Jordan and Jackie), who had gone 2-1-1 in their very difficult bracket play. The semifinal was well played, with the girls battling it out. In the end, Rage Orange was able to mount a 3-1 win.

In the finals, Rage Orange defeated the Eureka Flames 2-1 to become Tournament Champions.



### NorCal All-Stars go 4-1 in lacrosse festival

The Northern California Junior Lacrosse Association Under-13 All-Star team received great performances from four local players as they went 4-1 at the U.S. Lacrosse Association in Kings Island, Ohio recently.

Josh Miller of Pleasanton, as well as Wiley Bonham, Niko Souza and Daniel Aguilar of the Diablo Scorpions, were key members of the NorCal Grizzlies last weekend, as the team, made up of players from throughout Northern California, traveled across the country to take on some of the nation's best junior lacrosse players.

Miller and Aguilar split time in the goal, holding their five opponents to only 12 goals over the five games at the Festival, both making a number of sensational plays in the cage. Souza played his trademark, hard-hitting style of defense throughout the tournament, often times taking out the opposition's top attackman. Bonham was one of the leaders of an offense which racked up 33 goals in five games. The hard-shooting lefty not only scored his share of goals, but set up a number of them as well with timely passes.

The lone loss was a 3-2 final against South New Jersey in a thriller.

Pictured are: No. 20 Daniel Aguilar, No. 24 Josh Miller, No. 18 Wiley Bonham and No. 17 Niko Souza.

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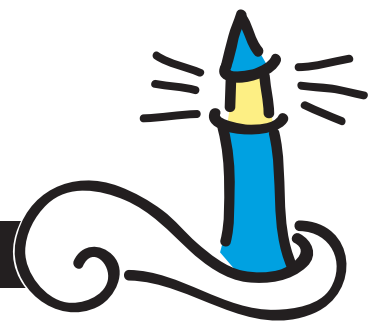
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# TAKE US ALONG



**Bonjour Weekly:** Harvey and Marty Kameny and Joyce and Bob Shapiro took the Weekly along to Monte Carlo in the French Riviera.



**The Italian Weekly**  
Bill and Maggie Foley and John and Nancy Moffat enjoy a wonderful vacation in Italy, with the Weekly, naturally. They spent three weeks visiting Rome, Venice and Florence where they took this picture with the Ponte Vecchio in the background.

# PET OF THE WEEK

## Crazy for kittens

Meet Maiden and Ellie, just two of numerous kittens and adult cats available for adoption at the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center in Dublin. Maiden, a calico, and Ellie, an orange tabby with white boots, are 2 months old and already spayed. The SPCA will tell you that kittens are cute but they have a lot of energy! Many beautiful, mellow, adult housecats need homes as well. Adoption fees are \$50 and include spay/neuter surgery, micro-chip and registration, age appropriate vaccinations, leukemia testing, flea treatment and a new pet health check at the SPCA's veterinary clinic or by a participating veterinarian. The East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, is open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670.

The East Bay SPCA's Summer of Love Adopt-a-thon is coming up soon. More than 100 dogs, cats and rabbits will be available for adoption from local rescue groups and animal shelters from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 19 at Jack London Square in Oakland. Visit [www.eastbayspca.org/events](http://www.eastbayspca.org/events).



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# Marketplace

Pleasanton Weekly

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# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

2040 WEST LAGOON RD., PLEASANTON, \$925,000



This home, in Carlton Oaks, was built in 2004 by Greenbriar Builders. The home boasts 3,265 square feet of living space, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms and beautiful soaring ceilings. It is conveniently located near all Pleasanton schools and offers great freeway access. This bank owned property was listed for \$932,000. Sold by Julia Murtagh of Alain Pinel Realtors. (925) 997-2411

## When it comes to mortgage rates and home buying, this could be the time

Local real estate executive cites advantages of home ownership, refinancing

By JEB BING

With the spring home-buying season in full bloom and great prices and low interest rates available, there's no shortage of real estate prognosticators urging Americans to buy, sell or refinance. And at least one local real estate executive believes now is as good a time as any in the past 40 years to buy or refinance a home.

Citing comments made by President Obama at a recent housing discussion, Mike Peel, Broker/Co-Owner Hometown GMAC Real Estate Office in Pleasanton, quoted the president as saying that, "the essence of the American Dream is owning your own home, being able to have that piece of property that is yours, that allows you to raise your kids, that represents your single biggest investment."

Obama added that with interest rates as low as they've been since 1971, "The main message that we want to send today is there are 7 to 9 million people across the country who right now could be taking advantage of lower mortgage rates."

What does this mean for home buyers in Pleasanton?

"The fundamentals are in place for a buyers' market," Peel said. "That means excellent

mortgage rates, good inventory, great prices and sellers wanting to price their properties to sell."

Even hard hit markets such as Los Angeles are seeing signs of stability, which could point to a trend nationwide, Peel added.

"According to a recent story in the Los Angeles Times that assessed the local market, 'Southern California home prices held steady for the third straight month in March, a sign that the housing slump may be near its bottom,'" Peel said.

"There are a lot of people who could afford to own for what they are currently paying in rent or slightly more," said Peel. "But they just aren't aware of how favorable conditions are for them."

"Some day, people will look back and say, 'Remember in 2009, when it was one of the best buyers' markets in decades, with inventories up and mortgage rates at historic lows and we sat when we should have jumped in,'" said Peel.

"I've heard more than a few people say this truly could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he added.

Hometown GMAC Real Estate is located at 4725 First Street, Suite No.150 in Pleasanton. Call 426-3800. ■

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### Alamo

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**70 Zand Lane** **\$1,075,000**  
 Sun 12-3 ReMax Accord 895-2804

### Livermore

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**520 Emerald Street** **\$474,500**  
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 525-3456  
**624 Zermatt Street** **\$669,000**  
 Sun 1-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 784-5254  
**1312 Carlton Place** **\$865,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

**5 BEDROOMS**  
**1312 Carlton Place** **\$865,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

### Pleasanton

**2 BEDROOMS**  
**585 Rose Street** **\$289,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 784-6208  
**3038 Yuma Way** **\$339,500**  
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3844

**3 BEDROOMS**  
**2855 Diavila Court** **\$675,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-9844  
**5625 San Jose Drive** **\$697,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3833  
**432 Amaral Circle** **\$729,000**  
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See **OPEN HOMES** on Page 29

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3602 Fieldview Court, Ironwood Estates, Pleasanton



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RUBY HILL OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

- 2333 Romano Circle — Offered at \$1,150,000. 4BR, 3BA, 3252 sq. ft.
- 4141 W. Ruby Hill Drive — Offered at \$2,599,000. 5BR, 5.5BA, 6800 sq. ft.
- 1713 Via Di Salerno — Offered at \$1,959,000. 5BR, 3.5BA, 4467 sq. ft.
- 7152 Moss Tree Way — Offered at \$1,075,000. 5BR, 4BA, 3265 sq. ft.



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**11870 Main St., Sunol**—One-of-a-kind property on 1-acre+flat lot in downtown Sunol. Includes 1700 sq. ft. vintage 1906 home, 1500 sq.ft. comm./cafe/rest., (2) additional 1100 sq. ft. homes at rear of property & historic water-tower studio. Garage/storage outbuildings + 3-car covered parking. Residential rents total \$4100/mo. Restaurant available for owner/user, rents approx. \$2000/mo. **\$1,319,000**

### Just Closed

WITH 11 OFFERS—4250 Entrada Ct., Pleasanton **\$585,000**  
 WITH 3 OFFERS—7868 Creekside, Pleasanton **\$429,000**  
 15 Benjamin Ct., Pleasanton **\$635,000**  
 7258 Huntswood Ct., Pleasanton **\$1,750,000**  
 306 Neal St., Pleasanton **\$970,000**

### Pending

4576 Del Valle Pkwy, Pleasanton **\$929,000**  
 7003-A Stagecoach Dr., Dublin **\$285,000**

**OPEN SAT 1-4 667 Saint John St., Pleasanton**—Approx 2400 sq. ft. of remodeled living space including large custom loft. 4 br, 3ba w/ granite and stainless kitchen, hardwood floors & downstairs bed/bath. Walk to Main St. **\$918,000**

**OPEN SAT 1-4 735 Saint John Cir., Pleasanton**—This spacious 4br, 3ba downtown home sits on a corner lot and features upgraded designer finishes throughout. Remodeled granite and stainless kitchen, hardwood floors and crown moulding! **\$939,000**

**NEW PRICE! 4371 Second St., Pleasanton**—Vintage charm! Approx. 1200 sq. ft., 2br, 1ba with hardwoods, 2-car garage and basement. **\$759,000**

**NEW PRICE! 7862 Foothill Rd., Pleasanton**—Westside 6br, 5.5ba home with separate office and giant media room/au pair setup. Temperature-controlled wine cellar. **\$1,550,000**

**8010 Camino Tassajara, Pleasanton**—Awesome country property, perfect for horses or car collector, on flat 5-acre. Large shop/barn, 7+ car garage, greenhouse, sunroom, poss. au pair/in-law setup. Open Great Room, granite kitchen, updated baths! **\$2,289,000**

**1053 Division St., Pleasanton**—Modern downtown Victorian with approx. 1925 sq. ft., backs to creek! Not on MLS. **\$649,000**

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**5015 OLD DUBLIN ROAD \$2,557,000**  
Great 38+ acres, appraised opinion above this price, potential huge, zoning is R1BE and there is a variance. Buyer needs to verify any and all Alameda County possibility of building info on this property. There is a nice 2828 sq.ft. home and caretaker unit existing.  
**KRISTY PEIXOTO 925.251.2536**  
**OPEN SUN 1-3PM**

[www.tonnichandler.com](http://www.tonnichandler.com)



**PLEASANTON**  
**3249 ARBOR DRIVE \$998,500**  
Premium location above Vintage Hills Park. Rarely available! Custom 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on a huge lot of almost 13,000 sq ft! Completely updated with granite counters, designer lighting, 2 stone fireplaces, hardwood floors and much more.  
**TONNI CHANDLER 925.788.7788**  
**OPEN SUN 1:30-4PM**

[www.sheilacunha.com](http://www.sheilacunha.com)




**CASTRO VALLEY**  
**21600 EDEN CANYON RD \$2,199,950**  
Beautiful 4 bedroom 4 bath creek side estate secluded on a landscaped 6 1/2 acres hillside. The home boasts a beautiful 16 ft cobble stone fireplace in the living room with hardwood flooring, vaulted wood ceilings and views from every window.  
**SHEILA CUNHA 925.251.2561**

[www.emilyhunter.net](http://www.emilyhunter.net)



**PLEASANTON**  
**850 CONCORD ST \$799,000**  
Entertain Pool-Side at this Gorgeous Vintage Hills CUSTOM Home situated on almost 1/4 acre. Park-like yard with beautiful pool and spa. Granite kitchen, new windows throughout, meticulous landscape designed by local nursery. Walk to school and park.  
**EMILY HUNTER 925.785.3795**  
**OPEN SUN 1-4PM**

**RUBY HILL**



**LIVERMORE**  
**655 EAST VINEYARD AVENUE \$4,695,000**  
Fabulous 20+ acre parcel with 8090 +/- sqft custom home. 14.8 acres of income producing Chardonnay grapes. Gorgeous views, peaceful. Part of Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates. Santa Barbara Architecture. Guest apartment, pool, spa, wine room. This property has it all.  
**CAROLE CLINE, CRS 925.648.5415**

[www.phyllisandcarolyn.com](http://www.phyllisandcarolyn.com)



**PLEASANTON**  
**2801 GRAY FOX COURT \$2,795,000**  
Gorgeous gated Hilltop Estate with panoramic views on 1.91 acres of privacy. Custom Mediterranean single level home with quality and character. Resort-like backyard with pool, spa, swim up bar, barbecue, palm trees. Room for vineyard, tennis court, olive grove, so much more! See [www.2801GrayFox.com](http://www.2801GrayFox.com)  
**PHYLLIS WEINER 925.251.2585**

**Golden Eagle Estates**



**PLEASANTON**  
**8044 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY \$3,398,000**  
Beautiful custom home in gated Golden Eagle Estates. Designer features throughout w/ extensive use of cherry wood, stone & more. Wine cellar, exercise room, workshop, main flr master, Heritage Oak trees, large rooms- Truly elegant. Level park-like backyard with pool, spa, lrg grass area, too much to list!  
**PEGGY CORTEZ 925.648-5454**

[www.kellerhomesales.com](http://www.kellerhomesales.com)



**LIVERMORE**  
**1116 DANA CIR \$627,000**  
Gorgeous Home! Turn-key and ready for a new owner to just move in. Pride of ownership abounds. Beautiful landscaping & pool, paved SIDE YARD ACCESS. Hardwood floors, sculptured carpets, marble entry, custom tile inlay in master bath.  
**VICKIE KELLER 925.371.0771**  
**OPEN SUN 1-4PM**

**Beautiful Custom Home**



**PLEASANTON**  
**860 CASTLEWOOD PL \$1,995,000**  
Beautiful custom home built in 1996 by Sterling Builders! Incredible views & location, above the 18th Green and 10th Fairway of the hill course! Huge gourmet Island kitchen with granite! Large master suite with fireplace & walk in closet, office den, oversized 3 car garage.  
**BRYAN CRAFT 925.855.4141**

[www.toddmartinez.com](http://www.toddmartinez.com)



**PLEASANTON**  
**4524 2ND ST \$999,000**  
Gorgeous home built in 1910 and restored to its current grandeur in 2004. Shows like a designer show place. All the bells and whistles. Custom cherry wood Cab. Granite Slab counters. S/S appliances. Hardwood flooring thru-out. Beautifully landscaped front/backyards. All this and on Historic 2nd St.  
**TODD MARTINEZ 925.784.7000**

[www.rubihillliving.com](http://www.rubihillliving.com)



**PLEASANTON**  
**2156 CANOSA CT \$2,649,000**  
Experience vineyard living in this gorgeous Mediterranean home. Premium cul-de-sac location with expansive city views from the front and hills in the back. Grand marble foyer with wrought iron stairway. Enjoy the privacy of pool-sized yard with covered patio nestled among sloping hills.  
**ANJU BHATIA 925.577.2658**

**Gated Estate**



**PLEASANTON**  
**9745 SANTOS RANCH RD \$4,800,000**  
Fabulous 70A gated estate on the Westside, less than 10 min from downtown. Large house and 5 car garage and views forever! Truly a one-of-a-kind property.  
**DIANA PARKER 925.216.9117**

Blackhawk 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000	Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100 Lafayette, CA 94549 925.253.7001	Livermore 1983 Second Street Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100	Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd., #110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500	Walnut Creek 100 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500
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[www.rockcliff.com](http://www.rockcliff.com)

**OPEN HOMES**

Continued from Page 27

**Pleasanton**

- 4 BEDROOMS**
- 9146 Longview Drive \$1,089,000**  
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653
- 469 Kottinger Drive \$1,099,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 260-2220
- 2333 Romano Circle \$1,150,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 202-6298
- 1063 Hopkins Way \$1,229,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Morning Star Properties Inc. 679-2100
- 779 Sunny Brook \$1,299,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 484-5200
- 4306 Campinia Place \$1,475,000**  
Sun 11-3 Delores Gragg- Hometown GMAC 989-6500
- 3602 Fieldview Court \$1,499,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 980-0273
- 5769 San Carlos Way \$709,900**  
Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 463-2000
- 3150 Paseo Robles \$750,000**  
Sun 1-4 Sheehan Real Estate 415-302-2500
- 536 Neal Street \$750,000**  
Sun 2-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 650-303-3943
- 3484 Park Place \$779,950**  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 872-1416
- 850 Concord Street \$799,000**  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 785-3795
- 667 St. John Street \$918,000**  
Sat 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569
- 735 St. John Circle \$939,000**  
Sat 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569
- 4153 Walnut Drive \$994,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 260-2220
- 3249 Arbor Drive \$998,950**  
Sun 1:30-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 251-2556
- 5 BEDROOMS**
- 7152 Moss Tree Way \$1,075,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 397-4244

- 833 Independence Court \$1,249,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 251-2540
- 6736 Riddell Street \$1,299,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500
- 1436 Irongate Court \$1,389,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064
- 4141 West Ruby Hill Drive \$2,599,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 202-6298
- 559 Del Sol \$989,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-3534
- 6 BEDROOMS**
- 8280 Regency Drive \$1,425,000**  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 352-7307

**San Ramon**

- 2 BEDROOMS**
- 6178 Lakeview Circle \$499,950**  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 683-5165
- 3 BEDROOMS**
- 434 Constantine Court \$539,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 J Rockcliff Realtors 323-6735
- 6215 Lakeview Circle \$619,500**  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 683-5165
- 4059 West Lake Shore Drive \$749,500**  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 855-4111
- 792-9 Lakemont Place \$774,500**  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 683-5689
- 4 BEDROOMS**
- 110 Mavis Place \$549,800**  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 698-2274
- 1050 Vista Pointe Circle \$665,000**  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 984-3932
- 5400 Canyon Crest Drive \$798,500**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 577-1944
- 2887 Fieldview Terrace \$959,000**  
Sun 2-5 J Rockcliff Realtors 323-6735
- 1113 Overlook Court \$989,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 518-7830

**Ventana Hills**  
*Fabulous Views*  
*Open Sunday 1:30 - 4:30*



**1063 Hopkins Way**  
**Pleasanton**

This 3,000 sq.ft. home has new kitchen with cherry wood cabinets & black beauty granite counters. There are new upgraded carpets throughout the 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom home with an architecturally designed interior and plantation shutters. Master has fireplace with gorgeous tumbled travertine tile. Private rear yard with gunite pool & grape arbor.  
*Offered at \$1,229,000*



**Lynnda Mitosinka**  
925.625.7788

Morning Star Properties, Inc.  
www.morningstarproperties.com



**Vince Sheehan Real Estate**  
415.302.2500  
vince@vincsheehan.com  
www.vincsheehan.com



**Great Kitchen, Great Pool!**  
*Open Sunday 1:00-4:00*  
**3150 Paseo Robles, Pleasanton**

4 bedroom, 3 bath 2212 sq.ft. Ponderosa Saratoga Model in Country Fair. 6 year old custom built pool & spa. Chef's kitchen with island and stainless appliances. Sunken living room, spacious dining room. Donlon, Hart and Foothill Schools. **Reduced \$25,000 more to \$750,000**

*Now the best value in this wonderful neighborhood!*

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
*presents*

californiamoves.com



**DUBLIN**  
**11779 JUAREZ LANE WEST DUBLIN RANCHER \$559,000**  
3 BR 2 BA apx 1883 sf,corner lot,huge family rm addition,updated baths, newly painted kitchen cabs 925.847.2200



**PLEASANTON**  
**Open SUN 1 - 4 21 CASTLEDOWN ROAD \$1,090,000**  
**MUST SEE INSIDE!**  
4 BR 2.5 BA views of Mt. Diablo!Kit opens to fam room/balcony. Formal dining & large master suite 925.847.2200



**PLEASANTON**  
**Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 1561 TRIMINGHAM DR \$555,000**  
**BEAUTIFUL DANBURY PARK**  
3 BR 2.5 BA New rf,Updtd kit/hrdwd flrs,Vaulted ceilings,Dual pane wndws,bckyrd w/dck/mural/fountain 925.847.2200



**SAN RAMON**  
**Open FRI/SAT/SUN 11 - 5 145 COPPER RIDGE RD. CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES \$200'S**  
**PRICES START IN THE HIGH \$200'S**  
1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses,vaulted ceilings avail,w/garages,gated,renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

**ALAMEDA**

**1713 THIRD STREET GREAT LOCATION \$318,000**  
3 BR 2 BA Walk to schools/downtown,hrdwd flrs in liv/din/kitchen,updated kitchen w/granite counters 925.847.2200

**DUBLIN**

**3360 MAGUIRE WAY TOWNHOME VIEWS OF PARK \$390,000**  
2 BR 2.5 BA Montefrio Elite flr pln w/upgrds,across from prk,2 car atchd garage.Comm pl/fitness cntr 925.847.2200

**7086 DUBLIN MEADOWS ST. E, UNIT E GORGEOUS CONDO \$197,000**  
1 BR 1 BA Living Room w/Fireplace.Approx. 805' w/ VIEWS. Washer/Dryer/Fridge/Micro/Dishwasher Stay 925.847.2200

**FREMONT/ARDENWOOD**

**33861 CAPULET CIR OVER \$150K IN UPGRADES! \$599,888**  
4 BR 2 BA Detached Office W/Permits of Add'l 100SF,Lrg Mstr W/Wlk In Clst,Hrdwd Mple Flrs,6" Bsebord 925.847.2200

**LIVERMORE**

**3300 DYER RD. PRICE REDUCTION! \$948,000**  
3 BR 2 BA 29.25 acre parcel w/2000+sq. ft.home,dutch barn w/2 flrs,steel framed shop w/2 rll-up drs 925.847.2200

**1221 ECHO SUMMIT ST MUST SEE! \$534,950**  
4 BR 2.5 BA beautiful hrdwd flrs,many upgrades,very clean,inground pl,across from park,excellent loc 925.847.2200

**2643 BRIARWOOD DR MUST SEE! \$455,000**  
5 BR 2 BA dual pane windows,built-in pl,open flr plan,aprox.2300 sq. ft.,11434 sq. ft. lot,2 car gar 925.847.2200

**1271 SPRING VALLEY COMMON BEAUTIFUL HOME! \$165,000**  
2 BR 1 BA American cherry "Mohawk" flooring, shutters, ceiling fan AC, across from communitiy pool 925.847.2200

**PITTSBURG**

**2203 OLD CREEK CIR MUST SEE! GREAT HOME! \$174,900**  
2 BR 2 BA 1161 SF,Gorgeous Remodel w/Upgraded Features Throughout!Corner Lot in Private Neighborhood 925.847.2200

**PLEASANTON**

**558 SANTEL COURT GORGEOUS SINGLE STORY \$1,799,000**  
4 BR 2 BA office + bonus rm,upgrd kit/opens to family room,pl/spa in backyard,court loc,hrdwd flrs 925.847.2200

**2927 LETHBRIDGE COURT FABULOUS IN PLEASANTON! \$799,950**  
4 BR 2.5 BA Apx. 2165 sf,w/huge private bckyrd,lot apx 7150 sf,lrg deck!Great school district,gr8 loc 925.847.2200

**3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 178 SENIOR PARK \$47,000**  
2 BR 2 BA Senior Park w/Pl,Spa,Club House,Lrg Living rm,Sep Fam rm,Laundry rm w/ Cabs;Kit w/ Island, 925.847.2200



**Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122**



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# Prudential California Realty / Pleasanton Hopyard



**MOUNTAIN HOUSE**—What a deal! A Lovely Mountain House Home With Granite Counters and Stainless Steel Kitchen Appliances, Large Kitchen Island, Gorgeous Entry With Circular Stairway, Crown Molding. With Over 3000 SF Of Living Space...You Will Not Outgrow This Investment!  
**240 S CABALLO \$300,000**



**DUBLIN**—Beautiful home with best lot in the neighborhood! This home has everything over 100k in upgrades, upgraded kitchen, rich wood flooring, master bath and powder room both upgraded. Custom window coverings. fourth bedroom is a loft. Home backs to open space with gorgeous professionally landscaped yard.  
**5370 E CHESTERFIELD CIR. \$670,000**



**ORINDA**—Gorgeous 1/2 acre lot nestled in the hills, with privacy and views!! Dynamite contemporary home with hardwood flooring, remodeled/updated baths, beautiful kitchen, large family and living rooms, expansive decking ideal for entertaining, central air, whole house fan, dual panes and more!  
**81 MUTH DR. \$849,000**



**SAN LEANDRO**—Single Family Home Price Like A Condo! Nice Starter Single Story Which Needs Some Work To Make It Shine. Some Updating Including Wood Flooring and Newer Roof Included! Priced to MOVE!  
**703 WARDEN AVE. \$200,900**



**CASTRO VALLEY**—Great Castro Valley location. Close to schools, freeway and parks. Open and spacious floorplan with some updating thru-out. Corner lot with RV/side access and separate driveway. Private terraced rear yard with patio and area for garden.  
**5122 JAMES AVE. \$625,000**



**DUBLIN**—Great opportunity to live in beautiful Dublin Ranch. Ground level 1 bedroom 1 bath in the Terraces. Balcony overlooks huge park. Large kitchen with breakfast bar opens to dining/living combo. Walk to parks, schools, restaurants, & shopping. Near freeways & BART. Below Market Rate unit.  
**3240 MAGUIRE WAY \$219,000**



**DANVILLE**—Gated Estate Home with fully functional 30 x 40 sq.ft. shop, office/cabana & Guest House. Updated Kitchen, wine cellar, loft, slate and hardwood flooring, parklike yard with pool and custom patio. Guest house with kitchen, fireplace and separate entrance and parking. DON'T MISS SEEING THIS PROPERTY  
**16 HERMOSA CT. \$1,950,000**



**PLEASANTON**—Cozy home, remodeled kitchen/maple cab. corian counters/ hardwood floor, extended breakfast nook/skylight in kitchen/bath, newer Anderson sliding doors opening to the composite deck with VIEWS of Pleasanton Ridge/ across from Donlon School, walk to Val Vista Park, Much More!!!  
**4280 PAYNE RD. \$564,000**



6111 Johnson Ct., Suite 110

925.463.9500

To view all our listings go to [www.prurealty.com/pleasantonhopyard](http://www.prurealty.com/pleasantonhopyard)



## HOMETOWN GMAC Real Estate

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### PLEASANTON



**CUSTOM KOTTINGER RANCH** Panoramic views of both Mt. Diablo and Tri-Valley area. Dramatic pillars line the formal entry to this stunning & elegant executive home. **\$2,099,900**  
**925.785.8239 Steve Fast**  
**925.200.1909 Karla Brown**

### PLEASANTON



**RIVASCO AT RUBY HILL** Gorgeous highly upgraded home features 4BR plus separate office/library. Approx. 3906 sq.ft. with circular drive, 4-car garage w\storage. **\$1,475,000**  
**925.989.6500 Delores Gragg**

### PLEASANTON



**Price Reduced**  
**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM**  
**EXPANDED LAGUNA MODEL** 6BR/3 1/2 BA with approx. 4,592 sq. ft. w\2 bedrooms and full bath downstairs. Dramatic entry w\sweeping staircase and expanded family rm. **\$1,425,000**  
**925.352.7307 Tracey Buescher**

### PLEASANTON



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM**  
**SOUTH SIDE BEAUTY** Every room is updated in this 3BR/2BA Mission Park home. Bay window in living room highlights lush garden with used brick walkways and beautiful arbors. **\$697,000**  
**925.426.3833 Pat Burns**

### PLEASANTON



**BELVEDERE NEIGHBORHOOD** 3BD/2 1/2 BA, 1,614 sq.ft. home on 4,280 sq. ft. lot with hardwood floors, newer carpet and paint, private yard with brick patio. **\$675,000**  
**925.998.9692 Danielle Peel**

### CASTRO VALLEY



**OVER 21 GORGEOUS ACRES OF LAND** with a quaint 2 bedroom cottage and a large brick fireplace. Surrounding areas are heavily wooded and very private. **\$649,000**  
**925.200.1909 Karla Brown**

### OAKLAND



**Price Reduced**  
**GREAT VIEWS OF THE BAY & SF.** Upper Oakmore location with lots of potential. 2BR/1BA home with enclosed sun room, 2-car garage on 7200 sq.ft. lot. **\$599,000**  
**925.872.1275 Tom Fox**

### PLEASANTON



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM**  
**ONE STORY TOWNHOME** Private end unit. 2BD/1BA with gorgeous kitchen, remodeled bath, inside laundry and private patio. Walk to restaurants, bike to BART. **\$339,500**  
**925.426.3844 Pat Griffin**

Hometown GMAC Real Estate is an Independently Owned and Operated Firm

Open Sunday 2-5



**536 Neal Street, Pleasanton**

This 3/4 bedroom, 2 bath 2142 sq.ft. home is within walking distance to Main Street and is on an 8000 sq.ft. lot with a BIG (no I mean really BIG) Master Suite, remodeled kitchen, granite counters, Stainless Steel appliances and dual paned windows. Beautiful stamped concrete. New HVAC in 2008.

**Offered at \$750,000**



**Rich Macario**

650.303.3943  
rich@getrichandbehappy.com  
www.GetRichandBeHappy.com

apr.com | SAN MATEO 520 South El Camino Real



559delsol.com for virtual tour and more photos

**Just Listed**

**559 Del Sol, Pleasanton—Open Saturday & Sunday 1-4**

This completely remodeled 5bd/4ba home in downtown Pleasanton features 2600 sq.ft. of living. Beautiful bathrooms/kitchen with tile and granite. Hardwood floors, decorative lighting, large laundry room with incredible storage, views from both family rooms and master bedroom. Every room in this home is usable. Spa, pond, Trex decking, 2 car garage. Close to downtown, award winning schools and parks! Must see to appreciate. **Offered at \$989,000**



**Anni Hagfeldt**

925.519.3534  
anni@apr.com  
annahagfeldt.com



**Appointment Only**

**4222 Remillard Ct., Kottinger Ranch**

Located in Kottinger Ranch, this 5 bedrooms/4.5 bath custom home on private drive with amazing views is almost 4700 sq.ft. on 1/2 acre. The first floor features an inviting kitchen with new counter tops and stainless appliances, family room with vaulted ceilings and guest suite, downstairs bonus room and office. Master bed/bath on second floor. Beautiful backyard with large deck, pool and BBQ. HOA includes pool, tennis court and walking trails. **Offered at \$1,779,000**

4222remillardcrt.com for virtual tour and more photos

apr.com | PLEASANTON 900 Main Street 925.251.1111



**BLAISE LOFLAND**



925.846.6500  
www.blaiselofland.com  
blaise@blaiselofland.com

apr.com

**SHADOW CLIFF**

NEW LISTING  
OPEN SUN 1-4



**3039 BADGER DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

Adorable three bedroom, two and a half bath home in Shadow Cliff. Approximately 1,383 square feet. Great starter home or investment property! Excellent condition! Newer stainless steel kitchen appliances. Vaulted Ceilings, security alarm system and central heating/air conditioning. Tile Roof. Private rear yard with spa. Two car garage. Neighborhood park. **OFFERED AT \$559,000**

**CARLTON PLACE**

PRICED TO SELL  
OPEN SUN 1-4



**1312 CARLTON PLACE, LIVERMORE**

Beautiful upgraded Livermore home located on premium .41 acre lot. Views of Mt. Diablo. Beautifully landscaped grounds, private rear yard with built in pool and spa. Four bedrooms, bonus area, private office, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,680 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Bamboo wood floors and 20" custom tile flooring. Three car garage. Concrete tile roof. Minutes from Livermore Valley wineries. **OFFERED AT \$865,000**

**CASTLEWOOD HEIGHTS**

JUST REDUCED  
OPEN SUN 1-4



**6736 RIDDELL STREET, PLEASANTON**

WOW! Don't miss this beautiful home on premium view lot (.39 acre). Panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge. Quality built in 2002. Beautifully landscaped private rear yard, backs to open space. Five bedrooms + bonus/game room, and loft/TV area, and separate downstairs exercise room, four bathrooms. Approximately 4,100 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding, hickory wood flooring and upgraded carpet. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **OFFERED AT \$1,299,000**

**PRIVATE CUSTOM ESTATE**

SALE PENDING



**3752 TRENER DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

Gorgeous Mediterranean custom home on premium +/- one acre estate lot. Private secluded location. This home has approximately 8,402 square feet (6,141 on main level), seven bedrooms plus private office, and seven and a half bathrooms. Expansive gourmet kitchen. Antique marble, and Brazilian cherry hardwood floors. Extremely private rear grounds—great for entertaining with in-ground swimming pool. Expansive lawn area and beautiful mature landscaping. Circular driveway and oversized four plus car garage. Conveniently located in town near services, activities, and walking distance to desirable Mohr Elementary! **OFFERED AT \$2,795,000**

**VENTANA HILLS**

SALE PENDING



**1141 LUND RANCH ROAD, PLEASANTON**

Don't miss this beautiful Gibson model in desirable Ventana Hills. Premium (.34 acre) lot backs to open space. Five bedrooms, fifth bedroom can be bonus, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,179 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite. Custom travertine tile flooring, new carpet throughout. Beautiful professionally landscaped grounds with Heritage Oak tree. In-ground pool and spa. Walk to neighborhood park and downtown! **OFFERED AT \$1,259,000**

**PLEASANTON HEIGHTS**

JUST CLOSED



**857 (UPPER) ABBIE STREET, PLEASANTON**

Private upgraded custom single story home on the crest of a hill with floor to ceiling windows to take in panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge, oak studded hills and gorgeous sunsets. You are secluded yet in the heart of Pleasanton. Walk to Main Street and enjoy downtown Pleasanton. Large private grounds (16,308 sq. ft.) with exceptional views, guest unit/cabana, large patio areas with spa, and sitting/viewing deck for relaxing or entertaining! Save money in your solar powered home. 4 bd, downstairs bonus room (5th bd option). Approx. 3,437 sq. ft. including separate guest unit/cabana. Option to expand lower level within existing house footprint! Don't miss it! **OFFERED AT \$1,189,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



Thinking of selling your home?  
Let Alain Pinel Realtors list your property.  
We have qualified buyers. Contact us today.



L.GOVEIA/P.GELLMAN BY APPT



**PLEASANTON \$2,100,000**  
5600+/-sf, 5bd/5ba, office, loft, gourmet kitchen, granite, stainless. Sparkling pool & spa on 1/4+/-acre lot. 4car garage with cabinets galore.

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPOINTMENT



**PLEASANTON \$2,095,000**  
5bd 4.5ba 5,200sf.+/- Guest House. Private home with Views of City Lights, backs to Open Space. Custom molding throughout, a perfect 10! 4.5 car garage, pool/spa, bonus room/office downstairs.

ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPOINTMENT



**PLEASANTON \$1,779,000**  
Stunning views from this custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. 5bd/4.5ba, on over 1/2 acre. Pool, bonus room – there is no other home like this one!

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



**PLEASANTON \$1,389,000**  
Ironwood Estates 2 story, 5bd/4.5ba. Nestled within a court & close to the community pool. Spacious kitchen w/breakfast bar & opens to family room. 1 bd downstairs, bonus room upstairs. 1436 Irongate Ct

BLAISE LOFLAND OPEN SUN 1-4



**PLEASANTON \$1,299,000**  
WOW! Spectacular Castlewood Heights home on premium lot w/Panoramic Views! 5bd+bonus game room & loft/4ba. Separate downstairs exercise room. Gourmet kitchen/granite/stainless. 6736 Riddell St

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT



**PLEASANTON \$1,099,000**  
Extensively remodeled in '08 and all new! 5bd/3ba with office and bonus room. Gourmet kitchen, granite baths, hardwood floors,sparkling pool and spa.

TIM MCGUIRE OPEN SAT 1-4



**PLEASANTON \$1,089,000**  
2006 remodeled with granite kitchen/built-in stainless appliances/maple floors/new carpet/paint/baths/furnace and sparkling pool – absolutely must see! 9146 Longview Dr

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT



**PLEASANTON \$969,000**  
Stunning single story on a corner lot in the gated golf course community of Ruby Hill.4bd 2.5 ba 2296+/-sf with professionally landscaped backyard.

BLAISE LOFLAND OPEN SUN 1-4



**PLEASANTON \$865,000**  
4bd+bonus/private office/3ba. 3680+/-sf. Upgraded kitchen with granite/stainless/crown molding/plantation shutters. Bamboo and custom tile floors. 1312 Carlton Pl

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT



**PLEASANTON \$769,000**  
Like NEW home! Island kitchen with built-ins! Maple cabinets/granite counters/gas stove. Beautiful plantation shutters and more!

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-5



**PLEASANTON \$709,900**  
Charming 4bd/2ba single story in quiet location. 2 fireplaces, new carpet/sunny upgraded kitchen, luxurious remodeled bath/newer roof & more! 5769 San Carlos Way

JEFF REPINE OPEN SUN 1-4:30



**LIVERMORE \$669,000**  
Gorgeous 4bd/2.5ba. Former model home has custom built-ins/designer tile flooring/tree lined private backyard with custom brick patio on a 10,652+/-sf lot. 624 Zermatt St

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-4



**PLEASANTON \$600,000**  
Sharp 3bd/1 1/2 ba home with sunny kitchen, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, luxurious master suite and more! Walk to Mohr Elementary school. 2806 Daylily Ct

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPOINTMENT



**LIVERMORE \$479,950**  
Beautiful 3bd/2ba single story home in Windmill Springs. Has side yard access, plus new paint and carpet.

J.MALAKOFF OPEN SAT/SUN 1:30-4:30



**LIVERMORE \$474,500**  
4bd/2ba with sideyard access, huge patio, new high-efficiency heat and a/c, new paint, flooring. Expanded and updated Tempo home! 520 Emerald St

KAREN CROWSON OPEN SUN 1-4



**PLEASANTON \$289,000**  
Beautifully updated 2bd/2ba condo, remodeled kitchen with space saving cabinetry, single car garage with additional parking space, clean, cute, ready to move in. 585 Rose St

