

Pleasanton Weekly

Celebrating 105 years: A party was held in honor of Pleasanton's oldest resident, Orville Nightingale PAGE 5
Downtown spooks: A photo is possible proof of ghostly activity in the Pleasanton Hotel PAGE 11

INSIDE

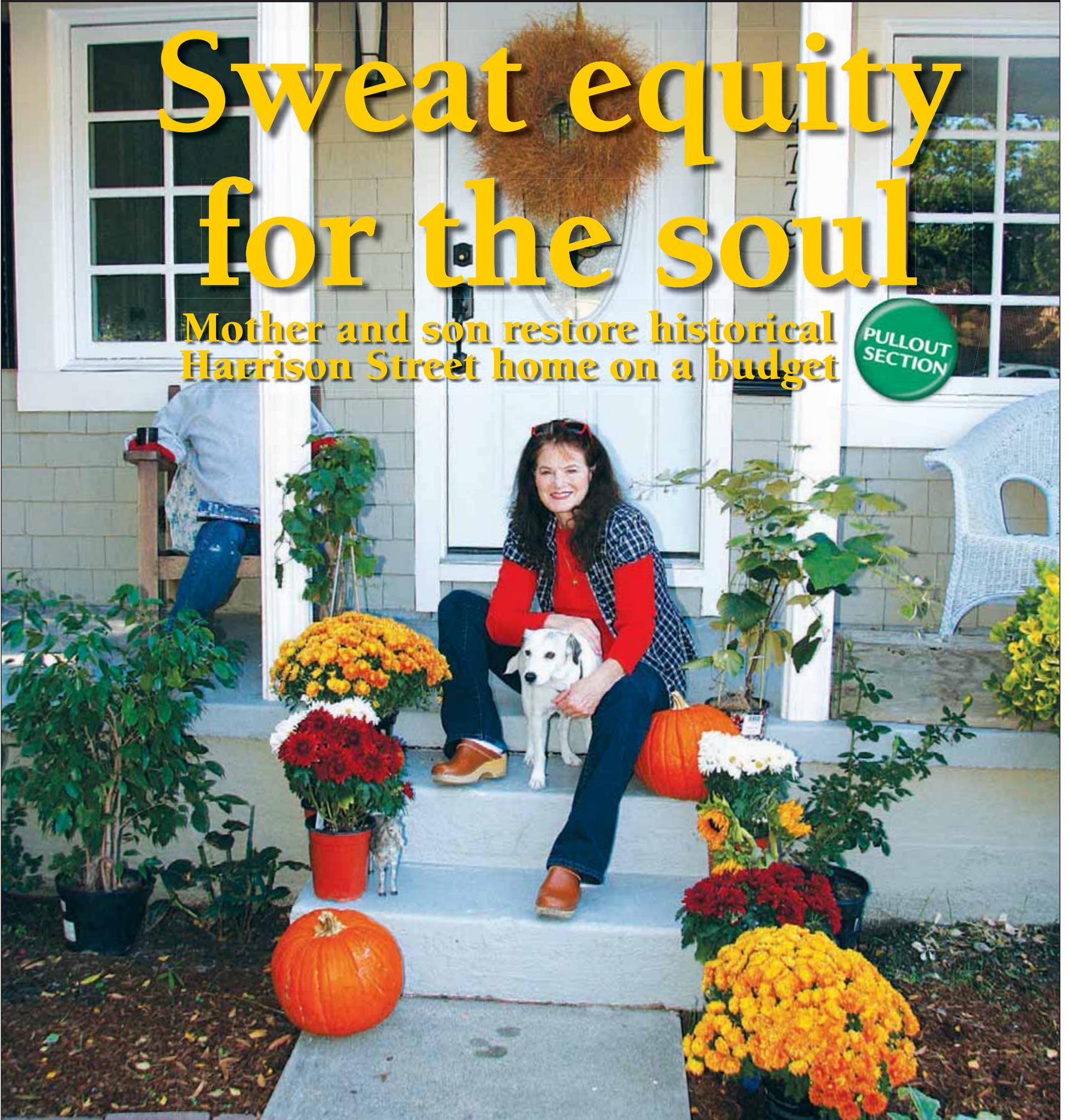
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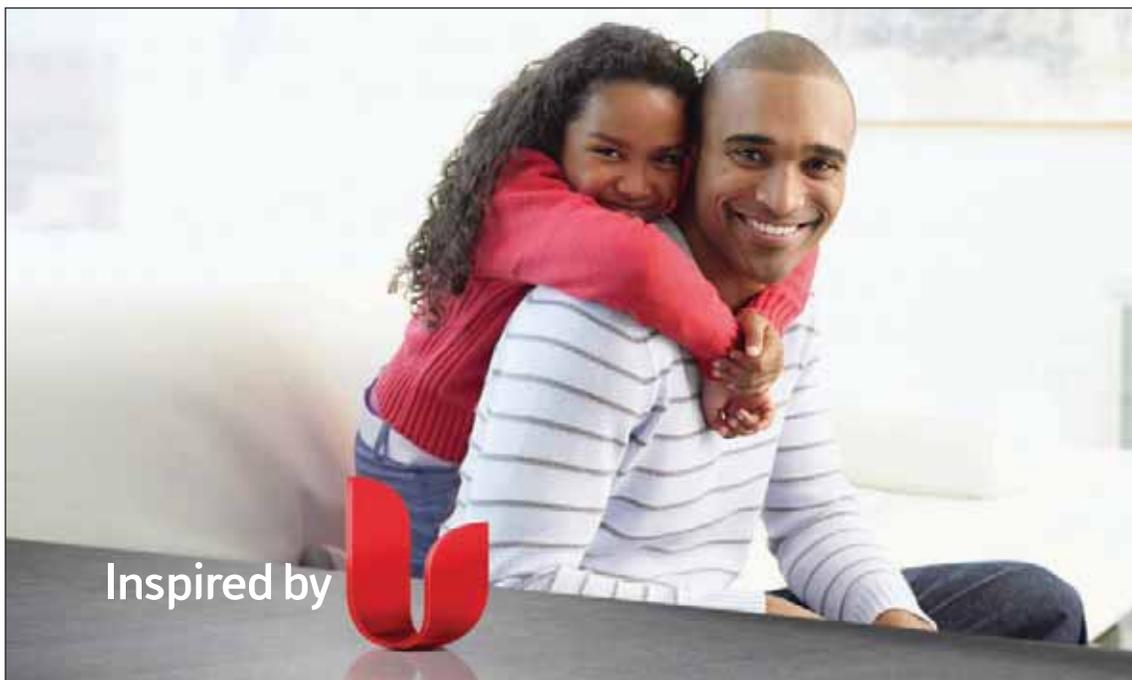
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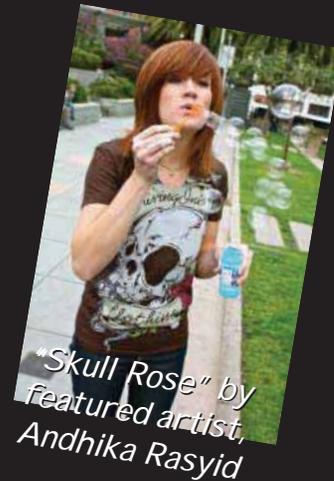
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AROUND PLEASANTON



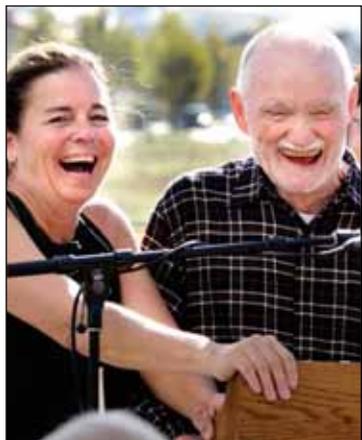
By JEB BING

A trailblazer preserves a park

The colorful festivities of last Saturday's trail dedication honoring the late Marilyn Kane had their somber—at times, even tearful—moments as Jim Kane talked about his wife's efforts to preserve the open space in the city's new Bernal Community Park. More than 70 of us were there to thank Kane and his children for their gift of \$650,000 from the Kane family trust for the 1.1-mile paved trail along the Arroyo de la Laguna where Marilyn often walked before cancer took her life in November 2006. There to join in the dedication were sons Bruce and Tom and daughter Lisa Kane Walsh and their spouses and some of their children. In his remarks, Kane told of Lisa coming to him on behalf of the three to suggest using the inheritance for a park as a fitting memorial for their mother.

A bicyclist as well as a frequent walker, Marilyn knew all of the pathways in Pleasanton since 1952 when the Kanes moved here. She loved the outdoors, the views of the ridgeland and the reasonably gentle topography that makes Pleasanton a place where people of all ages can easily walk. They both enjoyed the open space along Bernal Avenue and I-680, which she called her "field of dreams." Owned by the Spring Valley Water Company, Jim Kane said the site's numerous water wells provided water to a number of Bay Area communities, including San Francisco. But after San Francisco built the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, it also acquired Spring Valley and, along with land around Sunol and the Alameda Creek all the way to the Calaveras Reservoir, the 510-acre unincorporated Bernal property at the Pleasanton city limits.

Kane said that with the rapid growth of Pleasanton in the late 1970s and 1980s, it didn't take long for someone in San Francisco to realize they had a "gold mine" in Pleasanton, a superb piece of flatland with great views and good freeway access. The first of several housing development proposals followed, starting with more than 3,000, then reduced to 2,600 and then fewer. After being rebuffed repeatedly by the Pleasanton City Council, San Francisco finally accepted a deal with Greenbriar Homes buying the Bernal property for \$126 million



Jeb Bing

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Jim Kane share one of his humorous comments.

and giving 318 acres to the city of Pleasanton, land to be used only for public purposes. He recalled how he and his wife had congratulated the City Council for resisting the mass-housing plans that San Francisco had advanced, which Kane said would have brought a Daly City look to Bernal. But their efforts to preserve the new public lands in Bernal for open space were still threatened as the council set up a task force to determine how it should be used. The Kanes watched as solicited ideas poured in, including using the land for a cemetery, for churches, for a 4-H working animal farm, for senior and affordable apartments and even for a performing arts center.

About this time, Kane told us, he and Marilyn took a trip to the Northwest and she insisted on stopping for a day at Lithia Park in Ashland, Ore., which had gained national recognition as a scenic preserve and public park. It was the concept of maintaining the natural beauty and open space of the area that encouraged three Ashland women in 1910 to create Lithia Park. Why not the same for Pleasanton's Bernal Park, she thought. Buying books, maps and photos, she came home on a mission to make that happen. With a sandwich board strapped on her shoulders, Marilyn Kane went to meetings and walked up and down Main Street to gain support. Two years ago, Pleasanton voters adopted a plan advanced by the City Council that will preserve all or most of the 318-acre Bernal site into as an uncluttered open preserve of public gardens, meadows, waterways, wildlife and trails accessible to all ages. Thanks to Jim Kane and his sons and daughter, the new Marilyn Kane Trail is a start. ■

About the Cover

Terry Gorton and dog Tigerlily, along with the headless man Halloween decoration, sit on the steps of their recently renovated historical home. Done on a budget in a matter of months, Gorton said much of her outlook on life was given a transformation as well. Photo by Emily West.

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Food Allergies?

Food allergies, particularly in children, are clearly on the rise. According to Dr. Hugh Sampson, a food allergy specialist at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in N.Y. "We are certain that in the future the number of food allergies are going to increase."

Many food allergies are classified as "hidden" allergies due to the fact that an individual may be consuming a food, often times on a daily basis that they have no idea they are allergic to. Frequently, symptoms such as stomach aches, irritable bowel syndrome, acid reflux, indigestion, heartburn and bloating are directly related to food allergies.

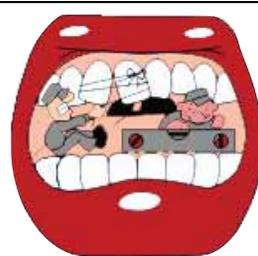
Additionally, conditions such as migraine headaches, chronic sinusitis, post nasal drip, rashes, eczema, chronic fatigue, ADD/ADHD, mood swings and difficulty losing weight in many cases can be caused by food allergies.

Fortunately, a new, advanced method of allergy elimination is now available in the United States. Developed over a ten year period in Australia, a new technology called Advanced Allergy Therapeutics (AAT) is giving new hope to millions of allergy sufferers.

Not everyone reacts to certain foods. For those who do, their immune system is reacting to a harmless substance. In other words, an allergy is an error that causes the immune system to respond inappropriately. Rather than treat the allergy with shots or medications, AAT is a non-invasive, needle free, drug free, all natural treatment that eliminates the allergy altogether. AAT is safe and effective for people of all ages including infants.

AAT is also equally effective in treating airborne allergens such as pollens, grasses, weeds, trees, molds, dust and dust mites as well as pet allergens, chemical sensitivities and physical contactants.

AAT is now available in Pleasanton at Allergy Relief Centers located near Stoneridge Mall. For a limited time, Allergy Relief Centers is offering the initial consultation and complete testing session, normally a fee of \$125, for only \$25 to anyone who would like to eliminate their food allergies. A limited number of appointments are available, so call 925-468-0110 today for your appointment.



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Streetwise

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What was your favorite Halloween costume?



Amanda Everett
Server

When my mom dressed me up like a pumpkin. I wore a big suit that was a pumpkin with the hat with a stem on it. It was fun, and I got a lot of compliments. I was probably about 3.

Ray Cunanan
Engineer

My favorite one was two years ago. I was Santa Claus. People said, "You can't be Santa Claus," and I said, "It's Halloween. I can be whatever I want." I wrapped little candies and gave them as presents, and I wrapped coal and gave it to people who were messing with me. I went around saying "Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Halloween!"

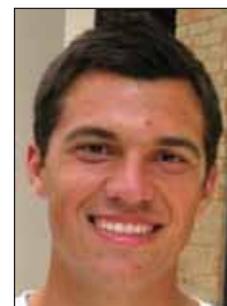


Elissa McConnell
Student

I can't really think of a favorite from before, but the things from the movie "Where the Wild Things Are" would be a good one this year — the wild things. I guess you would have to buy it. I don't know how you'd make that.

Stefan Rabrenovich
Student

I remember as a kid I loved being Batman, just because I loved Batman. I only had white shoes, so I wore the whole store-bought costume — mask, cape, everything — and white shoes.



Beatriz Riley
Grandmother

The jester. I made it for my son. I got up early to see if I could find fabric. I was very lucky and found the perfect red, black and white checker pattern. I made the hat with the bells, the vest and the stick they carry, and he wore black jeans. The only thing we had trouble with was the shoes, so I sewed fabric into his tennis shoes. I'll always remember it.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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DIGEST

Deadly dog virus on the rise

The East Bay SPCA and Oakland Animal Services have seen an increased number of dogs and puppies with highly contagious and potentially fatal canine parvo virus coming into the shelters. The virus is said to be preventable. Learn more at www.eastbayspca.org or call 510-569-0702.

Operation SAM drive canceled

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the "Remembering our Heroes Winter-Holiday Drive," sponsored by Operation: S.A.M. (Supporting All Military), from 10 to 5 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Pleasanton Wal-Mart, has been canceled. Donations can be made at Will Store Storage, 4959 South Front Road, Livermore, or for drop off locations, visit www.operationsam.org or call 443-7620.

Academy nominations due soon

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) seeks nominations for high school students to attend a service academy. Every year, students are appointed to the U.S. Military, Naval, Merchant Marine and Air Force academies. Nominations are due Nov. 2. For details, call 209-476-8552 or visit his website at www.mcnerney.house.gov.

Burnin' up the Floor

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation will hold "Burnin' up the Floor: Benefiting the Firehouse Arts Center" at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. The event features live big band and swing music from The CoolTones, dancing, light refreshments and a no-host bar. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance. Call 846-1007 or visit www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.

Poetry, fashion go blue

In light of budget cuts and the cancellation of major fundraisers including the Falcon Royale, Foothill High School parent Terri Maxoutopoulos coordinated the True Blue Poetry Contest and Fashion Festival. At 2 p.m. Nov. 8 at the school, students will showcase their poetry, fashion and food, and Faz restaurant will cater. Tickets are \$20, which will support school programs. For more information, call 366-7956.

Corrections

The caption accompanying "Ragtime' Revelry" (Oct. 23, Living, Page 11) should have identified the car as a Model A.

New Staples Ranch environmental report out today

Document paves way for OK of multi-million-dollar projects in 2010

By JEB BING

A draft of a supplemental Environmental Impact Report affecting development on Staples Ranch has been completed and will be available for review by the public starting today at the Pleasanton Planning Department.

The document was prepared in response to objections by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Alameda Creek Alliance that the environmental study approved by the City Council earlier this year failed to take into account environmental

concerns involving the extension of Stoneridge Drive through the Staples Ranch property, which the council also approved.

Two months ago the two groups and the city reached an agreement to move forward with the supplemental EIR, which is expected to include mitigations for endangered species and wildlife on the 124-acre unincorporated site.

"This agreement gives habitat for native wildlife species a fair shake during the Staples project," said

Jeff Miller, a conservation advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity. "We will be looking for stronger protection of the creek corridor next to the arroyos and adequate mitigations for wildlife impacts after the additional study and Pleasanton's reconsideration of its approval of the development."

"This supplemental EIR analyzes four issue areas: traffic circulation, biological, noise and greenhouse gases," explained Nelson Fialho, City Manager.

The draft EIR, which will also be posted on the city's website, is available for review and comment for the next 45 days. After that, city staff will prepare a final draft for review and consideration that will include relevant comments. That document will then be reviewed by both the Planning Commission and City Council with the expectation that the multi-million-dollar Staples Ranch project can move

See **STAPLES** on Page 7



EMILY WEST

Paws to have Halloween fun

Cowboy Elijah Blockman reads with Cheryl Vangundy and her dog, Shadow, dressed as a pirate, for the Halloween-themed Paws to Read program at the Pleasanton Public Library.

On Saturday, downtown Pleasanton will be host for the Fall Festival. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Pleasanton Downtown Association event will include a dessert contest, spooky scavenger hunt, pumpkin carving contest, a scarecrow raffle and more. Other events include the ClIFF Haunted House, "Tri-Valley High — Episodes of Terror," Halloween Fun Night and Spooktacular Breakfast. For more information, visit www.pleasantonweekly.com.

Oldest living Pleasanton man turns 105

Orville Nightingale blows candles out on birthday cakes at RidgeView Commons

By JANET PELLETIER

Every time Orville Nightingale celebrates his birthday, it brings a lot of fanfare — and it should. After all, this year he turned 105.

Nightingale is the oldest living Pleasanton man, a title he's carried for quite a few years.

To celebrate his birthday, which was Sunday, his family organized a party last Friday at RidgeView Commons, where he lives.

There, he was treated to birthday cards and cake; a visit from Livermore-Pleasanton firefighters, fellow seniors and family members; and a performance by some members of the Amador Valley High School marching band.

Nightingale sang along with the RidgeView resident piano player, who performed "Give My Regards to Broadway," which was the No. 1 song in 1904, his

See **NIGHTINGALE** on Page 6

Veterans to hold 13th annual celebration

Marines, others to collect Toys for Tots during event

Thousands are expected to gather along Main Street Sunday to watch hundreds more march in the 13th Annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade, and then join in the ceremony that follows at Veterans Memorial Building.

A "Toys for Tots" drive will be conducted during the parade by the Marines and the Pleasanton P-Town Pushrod Car Club, with collection baskets along the parade route for those who can contribute to needy children.

This year's theme will be a tribute to those serving in the U.S. Marines called "The Devil Dogs," according to David Ham of the VFW Pleasanton Post 6298. The parade will begin at 1 p.m., with units forming on Old Bernal Avenue before marching north on Main Street.

Leading the parade as grand marshal will be Sgt. Richard Pittman, who received the U.S. Congressional Medal of honor for risking his life to disrupt an enemy attack on his unit in Vietnam, saving the lives of many of his wounded comrades.

The parade will feature nearly 100 units, including military, veterans and police color guards, making it the largest parade in Alameda County. In addition, military veteran units, military institutes, cadets, Scouts and even a Huey helicopter will pass in review.

The review stand will be located in front of the Museum on Main, with Army Gen. Dan Helix and Marine Col. Chris Buescher serving as the official reviewing officers.

The Veterans Day ceremony will start immediately after the parade at the Veterans Memorial Building, with patriotic music to be provided by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, under the direction of Bob Williams.

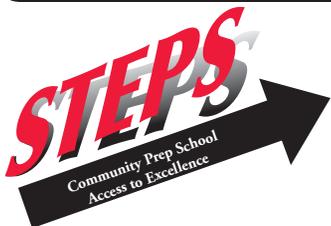
The featured speakers will be Medal of Honor winner Pittman and Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton). Other speakers will include Mayors Jennifer Hosterman of Pleasanton and Marshall Kamena of Livermore.

Doug Miller, commander of VFW Post 6298, will offer the welcoming address, with Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty reading a proclamation from the county Board of Supervisors.

The annual event is sponsored by VFW Post 6298 and Pleasanton's American Legion Post 237.

—Jeb Bing

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DA's office won't seek death penalty against Scherer

Judge says trial against man suspected of parents' deaths will be held late spring or summer

By JANET PELLETIER

Alameda County Prosecutor David Stein told a judge that he won't be seeking the death penalty for Ernest Scherer III, who is accused of brutally murdering his parents in their Castlewood Country Club home.

Scherer, 31, has plead not guilty to charges that he killed his father, Ernest Scherer Jr., 60, and mother, Charlene Abendroth, 57, in March 2008. He faces special circumstances — multiple murder and murder for financial gain. He was ordered to stand trial in August after testimony was given from a variety of witnesses.

As Scherer sat alongside other suspects in custody last Friday at the Renee C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland Friday, Judge Morris Jacobson said an end to the case would likely be two years from now.

The judge, in speaking with Scherer's public defender, Attorney Richard Foxall, said a trial would likely start next spring or summer.

Scherer was arrested back in February and remains in custody on a no-bail warrant at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

During a preliminary hearing, witnesses painted Scherer as a pro-

fessional poker player living the high life on the Las Vegas gaming circuit, but in reality, said he was steeped in debt with a wife and young son at home in Southern California. Scherer's grandfather Ernest Scherer Sr. testified that his grandson had yet to pay back a \$600,000 loan from Scherer, Jr. for his home in Brea, Calif. and felt his parents favored his sister by financially providing for her.

Another witness said Scherer approached him about purchasing a gun in his name just days before Scherer's parents were discovered dead in their home. ■

NIGHTINGALE

Continued from Page 5

birth year.

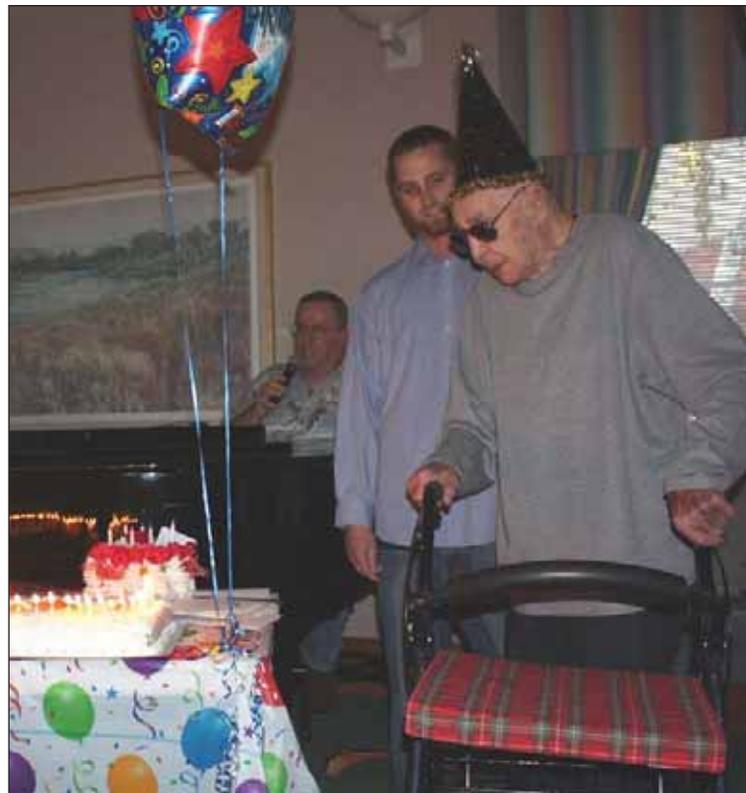
"It just puts you in awe, and particularly because he is so sharp," daughter Marilyn said of her centenarian father. "He started life in a horse and buggy, he was telling us, to go to school. He lived through all the different phases of the century and the wars. It's unbelievable."

Nightingale was born Oct. 25, 1904 in Kansas City, Mo. and was one of the founding members of DeMolay International, which is a worldwide young men's organization.

Over the past century, he's rubbed shoulders with a number of notable people — he used to play cards with former President Harry Truman, danced with Ginger Rogers and has met Lucille Ball and Mary Pickford, according to Marilyn Nightingale. Truman and Rogers (who was known then as Virginia McMath) were both from Independence, Mo., where Nightingale grew up.

Grandsons Shane and Ryan Burns, 24 and 22, said they're grateful for their grandfather's longevity.

"It's pretty exciting," Shane Burns said. "He can tell stories from when he was my age. He remembers every detail, too."



JANET PELLETIER

Orville Nightingale is serenaded with the "Happy Birthday" song, as his grandson Ryan Burns, center, looks on. Nightingale turned 105 Sunday.

"I feel pretty fortunate," added Ryan Burns. "It's just something you don't get used to."

Nightingale moved to RidgeView in 1992 and was one of its first residents. ■

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Park district reaches landmark 100,000 acres with new purchase near Sunol

Board members approve acquisition of 1,156-acre Tyler Ranch property next to Pleasanton Ridge

The East Bay Regional Park District board formally approved the purchase of a new property Tuesday next to the Pleasanton Ridge, which now brings the amount of land acquired by the district to over 100,000 acres.

The milestone comes as the district celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, forming in 1934.

The new acquisition is 1,156 acres and known as Tyler Ranch, located next to the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park and Sunol. The property extends for nearly 3.5 miles along Sunol Ridge, rising nearly 2,000 feet from Niles Canyon below. It consists of steep, heavily vegetated slopes, with open grasslands and rock outcrops on the ridge tops.

"Tyler Ranch is a great addition to the district," said park district board member Ayn Wieskamp, whose ward includes Pleasanton and Sunol. "Like our original parks of Tilden, Sibley, and Redwood, it preserves critical wildlife habitat, retains the aesthetic

quality of the region, and provides future recreational opportunities."

The property had been owned since the 1940s by the Tyler family. In 1997, the Tyler family sold 1,156 acres of their ranch to the Priem Family Foundation for \$5.2 million and the remaining 320 acres to the park district for \$1.4 million, according to district spokeswoman Shelly Lewis. The total sale price, \$6.6 million, was well below the ranch's appraised fair market value, she said.

The purchase was made through support from the foundation, which is a private, tax-exempt organization created in part for the purpose of preserving open space in the greater East Bay. It agreed to hold the land for up to three years in order to allow the park district time to obtain funds, Lewis said. The foundation will sell the parcel to the park district for \$3.4 million, saving the district \$1.8 million.

The park district has secured funding from various sources. A total of \$1 million came through a

grant from the Alameda County Altamont Landfill Open Space Fund; \$300,000 came through a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund; and \$10,000 from the Frederick E. and Anne R. Barstow Fund, conveyed through the East Bay Community Foundation. The balance of the funding will come from Measure WW, the open space bond issue approved by voters in 2008, and from interest accrued from Measure AA, the original open space bonds approved back in 1988, Lewis said.

With the acquisition of Tyler Ranch, the park district will comprise 65 public parklands totaling 100,331 acres throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

The new parcel will be placed in land bank status pending cleanup, park planning, trail and signage work, and other measures before it is ready to open to the public, Lewis said.

—Janet Pelletier

STAPLES

Continued from Page 5

forward early next year.

The major developments with their plans already in place are:

- Hendrick Automotive Group, which wants to build a new auto mall on its 37-acre portion of Staples, next to the junction of I-580 and El Charro Road, directly across El Charro from a 180-plus store outlet mall that Livermore has approved.
- Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, a 45-acre senior continuing care

community to be developed by Continuing Life Communities (CLC), with up to 800 units for assisted living, skilled nursing and independent living residents.

- Sharks Ice Center, a two-story, four-rink facility to be built by San Jose Arena Management (SJAM), a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks, with the facility to occupy about 10 acres of a 17-acre public park that the Sharks would also develop for the city.

Each of those developments will still need specific approvals of their

site plans and subsequent building permits, which will require more discussions with city planners, the Planning Commission and finally again with the City Council.

The Planning Commission has scheduled a special meeting for 7 p.m. next Thursday in the council chambers to consider the bid by SJAM to build a 142,000-square-foot, four-rink ice center on a 17-acre site on Staples. The project would include a restaurant and bar, pro shop for skaters and other amenities. ■

Pitbull unleashed

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Pleasanton man formally charged for role in Ponzi scheme

Kenneth Kenitzer, 66, could face up to 30 years in prison

By JANET PELLETIER

A Pleasanton man has been formally charged for his role in what investigators describe as a "massive investment fraud scheme that caused losses of more than \$40 million to approximately 150 investors."

The U.S. Attorney's Office announced Oct. 28 that Kenneth Kenitzer, 66, has agreed to plead guilty to mail fraud and money laundering charges, which could bring up to 30 years in prison, and cooperate with the investigation.

The charges against Kenitzer come months after the arrest of business partner Anthony Vassallo, 29, of Folsom, Calif., who turned himself in to authorities back in March on multiple counts of mail fraud and money laundering. Vassallo was a 1997 graduate of Foothill High School. At that time, Ken-

itzer was named as being involved in the Ponzi scheme, but hadn't been formally charged.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, said according to documents filed in court, Kenitzer, Vassallo and others operated Equity Investment Management and Trading, Inc. as a hedge fund investment program. Vassallo allegedly offered and sold investments, promising investors that they would make an annual return of up to 36 percent with virtually no risk of loss. The EIMT Hedge Fund investment program did not invest the money obtained as represented.

Taylor said Vassallo recruited many of the sub-fund managers and investors from his church. To keep the scheme going, she said Kenitzer, Vassallo and others in on the operation told investors that they were trading funds and

showed fake financial statements as proof. When investors attempted to get their money back, Vassallo told them that the trading company contacted the Securities and Exchange Commission and the federal agency had frozen the funds in their accounts, according to court documents.

Taylor said Kenitzer, who has lived in Pleasanton for more than 30 years, is expected to appear a Sacramento courthouse shortly to enter his guilty plea. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison for the mail fraud and up to 10 years for the money laundering, with fines up to twice the value of the victims' losses. The sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court, Taylor said. ■



HARRY ARRUDA, ARMED IMAGES

Testing, 1, 2, 3

Hundreds of area law enforcement agency officials participated in a series of intense training exercises over the weekend, including two held in Pleasanton.

It's called Urban Shield, hosted by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Competing teams from various agencies were challenged by testing tactical skills in a series of real-life scenarios. Specific locations across the Bay Area were chosen to replicate identified problem areas. In Pleasanton, training exercises were held at the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Training Tower and at Oldcastle Precast, located on Valley Avenue and Busch Road. Members of the Boston Police Department and the French National Raid Team were at the Pleasanton exercises.

The Pleasanton Police Department was a supporting agency, but did not participate this year. The event is funded by Homeland Security Grant funds.

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Thursday, November 19th • Friday, November 20th • Saturday, November 21st
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- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009 -

TINSEL TEAS: 10AM - NOON AND 2 - 4PM
"Almost High" Tea • Christmas Trees Preview • Silent Auction • \$30 per person
SILENT NIGHT SOIRÉE: 6:30 - 10:00PM
Sit-down Dinner • Entertainment • Silent Auction • \$75 per person

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009 -

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

A tough act to follow

In their search for a successor to school Superintendent John Casey, who will retire next June, members of the Pleasanton school board have vowed to keep the process open and to involve as many members of the public as possible, including parents, teachers, students and those interested in school district affairs. This is good because the board and the superintendent eventually hired will need all of the public's buy-in they can get. The district started the current fiscal year on July 1 with a shortfall of roughly \$8 million in the \$120.4-million budget approved for the year and so far has borrowed from reserve funds three times to cover mostly unforeseen expenditures. In the 2010-11 fiscal year, when the new superintendent will take charge, the budget shortfall could be considerably worse if state aid to education continues to fall below expectations and needs, with estimates of the shortfall next July 1 ranging from \$3 million to \$4 million and dwindling reserves unable to cover unanticipated expenses. Also, with the four-year board terms of trustees Pat Kernan and Jim Ott expiring, an election will be held next November to replace or to re-elect them, if they choose to run again. That makes it unlikely that the district will also try again on a parcel tax in such a tumultuous year, having lost that bid last June.

The school board and Casey have hired Attorney Bob Kingsley to advise them as they now seek firms that specialize in identifying and recruiting school superintendents. Requests for proposals to handle the Pleasanton search have been issued with a deadline of next Wednesday from interested firms. Kingsley has named six firms that have regional and national reputations, including four based in California, one in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and another in the Chicago suburb of Glenview, Ill. He estimates the cost of a California or regional search at about \$30,000, more for a national search, with the time from hiring a search firm to signing a contract with a new superintendent at about four to seven months. Meetings with the firms to be considered for the search effort to refining the criteria that should be used in identifying superintendent candidates will all be done at public meetings.

Much remains to be decided about what kind of a superintendent Pleasanton needs going forward. Casey has been at the helm since 2002, which will give him eight years of service when he retires, longer than average for school superintendents. He replaced Mary Frances Callan, who served just three years before taking the same post in Palo Alto. Bill James was superintendent from 1985 to 1998 before he retired. He has since helped other school districts hire superintendents and, in fact, could be considered for a temporary position as interim superintendent if Casey leaves before his successor is found. The Palm-dale (Calif.) School District hired its former superintendent recently to serve on an interim basis, a step Kingsley says works well since these kinds of choices aren't candidates themselves for the open position.

Finding a new superintendent may be more difficult this time around than search firms had in recruiting Casey and Callan. Faced with a troubled school district budget, financial chaos in Sacramento and a school board election, a candidate that has the experience and reputation of slashing expenses and talking tough to the local teachers union as may be necessary in 2010 and beyond may have trouble gaining the popular vote of the Community Advisory Group and school board members facing re-election. Yet revenue forecasts show that tough decisions will have to be made for Pleasanton to remain financially stable. School districts around us are making those decisions, cutting sports and programs in districts to the north and merging elementary schools in neighboring Livermore. Casey promised to raise the bar of academics in the Pleasanton system when he took over in 2002 by making this a "world class" district. He's achieved that objective. His will be a tough act to follow. ■

Code of ethics

The Pleasanton Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.PleasantonWeekly.com

LETTERS

Hacienda rezoning will be detriment to schools

Dear Editor,

I am a resident in Valencia at Hacienda. I oppose the rezoning of the Hacienda Business Park for high-density residential buildings ("City planners OK rezoning 19 more acres in Hacienda Business Park for housing," News, Oct. 2, page 5).

My main concern is about the 1,500 children that will be added to the area. One of the main reasons for people to move to Pleasanton is the good public school system. The rezoning plan is going to build about 1,000 apartment houses for household of three to four persons, which typically include two adults and one to two children. This gives me the average about 1,500 children spreading from K-12. That is 100 more kids per grade. I wonder whether the city or school district is ready for this impact. I do not see or hear any plans yet.

I noticed that the article about rezoning by Mr. Jeb Bing has added a few sentences on the oppositions. Actually the oppositions at the public hearing a few weeks ago were so big that the planning commission admitted that they felt

a little disappointed. There were three lots for discussion and the planning commission ended up with endorsing only two because of the oppositions. The room was full of residents in the nearby neighborhood. If it were not because of the time reason, there would be more speakers against the rezoning.

I appreciate that the Pleasanton Weekly offers such a place to express my concerns on this plan. I hope that the city will do more studies on the longer term impact before they OK the rezoning and construction plan.

Yijia Xu

Confused about recycling glass

Dear Editor,

So, I'm confused about these new recycling bins PGS has given us.

The paperwork states that broken glass is *not* to be put in them. But intact glass bottles should be.

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Elizabeth Limesand



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consider the Composition and Scope of Work of a Committee to Guide the Hacienda PUD
- Second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 1998 approving the rezoning of three sites in Hacienda Business Park ** McGovern and Sullivan voted no on introduction
- Informational Report on Existing and Potential Future Growth Management Strategies

Planning Commission Special Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PUD-70/PCUP-234, San Jose Arena Management**
Application for Planned Unit Development to establish allowed uses and the construction of community park-related improvements to include ±141,679 sq. ft. two story ice skating center with pro shop, restaurant with bar, and related site improvements on 17 acres; and Conditional Use Permit to allow a bar in the proposed restaurant located at the southwest intersection of I-580 and El Charro Road (Staples Ranch)

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Stoneridge Drive Specific Plan Amendment/Staples Ranch project evaluated the impacts of the proposed Ice Center at ±138,500 sq. ft. The Ice Center is proposed to be ±141,679 sq. ft. due to design modification. Based on a review of the potential environmental impacts of the increased size of the Ice Center, the Director of Community Development has directed that an EIR Addendum be prepared. The document is available at the City of Pleasanton Planning Division, 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton.

- **PUD-80, City of Pleasanton**

Application for Planned Unit Development to establish allowed uses and the construction of neighborhood park-related improvements including a storm water detention basin on approximately five acres located at the southwest intersection of I 580 and El Charro Road (Staples Ranch).

Committee on Energy & Environment Workshop

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
Operation Services Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Discussion regarding scope of work and involvement of committee for the Climate Action Plan

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Monday, November 2, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Proposal to Combine the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee with the Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Visit the City of Pleasanton website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agendas for the following meeting(s).

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, November 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

**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

POLICE REPORT

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

Oct. 17**Theft**

- 1:22 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 9:03 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
- 9:21 a.m. in the 6000 block of Tillman Court; vehicular
- 2:23 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 6:54 p.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; shoplifting

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:05 a.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and St. Mary Street; public drunkenness
- 1:17 a.m. in the 4100 block of Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession
- 1:36 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue; DUI
- 2:28 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive; DUI
- 11:02 p.m. at the intersection of Ray Street and Walnut Drive; DUI

Oct. 18**Grand theft**

- 7:34 a.m. in the 6300 block of Alvord Way
- 3:34 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

DUI

- 1:49 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

Public drunkenness

- 10:57 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

- 11:28 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
- 11:51 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Threats

- 12:12 a.m. in the 8100 block of Ensenada Drive

Oct. 19**Identity theft**

- 7:23 p.m. in the 600 block of Concord Place

Oct. 20**Theft**

- 9:58 a.m. in the 3700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; grand theft
- 6:55 p.m. in the 4100 block of Mohr Avenue; petty theft

Vandalism

- 4:09 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue

Public drunkenness

- 8:46 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue

Oct. 21**Petty theft**

- 4:00 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vehicular burglary

- 12:46 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 4:30 p.m. in the 7200 block of Johnson Drive

Vandalism

- 10:30 a.m. at the intersection of Virgin Islands Court and Valley Trails Drive
- 10:31 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Trails Drive and Haleakala Road

Non-narcotics controlled substance possession

- 9:48 p.m. at the intersection of

Northway Road and Fairfield Court
Oct. 22

Theft

- 1:42 p.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; forgery, stolen vehicle
- 5:14 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; identity theft
- 5:47 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft

Burglary

- 11:26 a.m. in the 2100 block of Canosa Court

Vandalism

- 12:39 p.m. in the 3000 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 12:40 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive
- 12:42 p.m. in the 200 block of Birch Creek Drive

Under the influence of a controlled substance

- 9:07 p.m. in the 6700 block of Hansen Drive

Oct. 23**Theft**

- 5:22 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- 4:42 p.m. in the 3000 block of Tonopah Circle; petty theft
- 6:49 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft
- 11:20 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Vandalism

- 3:06 p.m. in the 3400 block of Zion Canyon Court

Public Drunkenness

- 10:29 p.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

Battery

- 11:08 p.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street

OBITUARIES

Larry Allen

Larry Allen died Oct. 13 at the age of 74.

Mr. Allen was born April 23, 1935 in Comanche, Okla.

He attended high school in Duncan, Okla., where he enjoyed lettering in four sports. He went on to play basketball and baseball at Oklahoma State University. After a period of time served in the U.S. Army, he met his wife-to-be Diane in Southern California. They raised their family in Pleasanton.

Mr. Allen continued to play adult league fast and slow pitch softball and basketball well into his 40s. He was also proud to have donated and supplied the original water system for our now beautiful Pleasanton Sports Park. He thought of it as his field of dreams.

His greatest joy was sharing time with his seven wonderful granddaughters. He coached boy's youth baseball, soccer and basketball as well as girl's soccer and softball in Pleasanton. Just before retirement, one of his special accomplishments was supervising the building of the swimming pools at Amador and Foothill high schools, which his own children and grandchild have been able to enjoy.

Mr. Allen is survived by his wife of 48 years, Diane; son, Larry, Jr. and his wife daughter-in-law, Karen of Tampa, Fla.; daughter, Pam (Lingenfelder) of Pleasanton; sisters, Gloria (Hummel) of Alamo and Jenny (Thompson) of Danville; brother, Bill, Jr. of Laguna Niguel, Calif.; and grandchildren, Nicole and Madison Lingenfelder and

Samantha, Amanda, Christina, Michaela and Elaina Allen.

A service was scheduled for Oct. 20 at Crosswinds Church in Dublin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on behalf of Clark Huddleston.

Ruth Ellen Hepner

Ruth Ellen Hepner died Sept. 27 at the age of 47.

Mrs. Hepner was born Dec. 5, 1961 in Sunbury, Pa. and moved to Livermore in 1969, residing with her parents until 1996.

She attended Livermore schools and then attended Keystone Adult Learning Center in Pleasanton until this past September. Ms. Hepner participated in Special Olympics, 4H and RADD activities. She bowled weekly, loved swimming and sports, especially football and baseball. She collected many friends in her 47 years before Alzheimer's claimed her, including her many loving caregivers from East Bay Innovations. Her best friends were Julie, Cindy and Shon.

She is survived by her sister in law, Ann M. Hepner of Livermore; brother, Peter M. Hepner; and sister-in-law, Darlene Hepner of Carson City, Nev.; five nieces and nephews; five great nieces and great nephews. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, Peter E. and Harriett G. Hepner; and her brother, Michael R. Hepner.

A service was scheduled to be held Oct. 25 at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore.

**Shirley Audrey Maxwell**

Longtime Pleasanton resident Shirley Audrey Maxwell died Sept. 24 at the age of 84.

Mrs. Maxwell was born Dec. 30, 1924. She taught school for almost 25 years in town. Her lifelong passions were public service, gardening and cooking. In retirement, she spent more than 40 hours per week volunteering at over a dozen charities. She was famous for the thousands of Christmas cookies she baked yearly with her daughters and friends.

She also enjoyed cultural arts, including drama, music and dance, and volunteered as an usher. She loved attending the Shakespeare festival in Ashland and plays in London, England. She also enjoyed traveling throughout the world.

She is survived by three daughters, Mary, Sally, and Marjorie; two sons-in-law, Faustino and Robert; six grandchildren, Fausto, Cyria, Meara, Brandon, Galen and Stephen; and five great-grandchildren, Paola, Julio Jr., Valeria, Paulina and Fausto Jr.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road.

Ghostly encounter

Self-professed psychic nabs a photo of an apparent ghost in the Pleasanton Hotel

By Emily West

Shirley Ann Garcia has always known she had a psychic ability. Possibly passed down from her mother, she claims to have the ability to see into a spiritual world and connect with the dearly departed.

Garcia, a resident of Castro Valley, was having lunch at the Oasis Grille on Main Street with her eldest daughter Sandy Martinez, a waitress there, and other staff. The topic of conversation quickly turned to downtown ghosts and Garcia's psychic talents.

Several of downtown restaurant employees have worked at the Pleasanton Hotel, Martinez said.

"When workers lost their jobs, they migrated throughout downtown," she said. "They all once worked at the Pleasanton Hotel and all have stories about working there."

The group thought they should head across the street to see if Garcia could detect anything. Upon entering, Garcia said she felt cold, enough to think that the air conditioning was running, which it was not. Martinez and the group said they weren't cold.

Back in the banquet area, Garcia said she felt a happy energy.

"It doesn't feel spooky or anything, but I saw something by the kitchen," she said. "I asked Sandy to take a picture of me by a few spots. There was one spot where I felt a lot of energy, so I said take a picture of me and she did. Then right before she took another picture, I asked if any ghosts wanted to come and take a picture with me."

"When I snapped the picture on my phone," Martinez said, "I walked away to sit down and look through the pictures. When I looked at the last one closer, I ran out of the banquet room."

What the phone's camera appeared to capture was an image of a short man. Garcia thought it looked like a military man.

"Since I was young, I've always had things happen all my life, but I've never got a picture of it," she said.

It's not the first time odd activity has been captured. In fact, the Northern California paranormal research group Ghost Trackers has gone through downtown on a few occasions to capture activity.

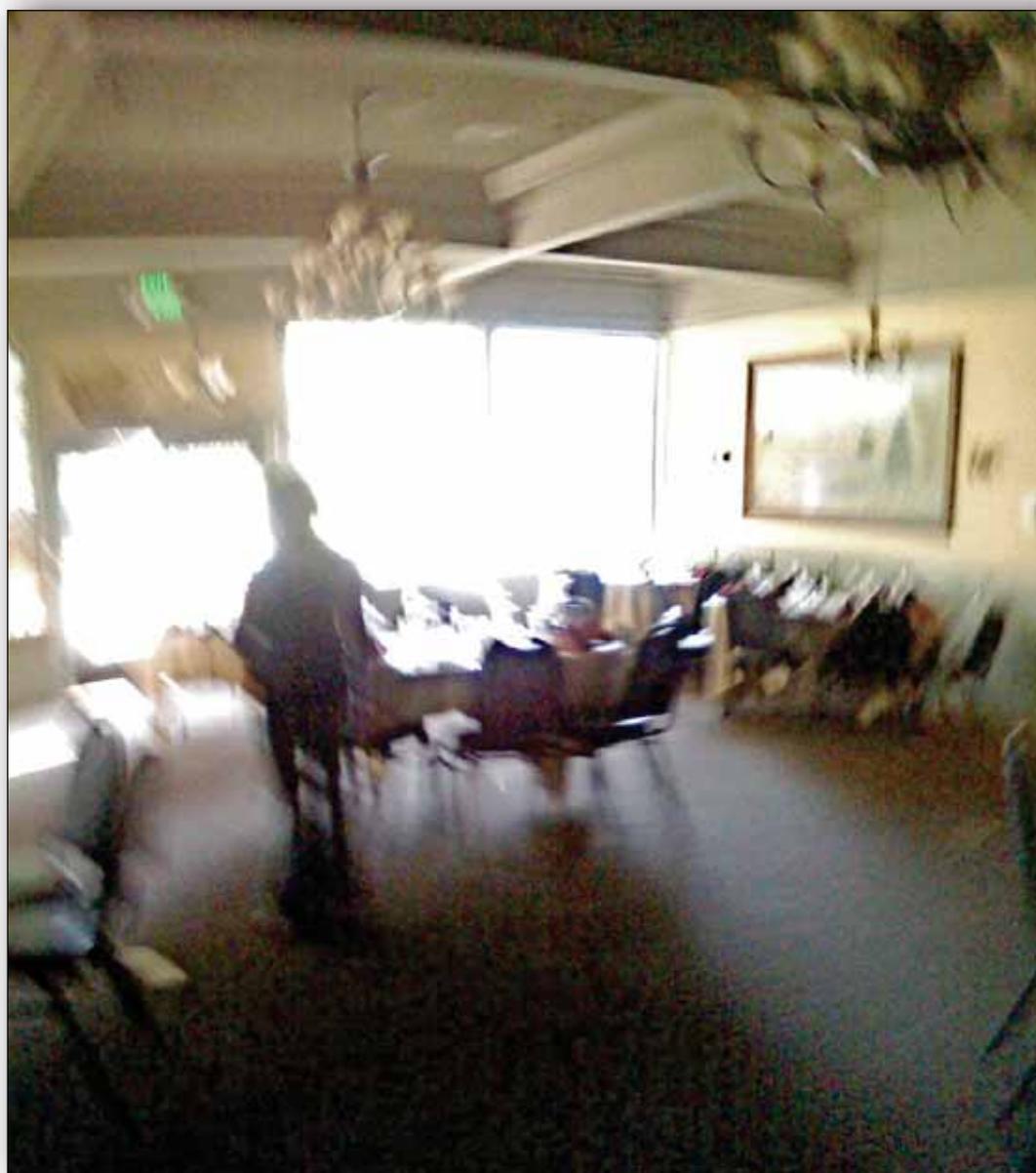
The Museum On Main also hosts ghost tours around Halloween, which often sell out quickly due to its popularity.

"I'm always the one to be like, 'yeah, yeah mom, whatever,'" Martinez said, but that's not to say she doesn't believe it's true.

"I've always believed in it," she said. "Stuff always happens when I'm with her."

Even with what appears to be photo evidence, Garcia said it's okay if people don't believe her.

"It's their opinion if they want to doubt," she said. "Everyone has a right to their own opinion. I think people are very closed minded and think



SANDY MARTINEZ

This photo from a cell phone camera allegedly shows a ghostly figure standing in front of Shirley Ann Garcia at the Pleasanton Hotel.

this is the only dimension."

While Garcia said she's not that into her abilities, she said it's just a part of her life. She doesn't make money from it, but instead looks at it as a way to help people.

There were a couple instances where she said the psychic talent came in handy. Once, after her father had died, she said he appeared to her one night, yelling to her about a treasure in the trunk of a white car. A wealthy man, he was a collector and owned of several cars, she said.

"I called my sister and told her, but none of his cars were white," she said.

Apparently, they forgot about the car that was covered in the basement and they found a large sum of money in the trunk.

Another time, she was driving and a voice told her to go visit her mother, who was in a nursing home after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

"We went running in [the nursing home] and she wasn't in her room," Garcia said. "I kept walking to the back asking where my mother was, and [the staff said] she should be in her room because the doors were locked. Then my daughter looks outside and she's there, face down on the ground in a pool of blood."

Garcia said her mother was fine after that, but she believes if she hadn't listened to the voice that her mother could have died.

When asked if the gift has been passed down to her, Martinez said it's likely.

"I do [have those experiences] sometimes, but I'm kind of a scaredy cat," she said. "I choose to look the other way. Maybe when I'm old enough to understand. When my grandmother was my mom's age, they were very in tune with the world and I'm not at that point yet. Maybe eventually I'll be able to accept it." ■



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POETIC PLEASANTON



By DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Imagination: not just for Halloween

The Century House was bewitched with "boo-etry" on Sunday. Populating the 130-year-old house for an afternoon of spooky poetry were some 40 people, including several witches in tall black hats, one green-hatted witch, a pink panther perched on hat, a king with sunglasses and scepter, a bumblebee, and the star of the show, a raving raven.

But before the raven appeared, three teens shared their scary poems. One was Kelly McDeavitt, a Foothill High School freshman, who read two poems. "The Night of the Corn Maze" was especially

eerie. Another was Amador Valley High School freshman Arany Uthayakumar, whose poems featured the "Cold One" with not-so-horrifying monster.

I introduced the newly selected Pleasanton Teen Poet Laureates, seniors Vivienne Chen represents AVHS while Nick Chen is from Foothill. The purpose of the program is to promote writing among students. Though Nick was unable to attend the event, Vivienne read "Lady Lamone's Cellar," her vivid version of evil fright.

Then writer and poet Blanche Abrams of Tuolumne channeled her inner Halloween bird. Draped in black, she recited all 108 lines of Poe's "The Raven." When she implored us to rap, tap and recite, "Nevermore," we rocked the house. Century House, that is. All this, before the open mic launched a parade of poetic witches, creatures and royalty.

Speaking of parades and red carpets, how about Foothill's Academics and Activities Booster Club (AABC) sponsoring a True Blue Fashion Show and Poetry Festival on Nov. 8? Aren't we lucky to have

such busy imaginations in Pleasanton? But what if...

Just Make Believe

What if the powers that be banned make believe?

Survival without comic books, stick forts and sand castles?

Dracula without a home, not a single Superman or fairy princess knocking at the door?

No flying spoons? No fiction on the shelf?

Actors all sell cell phones, no HBO, Shakespeare, benched.

Behind every mute balladeer and contraband mask, right brains would know they could enchant the world, if only someone would make believe.

Deborah Grossman is Pleasanton's poet laureate.

NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

By RENATA POLT

Amelia

★ ★ ★ ☆

Rated PG for some sensuality, language, thematic elements and smoking
1 hour, 51 minutes

The Amelia of this film, of course, is Amelia Earhart — pronounced, appropriately, "Airheart." She's the intrepid aviator (or, in the parlance of the day, "aviatrix") who captured the hearts and media of the world in the late 1920s and '30s, even after she went missing on her attempted round-the-world flight in 1937.

In Mira Nair's film, Amelia is played by Hilary Swank. Though Swank is more coltish and angular than the historical Amelia, the resemblance is remarkable. Amelia's greatest promoter and eventual husband, publisher George P. Putnam, is played by Richard Gere. Ewan McGregor plays her lover, Gene Vidal (father of novelist Gore Vidal), who became director of the new Bureau of Air Commerce, thanks

in large part to Amelia's lobbying of FDR.

The movie's frame is the round-the-world flight, which Amelia undertook with the assistance of navigator Fred Noonan (Christopher Eccleston). Flashbacks show her at earlier stages of her career: her first transatlantic flight, in which she was only a passenger, though Putnam promoted her as the flight's "commander"; her second, solo transatlantic flight, only the second after Charles Lindbergh's triumph five years earlier and the first by a woman; her barnstorming, lectures to women's groups, and of course her romantic life. The thrill of flying is evoked not only by Amelia's passion ("Is it reckless? Maybe. But what do dreams know of boundaries?"), but also by the glorious shots of shiny planes soaring through fog and thunderstorms.

The film doesn't overlook the importance of money in Amelia's enterprises. Putnam, a pioneer in public relations, emphasizes the fact

that money is essential to Amelia's enterprises. He persuades Amelia to endorse Lucky Strike cigarettes, even though she doesn't smoke. She also lends her name to a line of luggage (still in production), clothing, cameras, even a waffle iron. The suggestion is that he enjoys raising money for its own sake, though Amelia sees it as a distasteful necessity. However, she doesn't seem to resent the celebrity she attains, as perhaps the biggest media star since Lindbergh became the first non-actor media sensation. (Amelia seems to have accepted the monicker "Lady Lindy" with some reluctance.)

Reluctant to surrender her freedom by getting married, Amelia finally accepts Putnam's proposal, but, on their wedding day, hands him a letter that says, "I shall not hold you to any medieval code of faithfulness to me, nor shall I consider myself bound to you similarly ..."

I first read of this letter in Judith Thurman's revealing New Yorker article (in the Sept. 14 issue) and doubted that the film would include it. The movie also includes the affair with Vidal, as well as the suggestion that Earhart might have had lesbian tendencies. Or not.

The androgynous-looking Amelia often dressed in jodhpurs or jumpsuits and leather flight jackets, but on non-flying occasions she wore svelte dresses and gowns. The film's costume design (by Kasia Walicka Maimone) is stunning. The clothes are true to their period yet without the fussiness of some of the period's styles. Props, including cars, electronics, and of course airplanes, are also spot-on. It's a big, lush, captivating production.

If only there was less of Gabriel Yared's syrupy music. ■



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EMILY WEST

Above: Terry and AJ Gorton worked for months to restore a 700-square-foot home built in 1895 that was condemned and scheduled to be torn down. Working with a budget, their small kitchen is still functional with deals scored from the floor model at the now-closed Expo Design Center and other bargains. Below: Before the renovation, the home was boarded up and showing its age.

Sweat equity for the soul

Mother and son restore historical Harrison Street home on a budget

By Emily West

Terry Gorton glows when she walks through her home. Front to back, it is like a scrapbook filled with months of hard work and little victories. It wasn't always that way — she first entered the home through the bathroom window.

Boarded up with power lines cut, the Harrison Street home a couple blocks away from the Pleasanton library was ready to be condemned after a year on the market. The historic home built in 1895 would hardly be considered a landmark gem at the time, but Gorton and Realtor Gail Boal forged ahead anyway and squeezed through the home's only opening to get a glimpse inside.

What they found was more chaotic than cute, but Gorton had a vision of its potential.

Today, entering through the front door instead, you would never guess the transformation the home has undergone. From Gorton's research, the home was once a few blocks away, but was moved in 1920 to make way for the Alameda County Fairgrounds. According to Real-

tor Tony Nassab, it once belonged to Augustine Bernal's sister and was used as a summer cottage.

People familiar with the old home have driven by and practically slammed the brakes once they realize the property was given a new life. Neighbors have come by to say how glad they are to see it restored to its former glory. Many children have also stopped by recently, but mostly to inquire about the headless man on her porch, a Halloween decoration.

Having previously renovated commercial properties with partners and multi-million dollar budgets, Gorton's outlook on making her new home livable drastically changed the month she closed escrow. That day, the refinancing rules changed, meaning money couldn't be taken out of the home until it had been owned for six to 12 months, depending on the lender.

With money tied up in the home, which was not in living condition, she braced herself for the challenge during trying economic times.

See **RENOVATION** on Home & Garden Page 5



TERRY GORTON



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Inoculate your home for winter wellness

You scheduled flu shots for the entire family and stocked the cabinets with plenty of vitamin C and chicken soup. But what have you done to ensure the health of your actual home this winter?

You may not realize it, but allergens and toxins camp out in your house during the colder months, just waiting for a chance to give you and your family a case of the sniffles or the flu. Hannah Keeley, host of public television's "Hannah, Help Me!" offers a few simple tips to guarantee a healthier home.

Schedule a home check-up

You can't take your house to the doctor, but you can still give it a check-up. Schedule a home assessment with a local heating and air condition professional before winter strikes to make sure your furnace's components are clean and working properly.

As an added precaution from unpleasant germs, ask about a whole home air filtration system, which can remove some of the common flu or influenza A along with influenza B, C, and avian and H1N1 flu from your home's filtered air.

Clean up your home's act

Thorough hand washing is key to preventing the flu, but it is equally important to maintain good home hygiene in order to combat the spread of germs. To prevent the spread of the flu virus, it is important to sanitize everything you and your family touch - from your counters and tables to appliances

to your children's toys.

Wash your family's clothing, bedding and other linens in hot water (at least 130 degrees) to keep dust mites and other germs away. While you're at it, be sure to transport dirty laundry in a basket or bag to help keep germs away from your body.

Practice good home health habits

Make it a house rule to remove your shoes as soon as you walk into the house, and prevented unwanted outside dirt particles from being tracked into difficult-to-remove carpets and other surfaces. Give family members and guests a comfy alternative by keeping cozy slippers near the front door.

Pick up some allergy-proof covers for your mattresses and pillows. These easy-to-find and use covers are a quick and immediate solution to keep germs and contaminants to a minimum.

Make sure your home is well insulated to minimize heat loss. Inspect all windows and doors for tight seals and seal air leaks to reduce drafts. Sealing air leaks and adding insulation will improve the comfort level and health of your home.

Taking a few easy, preventive measures now will ensure a warm, comfortable, and — most important — healthier home during the winter months. So when that old north wind begins to blow and Jack Frost is paying you a visit, you can rest easy knowing your home and family are happy and healthy.

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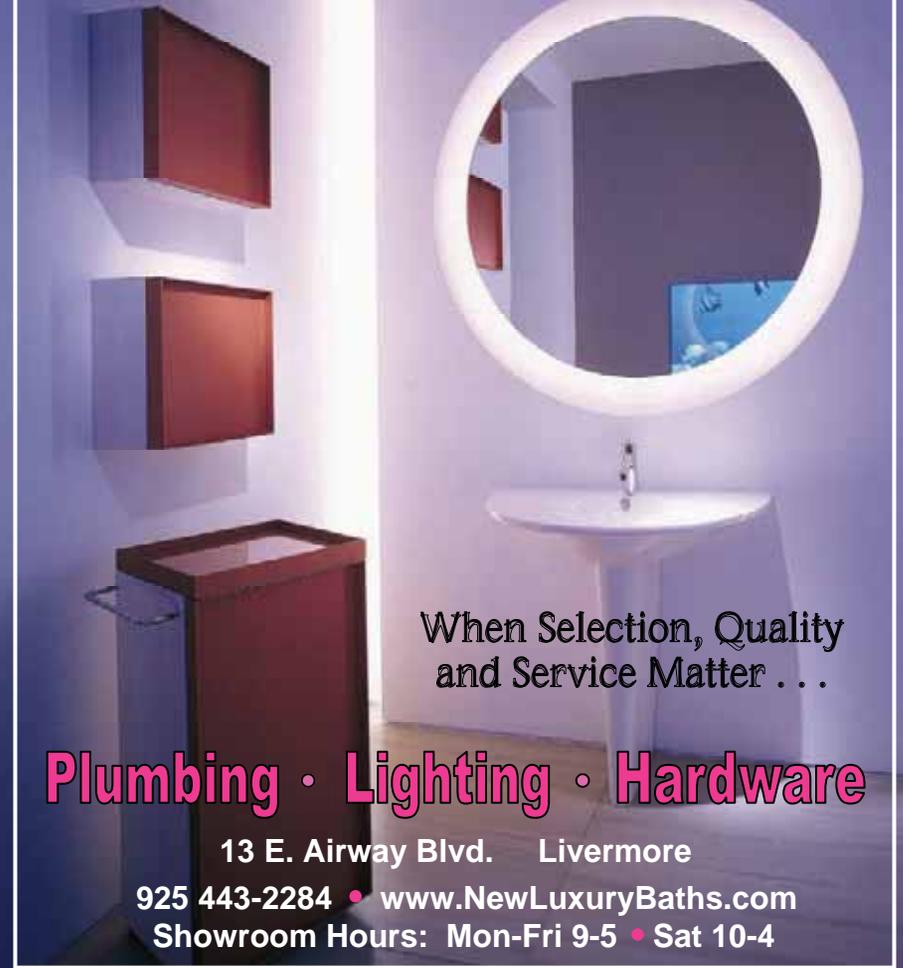
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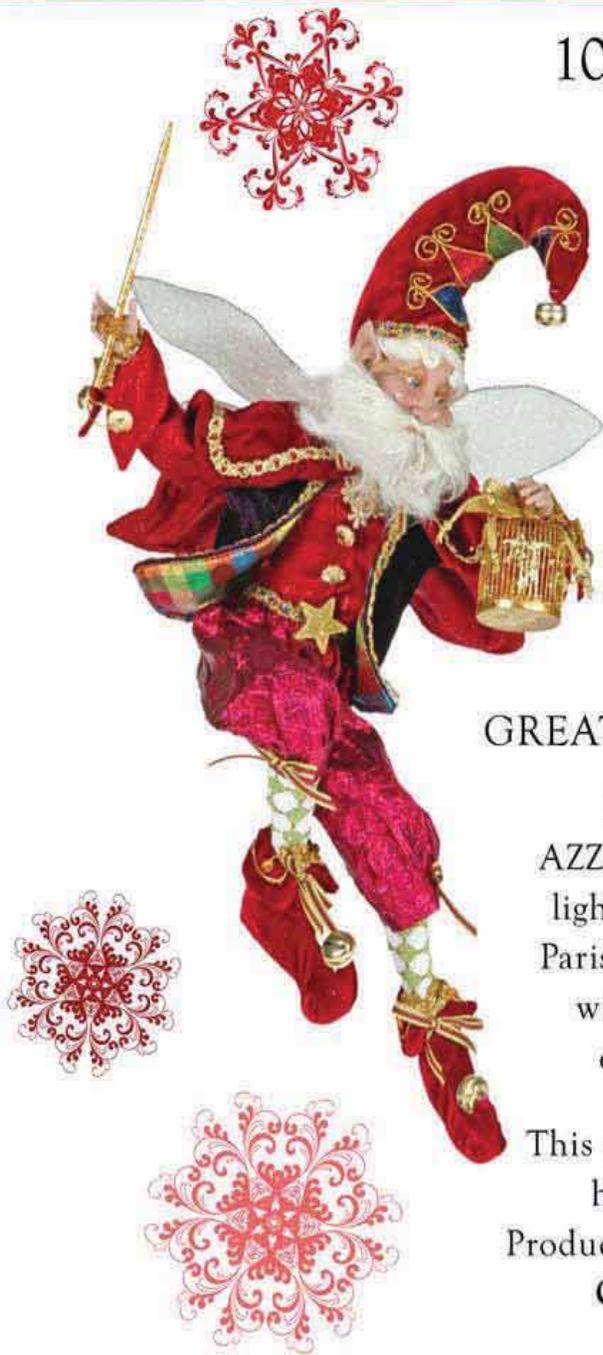
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EMILY WEST



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TERRY GORTON



TERRY GORTON



TERRY GORTON

Top right: Terry and AJ Gorton added French doors and built the deck that now provides outdoor living space used for dinner parties. Above: Before, the back of the home was boarded up and fostering weeds, not conversation.

RENOVATION

Continued from Page 1

"At that time, I knew it was time to redefine happiness," Gorton said.

It was a big transition moving from 3,000 square feet in Ruby Hill to just under 700 square feet. In her restoration efforts, she came to realize the home seemed to be restoring her as well.

"As it turned out, this little house has been an amazing investment, both financially and personally," she said. "There is a real beauty in learning to do really challenging things you didn't know you could do. It builds confidence for every other part of your life, too."

While some of the work was done through hired contractors, much of their know-how was gained through YouTube videos and online articles she and her son AJ found.

"The projects weren't that hard," AJ said. "It was just a matter of delving into it."

In an effort to save money, Gorton began to search for out-of-the-ordinary stores. In the hunt, she discovered the Habitat for Human-

ity ReStore in San Leandro, like a thrift shop for building materials and goods, where she found shutters for only \$4 apiece. Other deals came through finding recycled items, bartering, using coupons, scouring Craigslist and even buying plants used in the county fair displays.

Frugality isn't just about saving money, Gorton discovered, but also about ingenuity and adventure. It's forced her to look at materials in a new way, creatively thinking of a new use for them. A search for outdoor storage led her to an industrial yard in Oakland where a crane selected a large container, which commonly seen on trains, stacked six high. The experience reminded them of the summer blockbuster "Transformers," and with their container cleaned out and holding their belongings, they lovingly refer to it as Optimus Prime.

When her sectional sofa was too big for the living room, instead of replacing it as she would have before, she ripped it open to the skeleton and padded guts to cut and refinish it to fit.

"These are challenging times financially," Gorton added. "We've

gotten used to calling 'the guy' to have things done."

Boal agreed on how the economy has changed the mindset of many.

"We once thought if something was more expensive, it was the most premium, but that's not necessarily the case," Boal said.

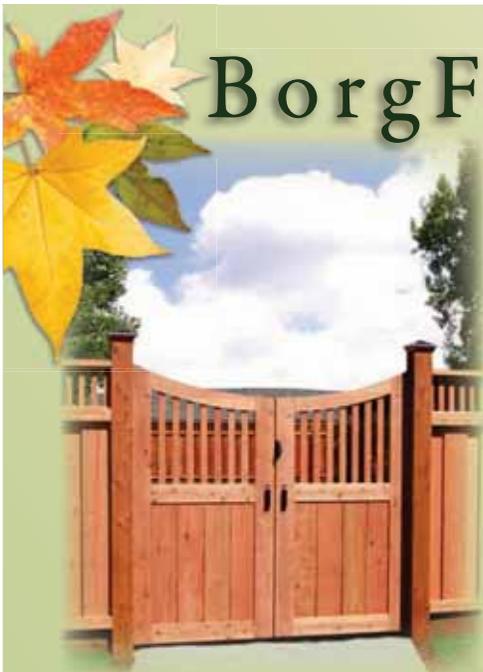
As she hosts dinner parties or just relaxes with her dog Tigerlily, Gorton sees her home in a new light. The kitchen isn't just a place to prepare meals, it's a gallery of deals found everywhere from a resale store to the floor models from the now-closed Home Depot Expo Design Center in Dublin. In back, she can walk out through newly-installed French doors onto a deck that she and her son built.

Deeming it a "soul enriching" experience, Gorton looks back on those hectic few months and remembers time spent bonding with her son and laughing about her 16-hour workdays. She hopes her story will inspire others to get over their fears and attempt a mostly do-it-yourself project.

To contact Gorton, email her at tigerlily5588@gmail.com. ■

Top left: The living room is a cozy place to lounge, with a sectional sofa that Terry Gorton adjusted on her own to fit the space. Middle left: The view from the kitchen to the front door wasn't always lovely, showing how Gorton opened up the living space. Above: AJ Gorton (right) helps the stone countertop installer.

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Homemade costumes are back in style for Halloween, especially “two-in-one” types that allow the wearer to convert from one character to another.

Fall decor trends feature rustic charm with homespun elegance

The air is becoming crisp, colors are changing and cozy sweaters are starting to make their way back into your wardrobe's rotation. Autumn has arrived, and its natural beauty shines radiantly to warm the heart and inspire fresh crafting ideas.

“This fall season, warm colors, rich textures and creative details stand out,” says Susan Atchison, manager of trend development for Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores. “Interest in homemade crafts and do-it-yourself decorating projects has never been stronger.”

Clever crafts can help to create an autumn atmosphere that is simply elegant or pure fun for the family. When thinking about your fall DIY projects, try some of these ideas to capture your creative spirit when decorating your home or planning your next festive get-together:

1. Fabulous fall decor with versatility and value

Start by decorating your table with exceptionally affordable wool felt. Available in plenty of mix-and-match autumn colors, felt can be sewn, glued, colored or cut — the sky is the limit.

One easy option that provides a beautiful visual presentation is to cut out shapes on a felt cloth. For example, draw scattered maple leaves all over two different colors of felt and cut out the pieces. Layer the two felt squares together on your table for a windblown, just-fallen look.

What to do with the felt leaves you just cut out? Create a harvest-themed wreath with a classic yet contemporary look. Decorate an 18-inch grapevine wreath with miniature lights, felt leaves and any other favorite fall items you have around your house or yard.

2. Classic adornments with surprising details

Need a great fall centerpiece? Rethink the classic pumpkin and try decorating with unique embellishments. For a beautiful fall-themed pumpkin, choose gold-toned wire and bend to create fun leaves and vines, attaching to the pumpkin's top. If you're looking for a Halloween theme, decorate the face of the pumpkin with masks and feathers to create different

characters like a witch, owl or masquerader.

One way to save money and create a cherished piece of decor you can use year after year is to decorate a reusable pumpkin like Fun-Kins. These light artificial pumpkins are easy to work with and sure to become wonderful works of art.

3. Fall food made fantastically fun

Food is a must at any fall gathering. When the temperature cools, many of us are turning on our ovens to bake delightful must-taste treats. Rich and decadent brownies are tantalizing no matter what, but how about taking them a step further? Serve them kabob-style with marshmallows, fruit and a drizzle of icing to make them irresistible. Arrange on a tray for a beautiful presentation and watch them disappear in minutes.

If you're looking for a dessert with a theme, use uniquely shaped silicone baking pans. Try baking brownies in a jack-o'-lantern muffin pan. After they cool, pop them out, turn over and decorate their faces.

4. Double your fun with homemade costumes

If a costume party is in your future, you'll need something fun that stands out. The homemade costume is officially back and allows your creativity to shine. Brainstorm with your child to figure out what you both want to be for Halloween and then hit up a craft store to get the necessary supplies. What's the newest trend for costumes? Two-in-one options that have the ability to quickly convert from one character to the next.

For example, a sparkling dress can serve as the base for both an astronaut and a robot. With simple accessories and removable changes, your little girl can attend one party as a robot and then zoom off to another as an astronaut. Plus this is a fun alternative to traditional girls' costumes without losing the glitz. Reversible options also work for double-duty costumes. For example, try keeping one side of a cape black so you can be a witch and the other side gold. Add a feathered boa and you can become a queen in an instant.

—Courtesy of ARAContent

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Learn to be a master composter

Bay-Friendly Gardening to teach training program

There's more to gardening than having a green thumb and sometimes good soil can make a big difference.

Bay-Friendly Gardening, in partnership with StopWaste.org, is offering its annual master composter training program and is accepting applications for the 2010 class. The training is designed to enhance the skills of gardeners as well as community leaders, educators, environmentalists and recyclers.

Upon learning compost science, soil health and natural gardening techniques, the master composters will then design and implement community outreach projects where they can share their newly-acquired knowledge.

The idea is to spread the word to everyone from neighbors to workers and the young and old to reduce waste and preserve natural

resources.

Master composters can also earn college credit through Merritt College or continuing education and graduate-level classes at Cal State East Bay. Teachers can also benefit by being eligible for a \$200 stipend toward composting activities in the classrooms and school gardens.

Materials included in the class are books "Bay Friendly Gardening Guide — from your backyard to the Bay" and the award-winning "Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates" as well as a T-shirt and tote bag.

Classes are held Wednesday nights in Oakland from Feb. 3 through May 5. Apply online at www.bayfriendly.org or call 510-444-SOIL.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 8.

—Emily West

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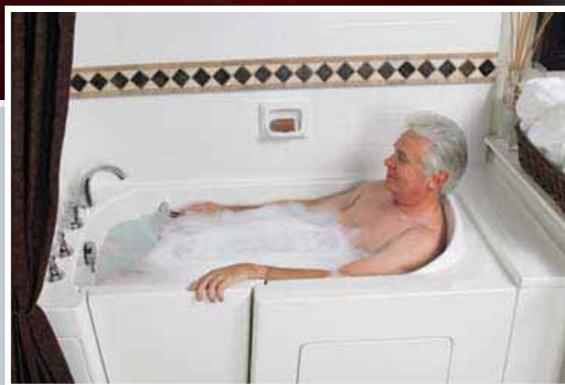
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ON THE TOWN



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Eddie Papa's American Hangout
4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal under \$20", Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World Hospitality, and hand crafted artisan cocktails. www.eddiepapas.com

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill
4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill
3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

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To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

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Class Reunions

AVHS CLASS OF 2004 REUNION The graduating class of 2004 will have its five year reunion at 6 p.m. Nov. 27 at Barone's Restaurant, 475 Saint John St. The evening will include appetizers, cocktails and dancing. RSVP by Nov. 13. Tickets are \$50. Checks are payable to AVHS Class of 2004. Mail to 608 Abbie Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Call 200-7440.

Clubs

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club (LAVGC) meets Nov. 12 at the Harvest Park Middle School auditorium, 4900 Valley Ave. The speaker will discuss daylilies. All levels of garden enthusiasts are welcome to attend. Call 461-1725 or visit www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc.

Concerts

THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK Broadway Chorus will perform "The Great American Songbook" at 8 p.m. Nov. 6 to 8 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$10 to \$18. Call 462-2121 or visit www.broadwaychorus.org.

Events

BINGO WITH THE PLEASANTON SEAHAWKS BINGO with the Pleasanton Seahawks at Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore, takes place Oct. 31. Regular game pays \$175 to \$500. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., BINGO starts at 6:30 p.m. Buy in as little as \$17. Must be 18 years old to enter and play.

BUSY BEES PRESCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL Busy Bees Preschool, 4300 Mirador Dr., hosts a free fall festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 31. The free event will have games, prizes, arts and crafts, a kids cake decorating contest and cake walk. Bring cakes in by Oct. 30 to be judged.

CAL FOOTBALL GAME VIEWING PARTY Tri-Valley Cal Alumni hosts a Game Viewing Party for the Cal at Arizona State game at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 31 Redcoats Pub, 336 St. Mary St. No host food and bar. All Cal fans are welcome.

ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING FUNDRAISER FOR HART MIDDLE SCHOOL PFA Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road, is hosting a drive-through electronic waste recycling fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 8. TVs, monitors, laptops and cell phones are free to recycle. CPUs, phones, printers, copiers, DVD or VCR players, fax machines, stereos or video games are \$5 each to recycle. Call 200-8915.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR BREAKFAST Families please come join Pleasanton Chapter's Sweetheart Core at a Spooktacular Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31, Pleasanton Masonic Lodge, 3370 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Enjoy pancakes, bacon, eggs, juice and fun! Costumes are welcome, we will have crafts and fun for the kids. Kids under 2 are free, 2-8 years \$5, \$8 general. Visit www.pleasanton-demolay.com or call 556-3576.

HERITAGE ESTATES HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE The residents at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, are having a holiday boutique from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 6 and 7. The event will include hand-made crafts and home-baked goods. Call 518-5752

THE GREATEST GENERATION RECEPTION The Rose Hotel, 807 Main St., will host World War II veterans and their families at The Greatest Generation reception in observance of Veterans Day, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 1. Call 846-8802.

Fundraisers

ANIMAL LOVER'S BOUTIQUE Help Tri-Valley animals while shopping for unique gifts for people and pets, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7, Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Proceeds will benefit the Just Like New Fund which assists with one-time emergency veterinary costs for sick or injured pets to prevent euthanasia due to lack of funds. Visit www.valleyhumane.org or call 484-1224.

BREAK FOR GRAPES CHARITY EVENT Break for Grapes Charity Event ben-

efiting Oakland Children's Hospital Oncology Department is Nov. 7 at Rodrigue Molyneux Winery, 3053 Marina Ave. Proceeds to benefit families whose children suffer from life-threatening and terminal cancer. Executive Chef Tracy Flores will be teaching two cooking classes at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Call 447-4280 or visit www.rmwinery.com.

CHUCKLES FOR CHARITY Four comedians will entertain from 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 1 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Proceeds to benefit the Arc of Alameda County, a nonprofit that provides life-skills and vocational training to people with developmental disabilities. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Call 510-357-3727 or visit www.arcalameda.org.

Kids & Teens

FREE TEEN STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP Learn easy ways to cope with stress and live a more relaxed life from 2 to 4 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Jenny to register 600-9762 ext. 7. Free snacks and Jamba Juice gift card.

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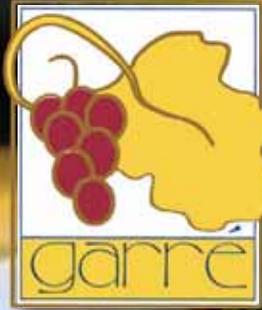


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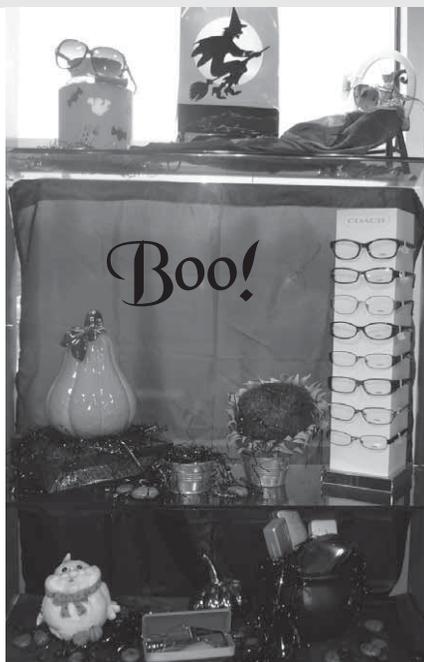
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Lectures

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State Compensation Insurance Fund presents a free seminar focused on the prevention of slips, trips and falls in the workplace from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 5 at 5890 Owens Drive. To register, contact Grace Virrey at 523-5617 or visit the Seminars page at www.scif.com.

Live Music

BUCK FORD PURE COUNTRY BAND

Dance the night away to the classic country sounds of the Buck Ford Pure Country Band from 8:30 to 11 p.m. Oct. 31 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Visit www.buckford.com.

On Stage

GIZMO GUYS

Allan Jacobs and Barrett Felker, the Gizmo Guys, will juggle and make audiences laugh at SaturYAY! at 11 a.m. Nov. 7 at the Amador Valley Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18 for adults and \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Political Notes

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

Tri-Valley Republican Women will host nationally acclaimed author and political commentator Jack Cashill at a dinner meeting from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 12 at Cattlemen's

Restaurant in Livermore. RSVP by Nov. 4. Call 846-5944 or visit www.trivalleyrepublicanwomen.org. Cost is \$26 for members and \$30 for guests.

Spiritual

CHORAL EVENSONG

At 5:15 p.m. Nov. 8, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, hosts a service of service of prayer and choral music. All are welcome.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Remember and give thanks for people who have died at a Mass of Remembrance at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Family and friends are invited to cherish those loved ones and to honor their lives.

A FREE Educational Seminar

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Wednesday, November 4, 2009 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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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.



BUSC welcomes return of one of its best

Kevin Crow returns as director of player and coach development

The Ballistic United Soccer club is welcoming home one of its most well-known soccer players to come out of the league.

Kevin Crow is returning to Pleasanton where he spent his youth playing soccer, re-joining his old club in the newly created position of director of player and coach development.

"This new role will enable BUSC to leverage Kevin's rich and diverse professional soccer experiences and strong management skills to accelerate club growth and success in the local, regional, and state soccer communities," said Nandor Krause, president of the club.

Crow will manage BUSC soccer operations, as well as establish a player and coaching development strategy. In this new role, he will be responsible for overseeing competitive and recreational soccer programs and will help set and drive the vision and implementation of player and coaching training and development strategies and programs.

A Bay Area native, Crow was a member of the Ballistic United Soccer Club and graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1978. He attended San Diego State University where he

played on the men's soccer team from 1979-1982 before graduating with a bachelor's degree in finance.

His professional experiences include playing with the San Diego Sockers of the North American Soccer League (NASL) and the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) where he won the Defender of the Year award in 1985, 1988, 1989, 1991 and 1992.

He was selected for the U.S. roster for the 1984 Summer Olympics Games and later played in World Cup 1986 qualifier matches. In 1987, he played for the U.S. at the 1987 Pan American Games and later played two world cup qualifiers in 1988.

Crow also has had considerable business experience and success in professional soccer and in the private sector. In June 2002, Kevin became the general manager of the San Diego Spirit women's soccer team, an interim coach, and later became the general manager of the San Diego Spirit of the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) from 2001 to 2003. He was later elevated to the position of chief operating officer for the league.

—Janet Pelletier

Falcons face Cal High after weekend win over Monte Vista

Amador Valley also victorious

The Foothill Falcons will face Cal High tonight, coming off a satisfying 41-37 win against Monte Vista High last weekend.

The game was televised on ESPNU, a college channel of the sports network, and broadcast nationally. Foothill quarterback Sean Mannion, who is headed to Oregon State University after he graduates next spring, had an outstanding evening up in Danville, passing for nearly 400 yards.

The Falcons are 5-2 this season, with a 50-50 record in East Bay Athletic League play. The fifth win makes the team eligible for the playoffs, with the last games of the season scheduled against Cal High Friday, De la Salle Nov. 3 and Amador Valley Nov. 13. The first round of playoffs will be held Nov. 20-21.

The Amador Dons were also victorious last weekend, triumphing over the California Grizzlies 35-24. Down 21-7 at the half, Amador came barreling back for the lead after a Cal fumble. Carson Stencil took the ball downfield 87 yards, then tossed it to Danny Petros to



CHRIS SCOTT CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

The Falcons beat Monte Vista last Friday night as QB Sean Mannion threw for 400 yards.

make it a one touchdown game. They would tie it up in the same quarter with Cal going on for a field goal in the fourth to go up by

3. But it was Amador that dominated the final minutes of the game, scoring two more touchdowns.

—Janet Pelletier



American

www.pleasantonamerican.com



Foothill

www.pfllonline.org



National

www.pnll.info

Are you ready for some Baseball?

Sign ups have begun for Little League!

Come on out to Donlon Elementary Tuesday, November 3rd : 7-9pm Walk up Registration Night –all ages! All 3 Little Leagues will be there.

- Ages 5-7 (T-Ball, Farm, Single A) – sign up by end of December
- Ages 8-14 (AA, AAA, Majors, and Juniors) – sign up by end of November
- Ages 15-18 (Seniors and Big League) – sign up by end of December



What league should I contact?

Little League Baseball is defined by street boundaries. Please log onto our websites to check which league you are assigned to based on where your family resides.



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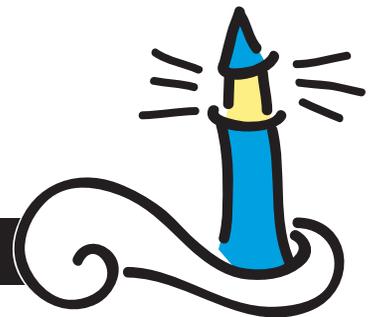
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9 drawers dresser - \$40

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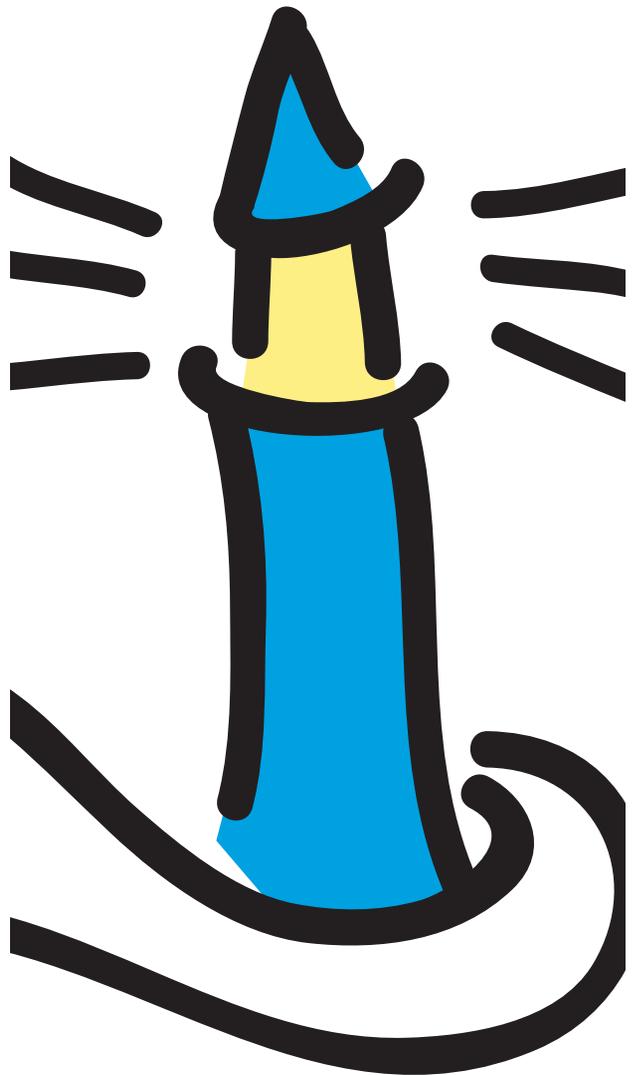
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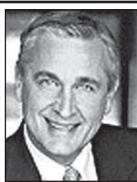


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PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Happy Howl-o-ween

Meet Emmett, a 17 pound Corgi mix-breed who loves treats and probably knows a trick or two. Here you see Emmett's serious side. After all, trick or treating is serious business! See www.tvor.org for some photos of Emmett with a happy smile on his face. Emmett is black and tan with a little gray in the muzzle and he has a sweet disposition. Emmett is neutered and he is approximately 6 years old. Emmett enjoys going for walks, knows sit, loves cookies and is sure to make someone a faithful companion for years to come. Visit Emmett (pet #89247) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040. Remember to keep chocolate away from your pets on Halloween. It is important to know that chocolate can be toxic, and sometimes even fatal, for animals.

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Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

1212 Barlett Place \$1,135,000

Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3811

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Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 463-9500

3504 Ovella Way \$1,550,000

Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

9663 Crosby Drive \$1,998,000

Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2585

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Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3888

3825 Cheshire Court \$755,000

Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

2449 Raven Road \$789,000

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Next issue 11/20 we ask the agents: "What are you thankful for?"



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5953 HILLBROOK PL
GREAT HOME! **\$460,000**
3 BR 3.5 BA apx. 1700 sf,5 yrs old,granite counters,move-in ready.For info, www.RomarProperties.net. 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

21800 MINES RD
COUNTRY LIVING **\$375,000**
2 BR 2 BA w/amenities!Bunk house w/1 updated

bath/laundry area.Wood stove;3 generators,4 water tanks 925.847.2200

350 WOOD ST #202
WALK TO DOWNTOWN **\$275,000**
2 BR 2.5 BA Apx. 1110 SF,only 5 years NEW,granite slab counters,wd laminate flrs,2-car attached garage 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

558 SANTEL COURT
GORGEOUS SINGLE STORY **\$1,640,000**
4 BR 2 BA office + bonus rm,upgrd kit/opens to family room,pl/spa in backyard,court loc,hrdwd flrs 925.847.2200

446 SYCAMORE ROAD
FABULOUS HOME! **\$985,000**
7 BR 4 BA multi-unit, fabulous property for income rental or family living on approx 1/2 acre 925.847.2200

5121 BIANCO COURT
NICE HOME **\$725,000**
3 BR 2.5 BA in desirable Avila!Court location,eat-in-kitchen,large living/family rm w/frplc/built-ins 925.847.2200

2930 LIBERTY
REMELED HOME! **\$509,000**
2 BR 2 BA tile flrs/cntrs in kit w/cozy eat-in area,master w/walk-in closet,liv rm w/brick fireplace 925.847.2200

Open SUN 1-4 **3044 CASADERO COURT**
ELEGANT VERONA HOME **\$499,950**
3 BR 2.5 BA updated granite kitchen,newer tile & wood flooring, custom paint,excellent court location! 925.847.2200

3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 54
GREAT LOCATION! **\$29,900**
1 BR 1 BA covered driveway,great loc in prk,comm center has pool,spa,library/Mo space rent,\$875 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

2140 CANYON CREST AVE
GORGEOUS! **\$750,000**
4 BR 3 BA w/over 2800 sf & apx 8000 sf lot.Walk to elem sch! Gourmet kitchen,backyard w/large patio 925.847.2200

6210 BYRON LANE
GREAT HOME! **\$535,000**
4 BR 3 BA 2 cr gar,2347 sf,2 patio areas,3+ stries,upgrd w/hrdwd flr,granite slab in kit/SS appli 925.847.2200

"If you are a licensed realtor interested in joining our real estate office please contact Will Butler, Manager at **925.847.2257**. We look forward to welcoming you to Coldwell Banker!"

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Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

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SANTA BARBARA ARCHITECTURE



PLEASANTON
655 EAST VINEYARD AVE \$4,695,000
Fabulous 20+ acre parcel w/ 8090 +/- sqft custom home. 14.8 acres of income producing Chardonnay grapes. Part of Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates.
Carol Cline, CRS 925.648.5415

GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATES



PLEASANTON
8044 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY \$3,187,000
Designer features throughout w/ extensive use of cherry wood, stone & more. Truly elegant. Level park-like backyard with pool, spa, lrg grass area.
Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS



LIVERMORE
3615 CALDEIRA \$2,998,000
Custom built estate surrounded by your own Petite Sirah vineyard. Enjoy magnificent views filled with vines & hills galore.
Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454

GORGEOUS GATED HILLTOP ESTATE



PLEASANTON
2801 GRAY FOX COURT \$2,450,000
Panoramic views, 1.91 acres of privacy. Resort-like backyard w/ pool, spa, swim up bar, barbeque, palm trees. See details: www.2801GrayFox.com
Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416

OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON
9663 CROSBY DRIVE \$1,998,000
This stunningly beautiful, totally custom home is located on the desirable West side of Pleasanton. The finest materials and workmanship.
Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416

18TH GREEN & 10TH FAIRWAY



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!
Bryan Craft 925.855.4141

108 AC. FENCED RANCH



LIVERMORE
MORGAN TERRITORY RD \$1,850,000
Picturesque, Pano Views. 3 Bd Home w/ 20x20 Bonus Rm, Six Stall Barn, Tack Room, 120'x300' Arena, Wells/ Springs, 1/4 Mile Road to Poss.
The Nagle Team 925.736.4155

REMARKABLE HOME



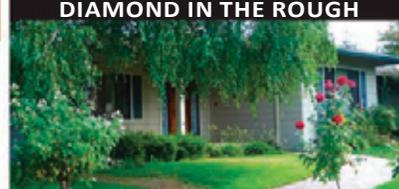
PLEASANTON
3737 NICOLE AVENUE \$1,495,000
Everything top of the line. Gorgeous private 1/2 acre lot w/ gated pool, spa, basketball, gazebos, and your own vineyard w/well.
Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416

6 HORSE STALLS



LIVERMORE
1441 CALVARY LN \$1,300,000
located near the heart of Livermore. Just minutes away from Shopping, fine dining, schools, and the newly renovated Downtown.
Staci Armario Tate 925.251.2526

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH



PLEASANTON
607 BLOSSOM CT \$985,000
This 3, 955 sq.ft. single level home on a prime 3/4 acre lot is ready for a complete makeover, and priced right to help you make that happen.
Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416

GREAT FOR ENTERTAINING



PLEASANTON
3249 ARBOR DR \$949,950
4 bd, 2.5 ba home on a huge lot of almost 13,000 sq ft! Several outdoor patios great for entertaining or relaxing.
Tonni Chandler 925.788.7788

CUSTOM HOME



PLEASANTON
850 CONCORD ST \$759,000
CUSTOM Home situated on almost 1/4 acre. Granite kitchen, pool, meticulous landscape designed by local nursery.
EMILY HUNTER 925.785.3795

POOL & SPA



LIVERMORE
DECKER LANE \$695,000
Corner lot with enjoyable privacy. Beauty inside with tasteful flooring, kitchen overlooks the backyard. pool and spa are the place to rest.
SHARON WILLIAMS 925.583.2181

GORGEOUS, REMODELED



PLEASANTON
3522 KINGS CANYON CT \$629,950
1-Story home. Formal dining & living rooms. Family room & spacious eating area. Kitchen w/granite. Large Swimming Pool & patio area for entertaining.
MARGARITA CAVALIERI 925.583.2181

POSSIBLE IN-LAW UNIT



LIVERMORE
140 LEE AVE \$474,000
This amazing home has been lovingly cared for. Loaded with updates throughout including kitchen & baths. Close to all conveniences.
TOM E. CHANCE 925.487.6360

NO REAR NEIGHBORS



LIVERMORE
1448 PEACHTREE CMN \$315,000
Located in the Beautiful Heather Glen Townhome Complex. Impeccably Maintained and Cared for Home. Beautifully Remodeled Kitchen and Master Bath.
MICHAEL SWIFT 925.251.2588

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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2309 Romano Circle, Ascona at Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



NEW LISTING! French Country style home, 3,851 sq. ft. 5 BR, 3 BA, with beautiful pool and hot tub in the backyard. **Call for price OPEN SUN 1-4**

3504 Ovella Way, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



Gorgeous 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA, 4,339 sq. ft. townhome with views! Low maintenance country club living in Ruby Hill! **Offered at \$1,550,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

KELLER WILLIAMS

KW Broker DRE License #01395362

We have a qualified buyer looking for a 5,000- 7,000 sq.ft. home, 4 BR, pool/spa and private location. If you are thinking about selling soon, please give us a call.

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Cunningham**
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DRE License #01226296 & 00930892

**Donna
Garrison**
925-980-0273

DRE License #01735040

**Debby
Johnson-Abarta**
925-989-6844

DRE License #01361703

**Susan
Schall**
925-397-4244

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BRIDLE CREEK



902 SUMMIT CREEK COURT, PLEASANTON
 Wow! Highly upgraded Premier Model on premium elevated .34 acre lot. Expansive views of Pleasanton Ridge. Over \$400K in front and rear yard landscaping! Built by Greenbriar Homes. Beautifully landscaped private rear yard with built-in pool, separate built-in spa, travertine/ Napa Stone patios and outdoor kitchen. Four bedrooms + bonus room and formal office, three bathrooms. Approx. 3,445 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Custom limestone flooring, crown moulding, plantation shutters, and custom built-ins. Close to downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **OFFERED AT \$1,495,000**

CASA DE CAIAFIA



5464 BLACK AVENUE, PLEASANTON
 Custom builder meets Casa de Caiafia!!! Three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms. Remodeled kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Approximately 1,330 square feet. Upgraded bathrooms. Custom tile flooring, crown molding, upgraded baseboards. Large master with walk-in closet and balcony. Two car garage. Great location! Walk to Downtown!
OFFERED AT \$429,500

SAN LEANDRO



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

1307 WAYNE AVENUE, SAN LEANDRO
 Five bedroom, three bath home. Approximately 1,795 square feet. Great for larger family! Separate living and family rooms. Central heat. New carpet. Newer dual pane windows. Private rear yard with fruit trees, newer perimeter fencing and new rear deck. Two car garage.
OFFERED AT \$449,000

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



The latest from The 680 Blog

5 Things We Know about the Pleasanton Real Estate Market

The Pleasanton CA real estate market has seen quite a year. We have seen the market go from a deep slumber in January to a nice run beginning in April, to down right hot in some neighborhoods, mostly in the lower price ranges. Here are 5 things we know about the Pleasanton housing market right now:

1. Inventory is low, and likely to stay that way. Inventory is at a very low level, with around 150 homes on the market. Most of these homes (well over half) are priced over \$1 million. Many sellers have not been willing to sell at the current price levels, so they opt to postpone their move or rent their home out instead.

2. No new construction on the horizon. Pleasanton does not have a large inventory of developable land, so don't expect to see an ample supply of new homes any time soon. And the mood of the city has been mostly "no growth" for the past

several years. As a result, the Pleasanton housing stock is older than what you find in Dublin and San Ramon.

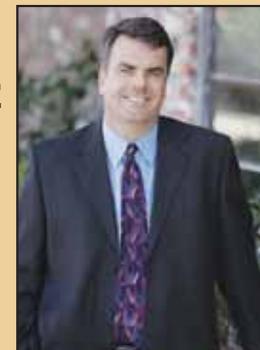
3. Pleasanton has fewer foreclosures compared to other Tri-Valley cities. It's not because Pleasanton residents are smarter, or more principled (although many might argue that point). It is mostly due to #2 above. Fortunately, Pleasanton does not have hundreds of homes built between 2004 and 2007 like Dublin and San Ramon. Homes of this age are almost automatically under water, and are a much greater risk of becoming a short sale or foreclosure.

4. Pleasanton is still a premium destination. Great schools, clean neighborhoods, abundant parks, great transportation, and a charming downtown. We are still seeing a steady migration from >>**Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.**

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Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these homes and other properties.

POOL & SPA!



Newer luxury 5 BR, 4 BTH single story home on prime .31 Acre cul-de-sac lot with hardwood floors, granite/ cherry/stainless kit, and more!
\$1,459,000

POOL & SPA!



Fabulous 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH home with remodeled granite kitchen, hardwood floors, and prime cul-de-sac lot with sparkling pool!
\$759,000

PENDING SALE!



Bridle Creek Area. 5 BR + Office, 5 1/2 BTH, gourmet granite/cherry/stainless kitchen, .47 acre lot, luxurious master suite, & more!
\$1,469,000

GREAT VALUE!



Room to grow! 5 BR, 2 BTH detached home, approx 2600 sq ft, with huge family room, private yard, and excellent location close to award winning schools!
\$639,900

Recent Pending & Sold Homes

815 Tunbridge Rd..... \$1,195,000
 560 Rosso Ct..... \$960,000
 2782 Calle Alegre..... \$1,000,000
 5769 San Carlos Way..... \$699,900
 2824 Foothill Oaks Ter..... \$1,640,000
 5682 Sunset Creek Ct..... \$1,445,000
 9459 Blessing Dr..... \$1,549,500
 315 Golden Grass Dr..... \$1,645,000

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 We have qualified buyers. Contact us today.



SUSIE STEELE **OPEN SUN 2-5**



PLEASANTON **\$2,199,000**
 JUST REDUCED! Stunning Custom Home in Golden Eagle Estates nestled on 1 acre+/- featuring a backyard paradise with a pool backing to open space and incredible views of the TriValley. 1531 Honeysuckle Ct.

ANNI HAGFELDT **BY APPT.**



PLEASANTON **\$1,699,999**
 5bd/4.5ba beautiful custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. Panoramic views, large backyard, pool, and more. A must see.

BLAISE LOFLAND **BY APPT**



PLEASANTON **\$1,495,000**
 \$400K +/- in extensive improvements. 5bd 3ba, Gourmet kitchen, custom flooring, Beautifully landscaped, built in pool, spa, Travertine/Napa stone patios/ outdoor kitchen and more!

DOUG BUENZ **BY APPT**



PLEASANTON **\$1,459,000**
 THIS IS IT! Rarely available luxury single story, .32+/- acre lot, 5bd/4ba, granite/ cherry/stainless kitchen w/island, designer carpeting. Better than New!

SALLY MARTIN **BY APPT**



PLEASANTON **\$1,399,000**
 Immaculate, Expansive, 5bd, 3.5 ba, 3991+/-sf home situate on .76+/- acre lot. Numerous upgrades. Go to www.2303Gloria.com. Too Much to List!

SUE MCKINLEY **BY APPT**



PLEASANTON **\$990,000**
 Beautiful 4bd, 3.5ba, 3206+/-sf Custom Home, open floor plan, Country Views! Easy access to 680 freeway, Top Rated schools just minutes away.

DOUG BUENZ **BY APPT**



PLEASANTON **\$759,000**
 Elegant 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH Country Fair home with remodeled gourmet kitchen with granite counters, maple cabinets, and new appliances, gleaming hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, spacious family room.

JOYCE JONES **OPEN SUN 1-4**



PLEASANTON **\$755,000**
 Desirable Pleasanton, 4bd, 2.5ba, prime court location, 2150sf+/- living space, large 8197sf+/- lot, updated kitchen, w/granite counters, hardwood floors, roof 2009, exterior paint 2009 & more! 3825 Cheshire Ct.

MOXLEY TEAM **OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30**



PLEASANTON **\$699,000**
 3BD, 2B, 1,204SF home on 21,000 SF lot. Possible second home on lot or possibility to sub-divide lot. Close to freeways and downtown Pleasanton. 383 Christina Ct.

KAREN CROWSON **BY APPT**



LIVERMORE **\$669,950**
 Beautiful 4bd/3ba, 2539+/-sf home. Full bedroom and bath downstairs. Kitchen updated with granite counters, stainless appliances, ceramic tile flooring. Refreshing pond in backyard.

DOUG BUENZ **BY APPT**



SAN RAMON **\$639,900**
 Room to grow in this charming 4 BR home. Hardwood floors, sunny upgraded kitchen, large master suite with upgraded bath.

CHESTER HALL **BY APPOINTMENT**



DANVILLE **\$749,950**
 Breathtaking panoramic views of Mt. Diablo and the valley. Beautiful custom deck completes the bill for this 4bd/2.5ba home

MARK LAFFERTY **OPEN SUN 1-4PM**



PLEASANTON **\$499,950**
 Beautiful single story home close to Downtown Pleasanton. This property has 3bd/2ba. Upgraded to perfection. www.3634reflections.com 3634 Reflections Dr

BLAISE LOFLAND **BY APPT**



PLEASANTON **\$429,500**
 3bd/2.5ba. Remodeled kitchen, granite counters, stainless appliances, 1330+/-sf. Custom tile floors, crown molding, master w/balcony, walk to downtown.

MOXLEY TEAM **BY APPT**



PLEASANTON **\$419,000**
 Rare Fairlands Park 4 BR, 2.5 B, new paint, carpet & flooring. Indoor laundry, spacious master suite with double closets. Private patio & carport.

ROBIN YOUNG **BY APPT**



PATTERSON **\$194,900**
 Move in condition, 5bd/3ba, two tone paint, extra large family room, bed and bath on main level, spacious bedrooms, finished landscape, move in condition, great value.

