

Pleasanton Weekly

Time to count: Pleasanton to be a Census hub, with 10-question forms to be mailed to residents in March **PAGE 5**

Rags to riches: Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presents 'Cinderella' at the Bankhead Theater **PAGE 17**

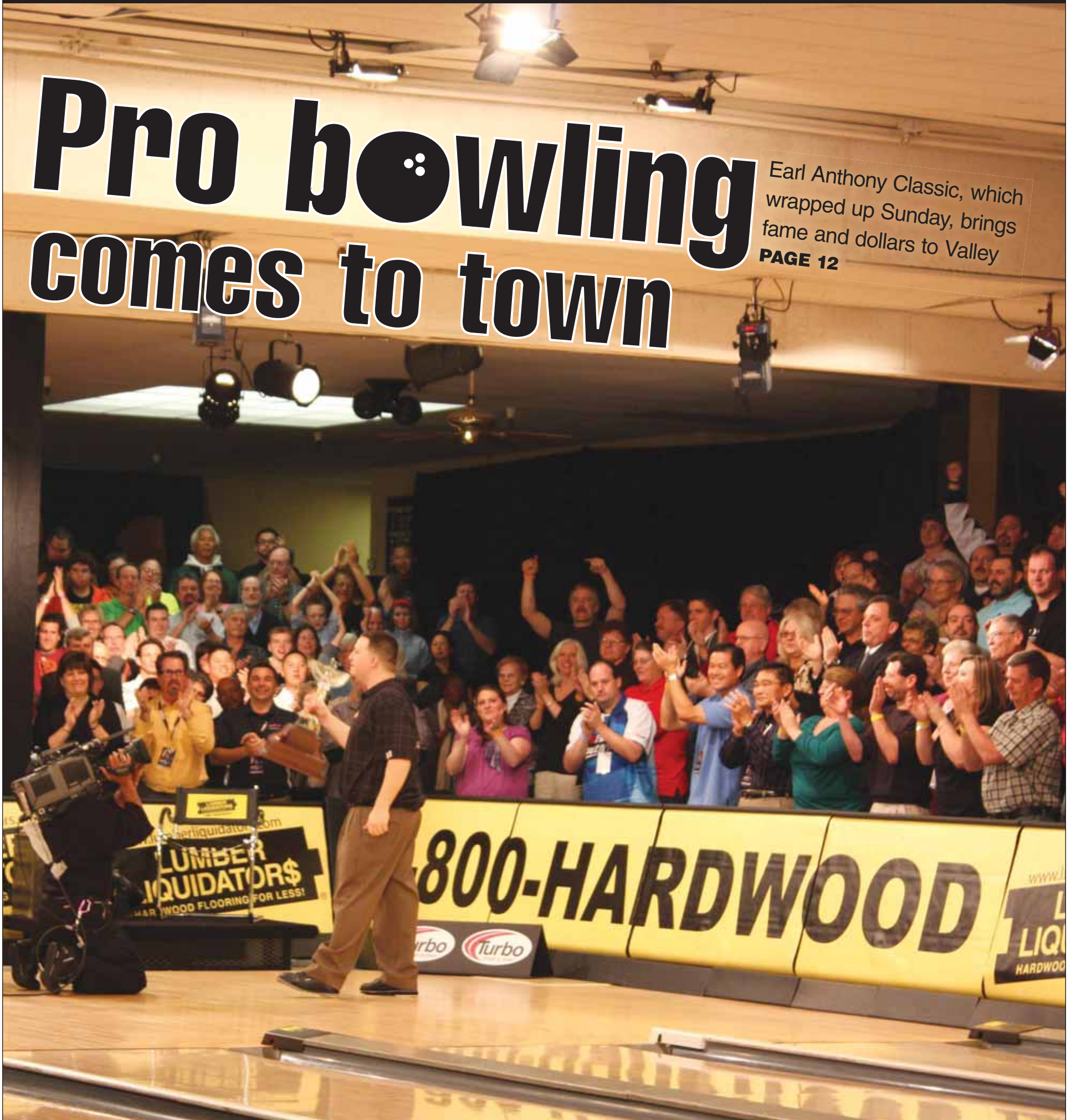
INSIDE

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Pro bowling comes to town

Earl Anthony Classic, which wrapped up Sunday, brings fame and dollars to Valley **PAGE 12**



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Hosterman's week in Washington

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman returns tonight from five days in Washington, D.C. where she joined other Tri-Valley leaders in meeting with California legislators and attended the winter session of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, where she is co-chair of the group's national water council. Now completing her sixth year as Pleasanton's mayor, she has become a familiar face and influential contributor at the mayors' conferences, working personally with mayors of many large cities on transportation, energy, environmental and water issues that affect Pleasanton and other similarly-size cities as well as the country's major metropolitan centers. With co-chair Mayor Brian Stratton of Schenectady, N.Y., she talked one-on-one Wednesday at a dinner meeting with EPA Director Lisa Jackson about growing water and sewer infrastructure improvements that are mandated by the EPA but without sufficient federal funding to help cities pay for them. With the heavy rains this week here at home, Hosterman said she was able to bring hands-on statewide flooding conditions into her plea for much-needed aid.

With the heavy rains this week here at home, Hosterman said she was able to bring hands-on statewide flooding conditions into her plea for much-needed aid.

meetings are held in different cities, with the one this year to meet in Oklahoma City.

This was also the group's first Washington meeting with Garamendi, who was elected last November to fill the seat vacated by former Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher. Garamendi has been appointed to the important House Transportation Committee and Hosterman pressed him specifically for increased federal support for the Interstate 580 improvement program now under way as well as for funds to widen Highway 84 between I-580 and I-680 and through Pleasanton, a project that now is also part of the I-580 program. Improvements to this thoroughfare are long overdue and are vital to commuters in Garamendi's district as well as McNe-

ney's to reduce the time spent traveling between their Contra Costa County homes and jobs in the Silicon Valley.

This week's trip was also far different than Hosterman remembered from last summer's mayors conference in Providence, R.I. There, Vice President Joe Biden, a headline speaker at the convention, snubbed the assembly after a local firefighters' union picketed across the street from the city's Convention Center. This week, Obama and his administration not only met with the mayors at the White House, but key cabinet members spent an afternoon in special plenary sessions discussing local issues with the 250 mayors in Washington. Hosterman found it an uplifting experience, especially given last summer's boycott and a general lack of interest in meeting with the mayors' group by the Bush administration.

Given Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley's continuing need for federal dollars to help complete its area-wide emergency communications system and major transportation projects, in her meetings with members of the Obama administration Hosterman also sought assurances that these funds will go straight to local governments instead of trickling through the states. She said this is important in California, particularly, where Sacramento is interceding wherever and whenever it can to tap into these funds instead of passing them through to cities and school districts as states are supposed to do. ■

About the Cover

Rookie bowler Anthony LaCaze, 27, of Melrose Park, Ill., holds a crystal trophy he received for winning the PBA Earl Anthony Memorial Classic Sunday at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl. Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti, just left of LaCaze in the crowd, cheers him on. Photo by Janet Pelletier. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

What do you think about Jay Leno moving back to his old time slot?



Santino Medina
Construction

Bologna. Keep him where he's at. The old 11:35 time slot is too late in the evening to watch and I like Jay Leno.

Kimberly Oesterling
Attorney

I think it's awesome. I'm a big Jay Leno fan. Conan's alright but I like Jay. The 11:30 slot is better for him than the 10 o'clock.



Manny Vasquez
Tennis Pro

That for me really doesn't matter. I never saw him before when he was at midnight. That's when you watch late night movies. I think the movement part doesn't really affect the people that would watch, just the people that work on the shows, because some will get fired.

Theresa Ho-Sing-Loy
Systems Engineer

I enjoy the jokes. I think Jay Leno is a funny guy, but I like Conan where he was, in the later slot. That's when I actually watched him, and I like Conan better.



Ryan Hall
Attorney

I've been following it quite a bit. I think the 10 o'clock show was a mistake to begin with. Monday morning quarterbacking: they never should have done it. NBC's just a mess now. Now I would rather see Leno man up and say, "You know what, I turned it over. I'm not going back to TV at 11."

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

The Tri-Valley YMCA is host the 10th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast. Held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Jan. 25 at the Pleasanton Marriott, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road, it will feature keynote speaker DeRionne Pollard, president of Las Positas College, and will honor legacy award winners.

Tickets are \$40. For details, call 475-6108 or contact Marilyn Casper at mcasper@ymcaeastbay.org.

McNerney puts on art competition

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) will again host the Congressional Art Competition for the 11th District. Part of a nationwide art competition, it's intended to showcase the artistic talents and abilities of students across the United States.

High school students may submit works by April 16, with the grand prize winner to be flown to Washington, D.C. for an awards ceremony June 17. Contact Cheri Clasen in the Pleasanton office at 737-0727 for contest rules and information.

Follow the yellow brick road

Eighth-grade drama students at Harvest Park Middle School are putting on a production of "The Wiz" and the public is invited to attend.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and spots are filling up quickly. Tickets are \$5 at the school office or at the door. For more information, call the school office at 426-4444.

Blood drive at the library

The Pleasanton Police Officers Association is sponsoring a blood drive from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Prospective donors can call (800)-GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543) to schedule an appointment.

Appointments can also be made online by visiting redcrossblood.org. Enter sponsor code PLEASANTON925 to bring up the schedule of this and other blood drives scheduled in the area.

Corrections

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

City asks BART to scrap Staples Ranch extension plans

Pleasanton responds to agency plans to run elevated tracks to downtown Livermore

By JEB BING

If BART officials didn't get the message Jan. 6, Pleasanton officials are sending it again today: the public doesn't want elevated trains traveling through eastern Pleasanton and across the Chain of Lakes in BART's proposed route to extend service to Livermore.

"Through the years, Pleasanton has had an official policy of encouraging the BART extension to Livermore," City Manager Nelson Fialho states in his letter to the transit system authorities.

"But we're opposed to any BART to Livermore

extension that runs on, over or below El Charro Road or through the Chain of Lakes areas that are within Pleasanton's sphere of influence," he said.

Fialho's response to the nine versions of BART's environmental impact report was sent yesterday, the final date for commenting on the agency's 200-page proposal. Tucked in the lengthy report as "alignment alternatives" 1a, 1b, 2a, 3a and 5 are routes that would extend BART to Livermore from the Pleasanton station on tracks elevated 40 feet high cutting across I-580 and winding their way to downtown Livermore. Some of the

routes take the tracks across the eastern part of Staples Ranch and across the lakes.

Multi-million-dollar development plans now being approved for Staples Ranch as well as future open space and recreational areas for the Chain of Lakes will be annexed into the city of Pleasanton in the coming years. At least two of the developers, including Hendrick Automotive that is planning to build a new auto mall in the section of Staples that would be under the BART tracks, object to the route.

At the Jan. 6 meeting, more than 30 speakers
See **BART** on Page 6



JANET PELLETIER

Storms power through Pleasanton

Two large trees keeled over on Valley Avenue Wednesday just west of Santa Rita Road, victims of this week's stormy weather which featured record rainfall and wind gusts. The Coastal Redwood and spruce trees, planted next to each other, tore into a cinderblock wall on Valley. Because the trees are on private property, the owner is responsible for the rest of their removal, city spokeswoman Joanne Hall said, adding that the sound wall is city-owned and they will work with the owners to discuss its repair.

Local office opens for 2010 Census count

10-question form to be mailed out to Pleasanton residents in March

By JANET PELLETIER

Ten questions will determine how much funding Pleasanton will receive for social services and transportation, whether or not a business decides to invest locally and will help city leaders shape policies to serve their constituencies.

The questions comprise the 2010 Census and will be mailed out here and across the country in March. The U.S. Census Bureau has been preparing for the big count, which only happens once each decade, for some time, and a local office representing Alameda County was opened in October in Pleasanton.

Community representatives, faith leaders and elected officials gathered Wednesday at the of-

ice, located off Koll Center Parkway, celebrating the Pleasanton office with an open house, where the importance of all community representatives working together to get the word out was emphasized.

Karen Koistinen, who is the manager of the Pleasanton office, said this is one of the largest civilian efforts conducted by the federal government other than a military operation.

"It's mandated in our Constitution to be done once every 10 years," she said. "It wouldn't take more than 10 minutes to complete and it can be mailed back or dropped off. It's one of the simplest forms we've had in many, many years."

See **CENSUS** on Page 8

Quality of education could be at stake with cuts

Forum participants say \$6.9M deficit could decimate programs that support PUSD's reputation

By EMILY WEST

Community members gathered again Tuesday night to ask questions, express concerns and offer possible solutions regarding the \$6.9-million school budget shortfall.

The meeting was designed to be a casual setting where Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, acted as the moderator. He discouraged the audience from clapping and cheering in support of a particular side, in hopes that those with diverse opinions would feel welcome.

Comprised of Superintendent John Casey, and assistant superintendents Cindy Galbo, Luz Cazares and Bill Faraghan, the cabinet panel went over the current budget situation and also outlined the union negotiation process. School board members Chris Grant, Pat Kernan, Jamie Hintzke and Valerie Arkin were sprinkled throughout the audience of nearly 200 in Amador Valley High School's multipurpose room.

Parents and staff showed concern over the supposed disproportionate cuts to elementary education. In addition to possibly losing class-size reduction in kindergarten through third grade, elementary students may lose reading, science and physical education specialists, meaning the classroom teachers would be responsible for covering those subjects.

The Budget Advisory Committee recently created a revenue enhancement subcommittee, which met Wednesday afternoon to discuss finding alternate sources of funding. Having whittled down a list of possible solutions, they were expected to research a potential grant writing subcommittee and exploring the possibility of a parcel tax.

Last year, the BAC created an elected absence fund as a way to create revenue by asking for donations from parents when a student misses class. Cazares said state funding is paid through attendance and not enrollment, so PUSD lost about \$2.6 million in absences, excused or not, in 2008-09.

See **SCHOOL** on Page 7

McNerney in talks with Afghan president about war effort, corruption

Back home, Congressman seeks combat pay raises for soldiers

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Afghanistan must end its corruption, and U.S. troops need to gain the trust of the people so they will not follow the Taliban out of fear, said U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) in a phone interview with reporters about his trip Dec. 28-29 to the war-torn country.

McNerney said he focused on

corruption issues during a meeting with President Hamid Karzai on the first day.

"He is a warm and gracious person with a good understanding of American culture," said McNerney, noting that Karzai speaks good English. "I focused on the corruption issue, and he would not accept the fact that he is responsible for

some of these problems."

He also met with a task force on major crimes to discuss how to crack down on corruption and how to prosecute. One of the big corruption issues is extortion.

"In Kandahar, there are two syndicates that run the town," McNerney explained. "Every business has to make payments to those syndicates. No wonder people turn from government."

He was encouraged by the condition of Kabul although the air quality was poor and most of the buildings had been damaged by years of conflict.

"But it was very clear to me that the local markets were bustling," said McNerney. "I didn't see any fear or anything like that in the street."

He was also positive about his meeting with Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan.

"He was unassuming and has a good knowledge and understanding of history and America's place in the region and what it's going to take to make our effort work over there," said McNerney. "His biggest mission is to protect citizens from the Taliban. That's critical. We have to show people we can protect them from extremists and the Taliban, and then they will support us in that effort."

"Gen. McChrystal acknowledged that there's a long slog ahead of us," he added. "Nonetheless the fact



CONGRESSMAN MCNERNEY'S OFFICE

Congressman Jerry McNerney speaks to an Army service member on his recent trip to Afghanistan.

that we changed our tactics from seek and destroy have made a big difference."

The poppy fields still are a main source of income, McNerney said, and if the U.S. poisons or bombs them it would only turn the people to the Taliban. To combat the problem, the U.S. is building roads.

"One challenge with the poppy is the bad guys take care of the transportation for the farmers," said McNerney. "We want to put the infrastructure in place for them to take their produce to market."

McNerney was also pleased to see the coordinated efforts by many nations.

"The Canadians, civilian agencies, they were integrated at every level, in the field working with people, delivering electricity to Kandahar for example," he observed. "They have a clear idea of what needs to be done. If we continue to move in that direction, we have a good chance to stabilize."

McNerney traveled with three other Democrat congressmen and four Republicans.

"It was a great opportunity for us to work on bipartisanship," said McNerney, who was the only one from west of the Mississippi. "It was a good chance to get to know the other guys. It was good for that reason alone."

On his trip to a forward operating base, McNerney met a paratrooper who told him that he hadn't had a pay increase in a long time. To this end, McNerney reintroduced the Combat Operations and Medical Benefit Authorization for our Troops (COMBAT) Act.

"I introduced it today to make sure these soldiers over there don't have to worry about their families back home," said McNerney.

He put forward a similar bill last year and surmises it did not succeed because it was late in the session.

"I'm going to push hard on this bill," he said. ■



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BART

Continued from Page 5

ers addressed their comments to BART Director John McPartland and BART Project Manager Malcolm Quint. No one, including several from Livermore who attended the Pleasanton meeting, favored any of BART's routing plans that put tracks in Staples Ranch or across the lakes. Most favored keeping the proposed BART extension in the I-580 median where it



JEB BING

At Jan. 6 hearing, public said it doesn't want BART going through Pleasanton's Staples Ranch.

now is, extending the tracks east to Greenville Road where BART already owns property suitable for a station.

In view of this opposition and the issues outlined in his EIR comment letter, Fialho asked BART to remove all of the proposed alignments affecting Staples Ranch. He had support from Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and Zone

7 board member Chris Moore who told McPartland that they don't want BART trains cutting across the Chain of Lakes.

"Pleasanton remains committed to facilitating the expansion of BART to Livermore, whether such expansion includes stations adjacent to I-580, in downtown Livermore or in other Livermore locations," Fialho said. ■

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Anti-Oak Grove petition certified for action Feb. 16

Council to vote on rescinding its OK or ask voters to make decision

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council Tuesday accepted the official certification of a two-year-old referendum petition asking that it rescind its approval of a 51-home development on the hills above Kottinger Ranch, to be called Oak Grove.

The petition, a result of efforts by former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala and others, was signed by 5,266 registered voters. It asked the council to reverse its decision or to send the issue to voters in a public referendum.

But before the petition was certified by the Alameda County registrar, attorneys for Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic, the Oak Grove developers, successfully sought legal action in the county's Superior Court to block its certification. They argued that many of the signatures had been improperly obtained by volunteers for Ayala's "Save Pleasanton's Hills" citizens' coalition.

Subsequently the state Court of Appeal overruled that decision and late last year the California Supreme Court rejected a bid by the Lins for a rehearing of that appeal.

The dispute is far from being settled. Although the council accepted the certified referendum petition, it must now decide if it wants to reverse its 2007 approval of the project, including the public land grant, or ask voters to make that decision. With Mayor Jennifer Hosterman in Washington this week, the council deferred making that decision until its meeting Feb. 16.

If the council calls for a public

vote, it could place the issue on the ballot during the state primary election on June 9 at a cost to taxpayers of \$97,500 or wait until the General Election Nov. 2, when the costs would be \$79,000.

In other action at its Tuesday meeting, the council selected 19

If the council calls for a public vote, it could place the issue on the ballot during the state primary election on June 9 at a cost to taxpayers of \$97,500 or wait until the General Election Nov. 2, when the costs would be \$79,000.

volunteers to serve on a task force to help shape the needs of 32 acres of high-density residential property in the Hacienda Business Park. By agreement, the task force will include council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Matt Sullivan and an additional member to be chosen by the Pleasanton school district.

Last year, the council rezoned the acreage to allow mixed-use development on three sites located within half a mile of the Pleasanton/Dublin BART station. They include 11 acres at the southeast corner of Owens Drive and Willow Road,

owned by W. P. Carey; 8.2 acres at the north corner of Hacienda and Gibraltar drives, owned by BRE, and 12.4 acres south of Gibraltar Drive and between Hacienda Driver and Willow Road, owned by Roche Molecular Systems.

The land use change allows residential development on the sites with a density of at least 30 units per acre with buildings up to six stories tall. The city's inclusionary zoning ordinance would require that at least 15 percent of the 950 housing units that could be built on the three sites be affordable to low and very-low households.

Over the next 12 months, the task force will meet with homeowners associations and rental groups in Hacienda to hear their complaints and suggestions as part of the study to determine what's needed there and how best to provide it.

No specific projects have been proposed, although they're expected once the rental and condo markets become more active.

The council also delayed until Feb. 16 consideration of a proposal to authorize preliminary cost estimates and site planning for a new 128-to-150-unit senior rental development that would replace the aging Pleasanton Gardens and Kottinger Place senior complexes on Kottinger Drive. ■

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5

Several of the solutions offered had limitations due to education code and employee contracts. For example, a parent volunteer couldn't replace a specialist, but could only assist a credentialed teacher, and other changes to the school schedule and the elimination of non-student work days would need to be negotiated with the unions. The contract negotiations are just beginning, Faraghan said, adding that it appears both sides are well aware of the budget situation and have agreed to look closely at the budget.

Members of a parent group holding budget information meetings at various school sites have created a Facebook group called Support Pleasanton and Its Students, as well as creating a website: <https://psateam.org>. Calling themselves the Pleasanton Schools Achievement Team, or A-Team, and the site said they will be a "nonprofit organization committed to advancing education and to helping to promote and improve educational opportunities for PUSD students."

Answers to the questions from the community forums, as well as resource materials distributed at the meetings such as the list of poten-

tial spending reductions, were to be made available on the district's website, www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us. The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at the district offices, followed by with a budget hearing at 5 p.m. Feb. 2.

Still time for input on new superintendent

The topic of school funding was brought up several times at a public feedback meeting put on by the superintendent search firm. A group of eight met with Phil Quon with Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA) to discuss the strengths and concerns of the school district and what they are looking for in a new superintendent.

HYA is accepting the leadership profile assessments through Jan. 29, which can be found on PUSD's website. The firm will then compile the survey results and develop a profile to be presented to the board Feb. 2 and used in the interview process.

Potential candidates can submit applications through March 5, with primary interviews taking place March 24 and 26 and final interviews on April 14, 16 and 17. Quon said the new superintendent announcement would come in mid- to late-April. ■



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CENSUS

Continued from Page 5

"It means a tremendous amount to the community," Koistinen continued. "This is how federal funding is allocated to every community across the United States. So think of any federally funded program — No Child Left Behind, school lunches, the funding for community roads, improvements, developments — this is all how it is allocated. It's very important for our congressional districts as well. They will redraw the district lines based on population."

While many residents are expected to fill out the form, there are bound to be some people who won't — either because they don't recognize the importance or out of fear. Lia Bolden, a senior partnership specialist with the Census Bureau, said some residents won't want to fill out a form for fear the government will find out they have too many people living in one home.

County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who is the chair of the Alameda County Complete Count Commit-

tee and gave some remarks at the open house, said he used to be one of those people who was afraid to fill out the form because he didn't want his personal information being shared, but he recognizes the importance of it now.

"This is safe," Haggerty said. "People can be counted even if they are recent immigrants. A total of \$2,200 per year is given each year for every person counted. So, if you miss 500 people, that's \$1 million."

Census data is also a driver of business to a local region. Companies often look to demographics to decide where to open a new store, Koistinen said.

Just as important as the financial implications is the social effect.

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti used city parks and programs as an example. It was through Census data that the city realized it needed to provide not just baseball and soccer fields for residents but also courts for cricket, a popular game played in India, he said. Data also showed offering Tai Chi classes would be an interest to Dublin's

growing Asian population.

To carry out the Census count in the local area, 50 workers are currently staffed at the Pleasanton office and Koistinen said 1,200 people will be hired in March to visit homes and collect Census information from those who didn't mail back their form. The form is expected to arrive in mailboxes between March 15 and 17.

The count is expected to create a number of temporary positions. Most of the field assignments, according to Koistinen, pay \$22 per hour and range from 20 to 40 hours a week. Workers will also strive to reach populations who are challenging to count such as the homeless, people living in nursing homes and those incarcerated in prison.

Once the forms are collected, they will be sent to a national processing center and the goal is to present the data to President Obama by Dec. 31, Koistinen said. The data will then be posted on the Census Bureau website for the public to view, as is done currently with the 2000 Census. For information, visit www.census.gov. ■



JANET PELLETIER

Supervisor Scott Haggerty speaks during an open house Wednesday for the Pleasanton Census office.

Media News files for bankruptcy protection

Move has no effect on newspaper operations or employees, publisher says

By JEB BING

The publisher of the Contra Costa Times, Tri-Valley Herald, San Jose Mercury News and 51 other daily newspapers in the Bay Area and other parts of the country, is filing for bankruptcy protection.

The San Francisco Press Club and PR Newswire reported that MediaNews Group Inc., using the name of Affiliates Media, Inc., a holding company that had not been disclosed previously, announced it would seek protection from the federal courts from creditors, including Hearst Corp., owner of the

San Francisco Chronicle.

Under the so-called "prepackaged bankruptcy" filing, according to the reports, the percentage of the company controlled by William Dean Singleton, its chairman and chief executive officer, will double from 10 percent to 20 percent. However, Hearst Corp., owner of the Chronicle, will apparently lose its share in the 54-newspaper chain, along with Singleton's longtime partner, Richard Scudder, 96, of New Jersey.

The Wall Street Journal reported that MediaNews had been teeter-

ing for months and, according to Singleton, had been trying to rework its debt load instead of filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The Journal said that Singleton's ability to retain control over MediaNews "represents a face-saving victory in the company's restructuring."

Singleton said that once the bankruptcy is over, he plans to lead an industrywide consolidation. Asked which newspapers or groups of newspapers might be combined, Mr. Singleton answered: "You can look at the map."

Unlike other media company reorganizations, this one reportedly does not involve the newspaper operations or have any effect on employees or vendors of the newspapers. Only the holding company will restructure.

Singleton said the company has enough cash to fund its operations.

"In our search for a new model that reflects the realities of today's changing newspaper environment, we have come up with a solution

that restores financial strength and flexibility to our balance sheet," Singleton said.

Singleton said the newspaper industry is undergoing a major transformation, exacerbated by the current recession, which is causing falling advertising, a slumping retail market and significant drops in classified advertising. About 80 percent of Media News' revenues are generated by advertising sales, and those sales will likely continue to be affected by the economic downturn, he added.

Singleton said that even as the daily newspaper environment has badly deteriorated over the past three years, MediaNews newspapers have performed better than the industry as a whole.

Circulation of the company's newspapers grew for the September Audit Bureau of Circulations six-month reporting period, while industry circulation dropped 10.6 percent, he said.

"This reorganization does not come without pain," Singleton said. "Current shareholders will be los-

ing the value of their holdings. But we believe that adopting this plan will give us a far better platform from which to develop, grow and participate in the consolidation and re-invention of the newspaper industry."

The owners of dozens of daily newspapers have been pushed into bankruptcy protection as the recession and competition from the Internet have sapped their advertising revenue.

The decline in advertising revenue has been particularly harsh on the dailies, publishers say, because they have been much more dependent than weekly newspapers on classified, automobile, employment and large chain store advertising. Much of that has migrated to online sites or just disappeared because of store mergers, closings and other factors.

Just this week, the Sacramento Bee announced that it will eliminate 25 jobs due to a "prolonged period of revenue declines." The number of newsroom jobs to be cut wasn't released. ■



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Pleasanton Weekly

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Holiday Fund raises \$466,732 for Tri-Valley needy

The Pleasanton Weekly wraps up its 2009 Holiday Fund today with a record-high \$93,346 raised in direct contributions from you, our loyal readers — and matching funds totaling \$373,386 from our partnership with the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative, a collaborative economic recovery initiative sponsored through the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, the Tri-Valley Business Council and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. That means that \$466,732 will be available to provide assistance to some of the poorest families in the Tri-Valley. The funding coalition adding \$4 to every \$1 you contributed, taking advantage of federal stimulus funds designated for temporary assistance to needy families, including a strong employment development component. The funds will be used to identify and evaluate the needs of families hardest hit by the economic downturn and help them directly with housing, job training, medical care and other basic necessities.

In this time of economic crisis, the Pleasanton Weekly and our Holiday Fund contributors were able to take advantage of the opportunity to receive federal funds to assist the largest number of families and individuals in our community. In addition to a wider base of needy recipients, the Weekly's Holiday Fund is also providing grants to Pleasanton and Tri-Valley nonprofit organizations that provide "wrap around" services for families as approved by the Tri-Valley Regional Initiative: Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven. This year, these groups will benefit more than ever by the match of your contributions to help them provide necessary services to families in need.

The 2009 Holiday Fund will be used to help stabilize families in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol living below 200 percent of the federal poverty line in two ways: by helping the wage earners in these families strengthen their job-seeking skills and re-enter the workforce through subsidized employment; and by providing families with emergency assistance that meets critical short-term or one-time needs. With the assistance of Haggerty's office, the Pleasanton Weekly and the Tri-Valley Community Foundation have completed the project design process with Alameda County. Contracts are being drawn to authorize the federal stimulus funding for the project. Robert Half International has joined the project as a major sponsor and expert consultant for the subsidized employment portion of the project. The foundation expects to roll out the project by Feb. 1 under the name "American Family Recovery Project," with dedicated office space adjacent to the Tri-Valley Community Foundation offices.

As part of the Weekly's campaign, the Foundation will be working closely with Alameda County's Social Services Agency to stay current on evolving federal rules for stimulus money funding. According to the latest federal advisory, federal stimulus money will pay for 80 percent of the wages and payroll taxes of wage earners hired through the Foundation's American Family Recovery Project through Sept. 30. Staff of the American Family Recovery Project will also link qualified families to Tri-Valley organizations under contract with Alameda County to provide emergency services. These will include rental and housing assistance, gas and electricity shut-off prevention, emergency food, school supplies and emergency "Season of Sharing" grants. Matched by stimulus dollars, 2009 Holiday Fund donations will also allow project staff to provide vouchers to qualified families for water shut-off prevention, car repairs and emergency clothing.

To qualify for the American Family Recovery Project, job seekers must be parents of a child under 18 (even if they do not live with the child), and their last month's income must meet these earning limits:

Family Size	Maximum Gross Income in the Past Month
2	\$2,428
3	\$3,052
4	\$3,675
5	\$4,298
6	\$4,922
7	\$5,545
8	\$6,168

In addition, residents must be able to show proof of the right to work in the United States. Employers and job seekers interested in learning more about the American Family Recovery Project can contact amfamproject@tvcfoundation.org. After Feb. 1, look for information at amfamproject.tvcfoundation.org. ■

LETTERS

Hard to know what charities are legitimate

Dear Editor,

I am concerned about the people who are purporting to collect money for "charities" in front of so many businesses in the Tri-Valley.

I have watched carefully, and each person seems to have a different "charity" they are collecting for, and every one is different. I have questioned some of them at length, and they are very vague, and although they say they have a tax ID, I have been told the numbers they

give you are not in fact legitimate. One said that the donation goes to "somewhere in Oakland" and they "might" open up in Livermore if they collected enough money. Another said their monies goes to Anaheim.

I just do not believe they are collecting for legitimate charities, and they should be investigated by the authorities. Even if their charities are legitimate, the Tri-Valley area needs the funds locally instead of out of the area.

I volunteer for several legitimate charities in the area, and want to make sure that peoples monies are not going into someone's pocket.

Anne Zadra
Livermore

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.



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POLICE REPORT

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

Jan. 12

Theft

- 6:33 a.m. in the 5000 block of Golden Road
- 11:46 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery

- 1:22 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery
- 2:43 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 4:30 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

Vehicular burglary

- 10:40 a.m. in the 400 block of Adams Way

Jan. 13

Theft

- 9:42 a.m. in the 1600 block of

Ramblewood Way; identity theft

- 1:38 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; forgery, stolen property possession

- 4:38 p.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft

Vehicular burglary

- 7:18 a.m. in the 5200 block of Meadowwood Court

Vandalism

- 6:34 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

- 8:34 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Sutter Gate Avenue

Jan. 14

Theft

- 7:57 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; stolen vehicle
- 9:10 a.m. in the 2600 block of Camino Segura; identity theft
- 3:39 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; petty theft

Burglary

- 8:25 p.m. in the 3300 block of Prairie Drive

Vandalism

- 8:57 a.m. in the 3500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

- 4:20 p.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 6:31 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Washington Mutual Way; DUI

- 9:35 p.m. in the 800 block of Rose Avenue; paraphernalia possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession

Jan. 15

Theft

- 9:07 a.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive; identity theft
- 6:13 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 7:02 p.m. in the 1300 block of

Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

- 10:52 p.m. in the 1700 block of Baywood Court

Vandalism

- 12:44 p.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:45 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 3:43 p.m. in the 2700 block of Lylewood Drive; marijuana possession
- 7:21 p.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and St. Mary Street; DUI
- 8:12 p.m. at the intersection of Gate 12 and Valley Avenue; DUI
- 9:18 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Crestline Road; DUI

Jan. 16

Theft

- 11:48 a.m. in the 8000 block of Horizons Court; stolen vehicle
- 6:33 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PCUP-260, Scott Murphy, Phoenix Flooring Systems**
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a concrete floor contracting business at 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 308, in the Valley Business Park.
- **PCUP-262, Gorman Roofing**
Application to transfer an existing Conditional Use Permit (PCUP-189) for a roof contractor business from Suite 203 to Suite 202 of the building located at 1040 Serpentine Lane, in the Valley Business Park.

Committee on Energy and Environment

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
Operation Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Pleasanton E-Fair Coordination Effort with guest speaker Bill Radulovich
- March Lecture Program and Report from the Outreach Subcommittee
- Purchasing Policy Resolution
- Climate Action Plan Update

Trails Ad-Hoc Committee

Monday, January 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for the Trails Ad-Hoc Committee meeting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

City Hosts Community Workshop on Youth Master Plan Update

Saturday, January 30, 2010
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Pleasanton Library ~ Community Room
400 Old Bernal Avenue

All Pleasanton residents are invited to attend the workshop. Please RSVP early by emailing youthmasterplanupdate@ci.pleasanton.ca.us, or call (925) 931-5002. Attendees will be eligible for prizes and must be present to win. For more information about the Youth Master Plan Update please contact Maria Lara (925) 931-5002 or mlara@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

**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

OBITUARIES

Thomas Lee Pitka

Thomas Lee Pitka died Jan. 6 at home surrounded by his wife Carla and children Candice and Matthew Nydam. He was 58.

Mr. Pitka was born Sept. 1, 1951 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He graduated from Cal Sate Hayward. He was a longtime employee at Amdhal, and currently worked at Cisco where he was an IT project manager. He was an accomplished tennis player and a member of the the USTA.

He is survived by his sister, Lynn Revell; and nephews, Chuck and David Revell. Services were planned to be held Jan. 14 at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Concord. Donations can be made to The Wellness Community in Walnut Creek or Vitas Hospice Care of Newark.

Veronica Lynne Hansen

Veronica Lynne Hansen died Jan. 12 at the age of 39.

Mrs. Hansen was born Dec. 15, 1970 in Salinas, Calif., the daughter of Alex and Rosalinda Herrera. The beloved daughter, sister, wife and mother was courageously fighting cancer.

A native of Pleasanton, she attended Amador Valley High School. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Cal State Hayward. She worked in technology in the Silicon Valley and in Pleasanton.

Mrs. Hansen loved music, art, reading and planning birthday parties for her three boys. She was happiest when she was with family and friends. She was a giver. Her battle with cancer never stopped her from helping others in need.



She was an amazing lady that got so much out of her 39 years. She had a wonderful passion for life.

Mrs. Hansen is survived by her husband, Tim; sons, Jack, Ryan and Andrew; parents, Alex and Rosalinda Herrera; brother, Alex Herrera Jr.; and numerous family and friends.

A service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Saint Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church with a celebration of life following at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Valley-Care Charitable Foundation at 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, CA., 94550.

Dick LeLaurin

Dick LeLaurin died Jan. 14 at the age of 81.

Mr. LeLaurin was born May 17, 1929 in Little Rock, Ark. to Tige and Bernice LeLaurin. When he was young, the family moved to Cleveland and then to San Diego. He attended San Diego High School and graduated with the class of 1948. He attended San Diego State where he met and married Margie Tyson. His first job was a brief stint as a policeman with the San Diego Police Department.

He left the department to form an import company with his father. They traveled to Mexico, bringing in goods to make silver spurs, bits and other horse show equipment. Soon this developed into the largest western mail order catalog business in the United States as well as a western manufacturing business and three western stores in Salinas, Anaheim and El Cajon, Calif. He sold the business in 1963 and went to work at the Bahia and Catamaran Hotels in San Diego bringing conventions to the properties and



managing marketing and sales. In 1966 he joined the fastest growing hotel group in the United States, Royal Inns of America as the senior VP of marketing.

In 1969, he left and moved Margery and his children to Santiago, Chile. Here he partly owned and operated the No. 1 disco in South America. The family lived there through the Allende years and had many adventures traveling in South America.

Mr. LeLaurin returned to the United States in 1975 and started a couple of seafood restaurants. He and his wife Margie were divorced in 1975. In 1979 he found and married (as he said) "his perfect mate," Barbara Murphy. She became ill with ovarian cancer in 1993 so they moved to La Crosse, Wisc. to be near her family, however they traveled all over Western and Eastern Europe, the Southern United States, Mexico and the Caribbean. He also pursued his favorite pastime, cooking.

Barbara passed away in 2002 and Mr. LeLaurin moved to Hilton Head, S.C. for two years. He was often visited by his children and enjoyed traveling with them to Savannah and Charleston. In 2004, he moved to Pleasanton to be near his family. He continued to travel to Europe and to different parts of the United States and pursued his passion of cooking.

He passed with his children and grandchildren around him.

Mr. LeLaurin is survived and loved by his children, Vic LeLaurin of Pleasanton, Louie LeLaurin of Concord, Suzanne West of Hume Lake and Bob LeLaurin of Manteca, as well as Bob Martin of San Diego (who he had informally adopted) and step-daughter Jordan Just. He also leaves 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter and many adventures which his family will all enjoy retelling at the dinner table as they relish the cuisine from hundreds of recipes he created. There will be a private service for the family.



Parent photographers

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



CCOP boys claim St. Nick shootout championship

The CCOP 4A Boys Basketball team defeated teams from three CYO leagues to claim the first annual St. Nick Shootout Championship in Clayton over the holiday break. Pictured here are: (front, L-R) Coach Shawny Williams, Kenyan Branscomb, Tommy Kramer, Anthony Costello, Jimmy Kauffman, Coach Ed Costello; (back L-R) Demetrius Williams, KC Thompkins, Lawrence Liu, Paul Jackson. Not pictured: Mitch Lawrence.



CCOP girls defeat St. Albert's

The CCOP 8A Girls Basketball team showed their championship form in the 24th annual Great Sierra Shootout in Loyalton, Calif. over the weekend. Coming in as the defending 7th grade champion, CCOP defeated St. Albert's of Reno in the first round and Westwood (who were 50-3 over the past three years) to reach the finals. In an exciting back-and-forth game, CCOP edged out St. Theresa of Reno 29-28 to claim the title. Pictured are: (back, L-R) Kyla Peinado, Nish Kale; (middle L-R) Bailey Costello, Olivia Brown, Marianne Fernandez, Emily Oakland; (front) Maddie Lingenfelder. Not pictured: Emily Christensen.

SPORTS DIGEST

BUSC U12 move on to Morgan Hill

BUSC U13 Division III Select team won its flight in the opening round of the CYSA Association Cup two weeks ago and will move on to the next round of play in Morgan Hill. The boys won their first match 2-0, dominating the Sunnyvale Lightning both offensively and defensively. BUSC outshot Lightning with 14 shots on goal to six over the 60-minute match. The first goal was scored at the eighth minute of the 1st half by Lucas Warzyniak with an assist by Matt Teng. The score was the result of a "9 consecutive pass" offensive attack rewarding the boys for their effective ball control and team work. The second goal came 20 minutes later, with the ball deflecting off a number of Ballistic players before finally glancing off Dylan Tuell's head and finding the back of the opponents net.

The second match of the day was with the Folsom Vipers which ended in a 2-2 tie. Folsom came out strong demonstrating an aggressive front line. They jumped out to an early lead by scoring their first goal at the 11th minute of the first half. They scored their second goal with only one minute remaining in the first half, taking a two goal lead into the half. But, the Ballistic boys regrouped and began the second half with a number of offensive attacks driving deep into the Vipers' end of the pitch. Joshua Cole received a pass and was driving toward the opponent's goal when he was fouled in the opponent's goal box, setting up a Penalty Kick at the third minute of the second half. Dylan Tuell lined up for the PK and drilled a low line drive past the Vipers's keeper, into the right corner of the net. BUSC continued to play aggressive soccer, shutting down Folsom's strong offensive attack. Tomas Rozsa and Chris Goldhawk neutralized the Vipers attackers, matching them stride for stride and being credited with several "killed attacks." Folsom outshot BUSC with 17 shots on

goal to only eight for Ballistic. Sammy Hanson did a phenomenal job rejecting their attacks from his keeper position and was credited with 12 saves, many of which were point blank shots. In the 23rd minute, Ballistic tied the score with a perfectly placed shot into the upper left corner of the Vipers net from Brian Kinnee, receiving a pass from Chris Goldhawk on the right side of the pitch. With the "winner of the flight" now being in BUSC's control having only to tie Folsom to win based on "tie breaker" rules, the intensity of the match increased on both sides with the last five minutes of the match played in a desperate frenzy. BUSC held on to shut out Folsom in the last few minutes to maintain the tie (and flight win) and move on to the "round of 32" match next weekend. Every one of the Ballistic players did an outstanding job during both matches to secure the team win. The remainder of the Select team consists of Andrew Griehshammer, Chris Klahr, Drake Hartland, Mason Picone, Pierre Marie, Reed Marques, Roberto Beard and Ryan Vicencio. ■



Boy's gymnastics team sweeps on pommel

West Coast Olympic Gymnastics had a proud day as their boy's team competed at the Golden Bear Gymnastics Invitational in Berkeley recently.

The level 5 boys took first place for the team award. Zion English and Scott Mackanic both took first place all-around for their age divisions (middle and older, respectively), and Dominic Costa and Evan Young placed second and third all-around, respectively, for the "younger" age division. The boys swept the gold medals in all age divisions for pommel. Congratulations go to Zion English, Scott Mackanic and Dominic Costa.

Competing for the first time, the level 4 Boys took the 3rd place team award. While all boys competed very well, three boys placed in top 10 for the older division- Jackson Gabler, Mortiz Tamm and Trygg Fong. Congratulations also go to all level 4 boys Mikal Bronnenberg, Trygg Fong, Jackson Gabler, Ryan Kobayashi, Robbie.

Competing for the first time at level 7 was Jeremy Inchauspe. He received three medals in the following categories: pommel, rings and parallel bars.

The WCOGA boy's team is coached by Vince Miller, Izy Mlay and Joshua Ruby. The academy is home to Christopher Turner, a current member of the USA National Team.

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Pro bowling

Earl Anthony Classic,
which wrapped up
Sunday, brings fame
and dollars to Valley



Earl Anthony

COMES TO TOWN

"It feels great to see this in Dublin," Lupeika said before his first game began. "You see it on TV and now you have a chance to see it live."

Walt Lupeika, Pleasanton accountant who bowled in the Pro-Am



PHOTOS BY JANET PELLETIER

Left: Anthony LaCaze, 27, of Melrose Park, Ill. practices his shots as Stephanie Nation, a pro women's bowler, looks on. The two won their respective matches to claim the men's and women's titles for the Earl Anthony Memorial Classic. Above: ESPN commentators Bob Stone and Andy Peterson practice what they're going to say as they ready for the telecast to go live from Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl on the cable sports channel Sunday. An estimated 1 million people tune in to watch the PBA's Lumber Liquidators Tour every Sunday.

By JANET PELLETIER

Hundreds of bowling bags have been wheeled out of Dublin as the Earl Anthony Memorial Classic Tournament wrapped up its week-long run at the alley that shares its name-sake.

The tournament, part of the Professional Bowlers Association's Lumber Liquidators nationwide tour, welcomed amateurs, rookies and pros.

It was a rookie who made a name for himself, winning the tour title and \$25,000 prize Sunday. Twenty-seven-year-old Anthony LaCaze of Melrose Park, Ill. threw three clutch strikes in the ninth and 10th frames to defeat Michael Machuga for the title by a score of 214-206.

The title game was televised live on ESPN. Bleachers were installed on a carved out portion of the 40-lane alley to seat approximately 300 fans. Special lighting, a scoreboard and newly polished lanes completed the finishing touches. One PBA staffer had the job of warming the crowd up as the games got under way and every time the broadcast went to and came back from commercial break. PBA commentators Bob Stone and Andy Peterson, dressed up in suits, ran through their lines as the audience watched, waiting for the live broadcast to begin. Much like golf, the crowd kept silent when a bowler got into his or her stance and began cheering, some holding up handmade signs, as the ball rolled down the lane.

Also televised as part of the broadcast were the semifinal leading up to the title game and the PBA Women's Series final, where Stephanie Nation topped hometown favorite and Concord native Linda Barnes for the win



Professional bowler Eugene McCune signs a bowling pin for a fan Saturday during the Pro-Am, where the pros play with amateurs.

and the \$10,000 prize earnings.

As LaCaze hoisted the crystal trophy over his head and later kissed it, Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti had a front row seat to watch all of the action. He was seated near Dublin Councilmen Don Biddle and Kevin Hart, Dublin Rotary Club President Jerry Cauchi and Police Chief Casey Nice.

The Earl Anthony Memorial was dedicated to the late bowling champion, who was recognized as the greatest player in PBA history in January 2009 during the PBA's 50th anniversary celebration. Anthony won more than 40 titles and was the first bowler to earn \$1 million.

An estimated 1 million people tune in to watch the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour every Sunday on the

cable sports network, according to PBA spokesman Bill Vint. The organization has more than 4,000 members from 13 different countries.

As the excitement over at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl has expectedly quieted down, owner Ted Hoffman, Jr., a former bowling pro himself, will consider hosting the tournament again next year. Before this month's play, the PBA hadn't been back to Dublin since 1992. It's something he will discuss with proprietor and Anthony's widow, Susie Anthony, who traveled with their son Mike from Washington to watch.

Hoffman co-owned the bowling alley with Anthony, who asked Hoffman to manage operations while he was touring on the bowling circuit.

Earl Anthony purchased the 40-lane bowling center in 1980 and in 1985, asked Hoffman to be his partner. Anthony died in 2001 of a head injury after falling down a flight of stairs in a friend's home.

When the receipts are totaled by a number of local businesses, the competition play was expected to have brought a spotlight and dollars to town — hotel stays, restaurant and bar patrons and gas station purchases.

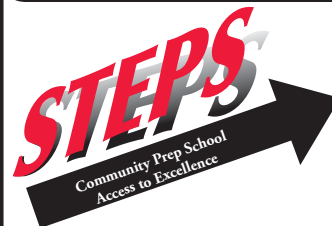
Sbranti, who occasionally bowls recreationally, played in the Pro-Am Saturday, where people pay to play alongside the pros. Sbranti was on a team that included Susie and Mike Anthony.

Also bowling with Sbranti was Walt Lupeika, who owns an accounting firm in Pleasanton.

"It feels great to see this in Dublin," Lupeika said before his first game began. "You see it on TV and now you have a chance to see it live."

Lupeika, like many of the 500 who participated in the Pro-Am, bowls in a league at Dublin Bowl. ■

TUTORING FOR GRADES 6-12



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ON THE TOWN



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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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Auditions

TREASURE ISLAND Auditions are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Appointments are required. Auditioners should be 8 or older and bring completed form and a recent photo and arrive dressed for movement. Call backs are at 10 a.m. Feb. 2. Call 415-865-4425 or visit www.pleasanton-civicsarts.org.

Book Clubs

PLEASANTON LIBRARY BOOK CLUB The Pleasanton Library's Adult Book Club meets from 7 to 8 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month except December at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. If you enjoy reading and talking about books, join our group. For more information visit www.pleasantonlibrarybookclub.wordpress.com. Call 931-3400 ext. 7.

Classes

PRUNING CLASSES Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave., hosts free pruning classes in January: Japanese maple pruning, Jan. 30 and 31. Saturday classes start at 10 a.m. and Sunday classes start at 1 p.m. Call 462-1760 or visit www.westerngardennursery.com.

YOGA BASICS COMMUNITY CLASS Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, teaches Yoga Basics, a yoga class that is open to the public and meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynnwood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Supplies are available for class. Cost is \$12. Call 200-4060.

Clubs

KIWANIS CLUB The Kiwanis Club meets at 11:45 a.m. Fridays at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main

St. For information, call 1-800-Kiwanis.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. They meet for a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. Cost for lunch is \$17. For information, visit www.PleasantonRotary.org.

Events

ART & WINE CRAWL DOWNTOWN LIVERMORE Enjoy local art and wine at galleries, open studios, businesses and tasting rooms from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 29 in downtown Livermore. Pick up a map of participating locations at Ryan Fine Art Gallery, 171 South J St. Art and Wine Crawls will take place on final Friday of odd months.

MEDICAL MISSIONARY SPEAKS ABOUT EXPERIENCES Patti Stowers, Livermore resident and nurse, will tell about her volunteer medical missionary experiences in China. The AAUW sponsored program, is from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Livermore Library, 1188 S. Livermore. Public invited to this free event. Call Mary, 846-5056.

TRUFFLES, TIDBITS AND WINE TASTING Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 4 in downtown Pleasanton. Wineries of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association will be pouring. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the event and only 800 tickets will be available. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasanton-downtown.net.

Exhibits

EAST BAY AREA FIGURATIVE EXHIBITION This exhibit runs from Jan. 29 through Feb. 27 at Ryan

Fine Arts Gallery, 171 So. J St., Livermore. The opening reception will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 29. Visit www.lindaryanfineart.com.

Film

POWER TRIP This film is a humorous, heartbreaking look at the culture clash between American corporate power suppliers and citizens of post-Soviet Georgia, where corruption and chaos rule the day. Meet AND greet starts at 6:30 p.m., with film at 7 p.m. Jan. 23 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. A short discussion follows the film. Refreshments provided. A \$3 donation is suggested.

SANTA BARBARA FEST SEEKING FILMS The Santa Barbara Minute Film Fest, a one minute film festival, is currently seeking entries. The regular deadline is Jan. 30. Visit www.santabarbaraminute.com or www.withoutabox.com. Open to all, the only restriction is time.

Fundraisers

5TH ANNUAL CLAWS FOR PAWS The fifth annual Claws for Paws crab feed, sponsored by Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, is from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Tickets are \$50. Includes all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, Caesar salad, dessert and tea/coffee. A no-host bar available for wine, beer and soft drinks. Call 828-8664 or visit www.tvr.org.

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Pleasanton Weekly **READERS CHOICE** 2009

AAHMES SHRINERS' ANNUAL CRAB FEED The crab feed is Jan. 23 at Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. No-host cocktails at 6 p.m., with all-you-can-eat dinner of crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert at 7. Includes DJ and dancing. Tickets are \$40. No tickets at the door. Call 373-4880 or visit www.shrineeventcenter.com.

E-CYCLE FOR OPEN HEART KITCHEN E-cycle old electronics to benefit Open Heart Kitchen from 9 to 4 p.m. Jan. 30 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Some items are free to recycle, while others are \$5 each. Microwaves are \$15 to recycle. Call 580-6793 or visit http://openheart-kitchen.org.

Kids & Teens

CHINESE DANCE AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY Members of Pleasanton's own Xiaopei Chinese Dance school and musicians will perform at 2 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Presented by internationally recognized dancer and choreographer Xiaopei Gelb. For all ages.

Lectures/ Workshops

MAKE A POEM WORKSHOP This workshop, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., is about being creative and playful with words and will include simple writing exercises and prompts. The session is open to anyone over 18 years of age. Reservations recommended. Cost is \$5 for residents or \$6 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER WORKSHOP ON 'GROWING UP FEMALE' Mothers and their fifth- or sixth-grade daughters are invited to attend an uplifting workshop

about body changes and the realities of being female from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, 3999 Bernal Ave. Led by RN specialist Amy Sluss, this two-hour workshop explores the normal changes that occur in girls ages 9-16, offers tools and tips, and connects girls and adult women together in a powerful and positive way. The cost is \$30. Register in advance by calling Sharon at 846-3531.

POETRY PROSE & ARTS FESTIVAL REGISTRATION Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival early registration is open as of Feb. 1. The festival is April 17 and 18 and features 16 workshops, including two-session mini-courses and individual workshops for adults, youth and teens as well as awards banquet. Call 931-5350 or visit www.pleasantonarts.org.

RESUME & COVER LETTER WRITING Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center, in partnership with the Dublin Library, will present a workshop on writing a resume and cover letter suited to today's tough job market. The free workshop is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 28 in the Dublin Library Program Room, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call 803-7286.

SOUL COLLAGE WORKSHOP Soul Collage is a creative and satisfying collage process. Make a deck of cards, each representing one aspect of a personality trait or soul from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Use the cards for self discovery. Instructor: Sandy Guderyon, a trained Soul Collage Facilitator. Cost is \$5 for residents or \$6 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

THE TRUE STORY OF 'DEFIANCE' Hear the inside story of how the Bielski brothers stood up to the Nazis and saved 1,200 Jews at an evening with Zvi Bielski, son of Partisan hero Zus Bielski. Event is at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Call 846-0700 or visit www.JewishTriValley.com.

Miscellaneous

GEMS, JEWELS AND JEANS The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pleasanton is requesting donations of jewelry and designer jeans for their annual event, "Gems, Jewels and Jeans" on March 12 and 13. Donations are accepted from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 1987A Santa Rita Road. Contact Monda Wiseman at 462-7374 for more information. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education, service and advocacy.

Recreation

NIGHT HIKES WITH THE NAT Join the City Naturalist for a night hike at Laurel Creek Park from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 23. Learn about local wildlife, plants, habitats, tracking

and much more. Dress with weather in mind. Cost is \$8 for residents or \$11 for non-residents. Call Eric Nicholas, 931-3483.

Seniors

DAY TRIPPERS — JELLY BELLY/ ANHEUSER BUSCH Day Trippers will tour the Jelly Belly Plant, have lunch at Mimi's Cafe and then go to the Anheuser Busch Brewery. Group will meet at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 17 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$52 for residents or \$55 for non-residents. Call 931-5372.

MENTAL WELLNESS The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., hosts a series of healthy living and disease prevention workshops. The next meets at 10 a.m. Jan. 29. Seniors will receive information and resources, and learn how to live a happier and healthier life. Cost is \$1.75 for residents or \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Sports

PLEASANTON AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION It is not too late to register for Pleasanton American Little League's 2010 baseball season. We are accepting registration for players 9-12 through Jan. 9 and players 5-8 through Jan. 31. Visit www.pleasantonamerican.com.

Support Groups

TEEN MALES ANGER MANAGEMENT SERIES Group meets from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Mondays from Feb. 1 through April 19 (except Feb. 1 and April 5). Open to young men 13-18 who are enrolled in high school. Designed to help teens address and resolve conflicts. Includes education and group counseling designed to help participants feel in control, handle anger and improve relationships. Interviews required. Fee is \$300 and scholarships are available. Call 201-6213 or visit www.axishealth.org.

Volunteering

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TV30

TRI-VALLEY SPORTS FINAL Join hosts Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr B" Baljevich and guest host Greg Kragen as they provide up to the minute sports reporting on Tri-Valley High Schools. Exciting footage and commentary covering boys and girls basketball and soccer on Channel 30. Visit our web site at www.tri-valleytv.org.



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PHOTOS BY BEN KRANTZ STUDIO

Cinderella (above), played by Lindsay Pearce, is hopeful despite being overworked by (below) the Stepmother (Chris Olson) and the two stepsisters Portia (Morgan Breedveld) and Joy (Jenna Harris).

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presentation of 'Cinderella' opens tonight

The classic rags-to-riches fairytale gets the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre treatment as it opens tonight for a three-weekend run at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The enchanting story by Rodgers and Hammerstein was originally presented on TV in 1957, starring Julie Andrews, and was the most widely viewed program in TV's history. Other small screen adaptations include the 1965 show starring Lesley Ann Warren and another remake in 1997 starring singers Brandy and Whitney Houston.

On stage, the Tri-Valley Rep will present the story with warmth and a touch of comedy in a performance that is suited for children and adults alike. The cast features Lindsay Pearce as Cinderella, Alex Orenberg as Prince Charming, Chris Olson as Stepmother, Morgan Breedveld as Stepsister Portia, Jenna Harris as Stepsister Joy, James Devreaux as Lionel, Christopher Zumaran as King, Jennifer Bell-Olson as Queen, Suzanne Henry as Fairy Godmother, and Ron Houk as Herald.

The ensemble cast includes Ryan Cairel, Sabrina Chaco, Hannah Conner, Linda Davis, Max DeSantis, Elizabeth Dimits, Jennifer Greene, Samantha Guittard, Melissa Heinrich, Meghan Hornbacker, Lauren Ho-Tsung, Ryker Johnson, Rebecca LaFleur, Steve McMoyler, Noah McMoyler, Stephanie Morris, Jordan Orlando, Emily Persson, Danielle Pierce, Nick Quintell, Wesley Rou, Jim Snell, Sara Stoebe, Braden Sweeney, Imani Wilson, and Mindy Zuckerman.

Shows are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays for a total of nine performances starting Jan. 22 through Feb. 7. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$33 for seniors over 60, and \$25 for juniors (under 18). The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St. in Livermore and will add \$1.50 to the price of each ticket. Purchase them at www.livermoreperformingarts.org, by calling 373-6800 or at the box office.

To learn more about Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, call 462-2121 or visit www.trivalleyrep.com.

—Emily West



Prepare for magic from Fairy Godmother (Suzanne Henry) and Cinderella as the beloved tale unfolds at the Bankhead Theater.

NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

By PETER CANAVESE

The Lovely Bones

★★★

Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material
2 hours, 15 minutes

Hobbits and wizards and orcs, no problem. But when Oscar-winning "The Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson turned his attention to the story of a 14-year-old girl, he lost his way. Alice Sebold's bestseller "The Lovely Bones" held good potential for a screen treatment, but Jackson squanders it on a schizoid film that largely misses the point of the novel.

To be fair, it seemed like a good idea at the time. Jackson first earned respect with 1994's "Heavenly Creatures," a true-crime story about teen girls that incorporated fantasy elements, brought to life with tasteful special effects. Jackson clearly intended for lightning to strike twice with "The Lovely Bones," which takes place partly in the afterlife of Susie Salmon, teen victim of a rape-murder (wisely kept off-screen). Sebold's story — adapted by Jackson and regular collaborators Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens — finds Susie exploring her "In-Between" purgatory.

Sadly, the filmmakers fail to strike a proper balance of the two parallel storylines and the novel's many characters. It's a mark of Jackson's lack of restraint as

a filmmaker that the mystery-thriller elements and fantastic visualizations overtake the domestic drama that is the novel's true *raison d'être*.

Jackson deserves some credit for a number of creative visualizations, but doesn't know when to let well enough alone.

Meanwhile, Jackson fails to engage us in the hurt of the Salmons, to whom at least half of the story should belong. Sebold's novel patiently examined the short- and long-term effects of trauma on the family, a la Elizabeth Kubler-Ross' "stages of grief" model. Jackson contains himself mostly to the obsession of Susie's father Jack (a miscast Mark Wahlberg), who believes he can and must solve his daughter's murder. Short shrift is given to Lindsey — whose love life poignantly echoes Susie's missed opportunities — and her mother, Abigail (Rachel Weisz), rendered inconsequential and incoherent by the excision of an adultery plotline.

The problem is right there in the title. While the film dutifully repeats Susie's explanation of "the lovely bones that had grown around my absence: the connections — sometimes tenuous, sometimes made at great cost, but often magnificent," Jackson neglects to dramatize this connective tissue — of family ties, new loves and tentative friendships — that should hold the story's heart in place. ■

READY TO RENT

REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

By JOE RAMIREZ

The Invention of LyingWarner DVD & Blu-Ray
1 hour, 39 minutes

Directors: Ricky Gervais and Matthew Robison



Director's Ricky Gervais and Matthew Robison's "The Invention of Lying" is a one note prime-time concept that almost works cinematically because of the grandiosity of Gervais' well honed innocent jerk persona and some light, unexpected philosophical postulations along the way. It's a high concept comedy that would have been revelatory twenty years ago when high concept movie comedies (see Albert Brook's "Defending Your Life") were in vogue (until cable television successfully adopted their elements and enabled the public to expand their tastes, only to later evolve into the unvarying plastic freedoms of prime-time network TV now offers). It's a Sunday afternoon movie, which demands little time and even less mental commitment if you decide to park your brain before the long week; however, if you allow yourself to dig deeper, there is a complex network of modern insecurities buried beneath its plain exterior.

Ricky Gervais is an unlikely candidate for movies. He is perfect physically, with his stout, doughboy physique and assured whine, with his David Brent on the British "Office" a legendary caricature of controlled, manic corporate management that leaves you alternately holding your breath, due to the level of social inanities that Brent racks up, and gasping for air when the situation goes on for a little too long. Here is where Gervais excels, navigating within the maze of foibles in which you watch the subtleties he radiates out to the audience of alternating panic and indignation. He externalizes the sweet center of the rotten candy so well you almost forgive him; but not, absolutely, because, as the cliché goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions and Gervais has the knack of playing characters who seem to enjoy their own torments, if only out of habit.

"The Invention of Lying," however, shows Gervais in a different type of hell. The movie portrays an alternate universe where lies are biological impossibility (which also happens to be, if you haven't guessed it, the ultimate oxymoron for Gervais' repertoire). This is a place where eugenics are the ultimate deciding factor for a date, getting drunk is a traumatic experience, and the workplace seems a little extra mean because all social padding is jettisoned. Unfortunately for Mark Bellison (Gervais), this also happens to be hellish because he looks like Ricky Gervais, and everyone cannot help to point out his shortcomings. In a lucky act of spontaneous evolution, however, Bellison discovers that he can deviate from the truth, and it has some alternately wonderful and dreadful consequences.

These consequences are what make "The Invention of Lying" so engaging. The movie itself has the look of a bland sitcom, courtesy of cinematographer Tim Suhrstedt, which is right for a world where imagination is limited. It is in the unexpected details, however, that we find Gervais and Robison's enthusiasms (my favorite bit involves the presentation movies, which consists of a filmed, lone soliloquist narrating to the audience a certain period of history). Nonetheless, it is a big, theological turn that gives "The Invention of Lying" its bite and it works because it grows out of the extension of logic that the movie presents, either leaving you engaged or unmoved, depending on your high-concept discriminations. ■

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 Randall Davidson DRE#01799450 • Elizabeth Davidson DRE#01861633

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GATED HILLTOP ESTATE



2801 GRAY FOX COURT PLEASANTON
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

GORGEOUS CUSTOM ESTATE



833 PIEMONTE DRIVE PLEASANTON
Dramatic street presence! Huge gourmet kit, sauna, exercise rm, library, 4 fireplaces, 5-car garage. Incomparable 0.70 acres, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen & more.
Diane Gilfether 925.648.5443

PRESERVE COMMUNITY



9663 CROSBY DRIVE PLEASANTON
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

GOLDEN EAGLE



1515 HONEYSUCKLE CT PLEASANTON
Prestigious Golden Eagle Estates home! Beautifully appointed w/ 4 bd, 5 full ba, plus Library, Retreat & Bonus Room, 4892+/- sq.ft. w/ pool & spa on over an acre.
Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416

INCREDIBLE VIEWS



860 CASTLEWOOD PL PLEASANTON
Beautiful custom home built in 1996 by Sterling Builders. Located above the 18th green and 10th fairway of the Hill Course. 4 bed 3 bath, 4,300 sq. ft., approx 0.50 acres.
Bryan Craft 925.855.4141

VINTAGE HILLS CUSTOM



850 CONCORD STREET PLEASANTON
Entertain pool-side in park-like yard. Granite kitchen, newer windows throughout and remodeled marble master bath. Detached garage with lots of parking.
Michael Bowers 925.583.2196

VINTAGE HILLS



774 SYLVANER DR PLEASANTON
Huge family room with vaulted ceiling, kit cabinets/counters updated, French doors, 2 fireplaces, enormous yard, separate living & dining rooms. Possible side yard access.
Diane Sass 925.583.2168

GORGEOUS TOWNHOME



3877 VINE ST PLEASANTON
Completely remodeled with all the goodies, grant, tile, hardwood floor and much more. 2 bed 2.5 bath, 1200+/- sq.ft., built in 1985.
Mary Nawabi-Parwizwi 925.219.5144

MEDITERRANEAN ESTATE



MORGAN TERRITORY RD LIVERMORE
Two beautiful custom Estates on a 92 acres. Main house is a 4 bd, 3.5 ba, approx. 9378 sqft, 12 car garage. 2nd house is a 3 bdrm, 4 bath, approx. 3000sqft.
Taso Tsakos 925.648.4199

CHARDONNAY GRAPES



655 EAST VINEYARD AVENUE LIVERMORE
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

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS



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

THIS HOME HAS IT ALL!



1257 GONZAGA CT LIVERMORE
Updated kitchen cabinets, recessed lighting, crown molding, new roof, dual pane windows, 6 panel doors, mirrored closet doors, hardwood floors & tile.
Vickie & Bill Keller 925.200.6764

WEST DUBLIN HILLS, VIEWS!



10942 INSPIRATION CIRCLE DUBLIN
The Ridge at Hansen Hills in the West Dublin Foothills. 3430 Sq. Ft of living area, 8460 sq. ft. lot, 4 Bed, 4 Baths, Pool and Spa, Large Master Suite with Retreat. Views!
Susetta Clark-Walker 925.251.2547

SHARP REMODEL



7025 NEWPORT CT DUBLIN
Sharp remodel, new maple cabinets, slab granite counters, updated kitchen. All new bath fixtures. New hardwood floor in kit, fmly rm, entry. New paint inside & out.
Margaret Howard 925.456.5078

OPEN HOUSE SUN 1-3P.M.



34442 PALOMARES ROAD CASTRO VALLEY
Great Living in Palomares Canyon, 1300 sq.ft. great freshly painted and new carpet thru-out home, move-in condition. There is a great basement room. 4.5 acres.
Kristy & Company 925.251.2536

OPEN HOUSE SUN 1-3P.M.



35650 PALOMARES ROAD CASTRO VALLEY
Nicely updated 3 BD 2 BA w/ lots of Charm. Redwood Siding, French Patio Doors, Velux Skylights, 3 Car Garage, Near wineries, Over 3.59 Acres & so much more!
Kristy & Company 925.251.2536

Blackhawk

4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Blackhawk West

3880 Blackhawk Road
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 St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

Orinda

89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

Pleasanton

5075 Hopyard Rd. Ste 110
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925.251.2500

Walnut Creek

1700 N. Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.280.8500

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Home buyers win big with federal tax credit extension

Isn't it nice to get some good news? Well, we have excellent news from CAR (the California Association of Realtors). As it now stands, the federal tax credit will be extended through April 30, 2010. First-time home buyers will continue to be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$8,000, while existing homeowners will be eligible for a reduced credit of up to \$6,500.

DON'T WASTE THIS OPPORTUNITY! CALL US!



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Brian Cullen Natalie Kruger Thomas Lee Ingrid Wetmore
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4105 Parma Court ❖ Pleasanton



Style throughout

7,000 sq. ft., 7 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 6.5 car garage, movie theatre to die for and a 1,600 bottle wine cellar... This spectacular custom estate is located on a 26,000 sq. ft. corner lot with terrific curb appeal and has it all. The residence was completed in early 2006.



Uwe Maercz

www.apr.com/uwe
www.HomesatRubyHill.com

DRE LIC# 01390383
Cell: 925.360.8758
E-Fax: 925.215.2278
uwe@apr.com



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DUBLIN
Open **SUN 1 - 4**
BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY 3676 RIMINI LANE
\$580,000
3 BR 2 full BA + 2 half Apx 2380 sf, upgraded w/drk chrywd cabs, granite ktch ctrtps, hrdwd flrs, frplc, 3 car garage 925.847.2200



DUBLIN
7339 AMANDA ST
FANTASTIC SINGLE STORY! **\$499,000**
3 BR 2 BA updated thruout, newer roof, kitchen w/ newer cabinets, granite tile, hard wood floors, must see 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
1526 ROSELLI DR
BEAUTIFUL HOME! **\$485,000**
4 BR 2 BA + study, tile/hrdwd flrs, frplc, newer heat/air, dual pane windows, kit w/maple cabs/granite 925.847.2200



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

DUBLIN

11373 RAMPART DRIVE
DESIRABLE WEST SIDE **\$699,900**
4 BR 3 BA Apx. 2262 sf on almost 14000 sf lot Beautiful & remodeled/upgraded, lrg/priv bckryd 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

1638 PRIMA DRIVE
ONE STORY ELEGANCE **\$849,900**
4 BR 3 BA + library, beautifully appointed home w/gourmet kit, spac mast w/retreat, 4 car tamdem garage 925.847.2200
1715 SUTTER STREET
LIGHT, BRIGHT SINGLE STORY **\$428,000**
3 BR 2 BA Great home with upgraded carpet, decorator paint, large gourmet kitchen and 2 car garage 925.847.2200

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

21 CASTLEDOWN ROAD
MUST SEE INSIDE! **\$1,090,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA Castlewood! Beautiful open & spacious home! View of MT. Diablo! Gorgeous kit! Must See Inside 925.847.2200

1624 CINDY WAY
BEAUTIFUL HOME! **\$1,199,000**
4 BR 3.5 BA gourmet eat-in kit w/cherry wd cabs, slab granite, SS appli, cntr island w/sink, 3 car garage 925.847.2200

2924 AMOROSO COURT
HANDSOME & CONTEMPORARY **\$1,100,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA 1 stry on cul-de-sac w/views, hrdwd flrs, priv yrd w/pl, patio overhang/new rf Sept 2009 925.847.2200

2927 LETHBRIDGE COURT
FABULOUS IN PLEASANTON! **\$719,900**
4 BR 2.5 BA Apx. 2165 sf, w/huge private bckryd, lot apx 7150 sf, lrg deck! Great school district, gr8 loc 925.847.2200

4117 CRISFIELD LN
DESIRABLE COURT LOCATION **\$675,000**
3 BR 2 BA w/pl/spa, open floor plan + office/den

area, kitchen w/tile, backsplash, island, breakfast bar 925.847.2200

3655 VINEYARD AVE
VINTAGE CHARMER **\$499,900**
2 BR 2 BA hrdwd flrs in living, hall & both beds, dual pane windows, mastr w/walk-in, deck/covered patio 925.847.2200

WALNUT CREEK

1470 CREEKSIDE DR, UNIT 26
GREAT LOCATION IN COMPLEX **\$259,900**
2 BR 1.5 BA backs to open area/pool, granite counter tops, living w/laminate floors, large bedrooms 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!"



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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THE PRESERVE



6229 DETJEN COURT, PLEASANTON

Wow! Beautiful and priced to sell. This upgraded home in the desirable Preserve community on a private .68 acre (29,506 square foot) estate lot. This beautifully landscaped property backs to open space. Enjoy the views of the surrounding open land and the quiet court location. Four bedrooms, bonus room, private office, 4.5 baths, approximate total square footage 4,689. Fully integrated home sound system with individual multi-source, multi-zone audio selection key pads. Furniture negotiable.
OFFERED AT \$1,495,000

VENTANA HILLS

OPEN SUN 1-4



925 SHERMAN WAY, PLEASANTON

Don't miss this Gibson model in desirable Ventana Hills. Five bedrooms, 5th is bonus, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,179 square feet. Lot size is 9452 (.21 acre lot), with large side yards. Located on quiet street. Private rear yard backs to single level home. New carpet throughout. New exterior paint. Three fireplaces. Walk to great neighborhood park and Main Street Downtown Pleasanton!
OFFERED AT \$1,095,000

BRIDLE CREEK

COMING SOON



PLEASANTON

Highly upgraded Hillstar Model on premium .35 acre lot. Expansive views of Pleasanton Ridge. Faces open space. Highly upgraded with beautiful front and rear grounds. Includes in-ground pool and spa. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2002. Five bedrooms, plus guest suite and bonus room, 4.5 bathrooms. Approximately 4,455 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Crown molding, plantation shutters, and custom built-ins. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **PRICE TO FOLLOW**

GREY EAGLE ESTATES

SOLD



4 EAGLET COURT, PLEASANTON

Experience breathtaking panoramic views from this secluded hilltop home, located in the gated community of Grey Eagle Estates. This beautiful private estate (1.36 acre lot), features 5,460 square feet of living space with five bedrooms, AuPair/Guest Room (4th) and four and a half baths. Large downstairs bonus room and private office (5th). The remodeled gourmet kitchen and master bath. Extensive basement storage area and separate wine cellar. Marble and hardwood flooring. Separate pool house with pool/spa/waterfall/kitchen/bathroom. Tile roof. Four car garage. Don't miss this one!
SOLD FOR \$1,975,000

BRIDLE CREEK

SOLD



827 SUNNY BROOK WAY, PLEASANTON

Single level in Bridle Creek on .26 acre premium view lot. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2001. Beautiful views of Pleasanton Ridge. Private rear yard with built in pool and spa. Beautifully landscaped. Five bedrooms, four bathrooms. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park.
SOLD FOR \$1,255,000

HACIENDA MOBILE HOME PARK



3231 VINEYARD AVENUE #29, PLEASANTON

Newer mobile home built in 2004. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approximately 1,300 square feet. Central heat and air, cathedral ceilings, separate dining room, dual glazed low E windows. Front porch, custom shed, covered driveway, extended 7/10 year warranty. Best priced newer mobile home available in Pleasanton.
OFFERED AT \$145,000

CARLTON PLACE

SOLD



1312 CARLTON PLACE, LIVERMORE

Beautiful upgraded Livermore home located on premium .41 acre lot. Views of Mt. Diablo. Beautifully landscaped grounds, private rear yard with built in pool and spa. Four bedrooms, bonus area, private office, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,680 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Bamboo wood floors and 20" custom tile flooring. Three car garage. Concrete tile roof. Minutes from Livermore Valley wineries.
SOLD FOR \$825,000

SAN LEANDRO

SOLD



1307 WAYNE, PLEASANTON

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*.
*May not meet the technical size requirement for a two car garage.
SOLD FOR \$430,000

VENTANA HILLS

SOLD



1141 LUND RANCH ROAD, PLEASANTON

Don't miss this beautiful Gibson model in desirable Ventana Hills. Premium (.34 acre) lot backs to open space. Five bedrooms, fifth bedroom can be bonus, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,179 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite. Custom travertine tile flooring, new carpet throughout. Beautiful professionally landscaped grounds with Heritage Oak tree. In-ground pool and spa. Walk to neighborhood park and downtown!
SOLD FOR \$1,240,000



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

MARTA RIEDY BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$3,995,000
Magnificent Ruby Hill Italian Villa! Exquisite estate with 6 bedrooms 6.5 baths, 9,100 sq. ft. Over 1/2 acre level lot. Must see to appreciate.

ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,699,999
Beautiful 5bd/4.5ba custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. Updated kitchen, granite counters, new appliances, panoramic views, large backyard, swimming pool, outdoor BBQ & more!

MARY JANE DEERING OPEN SAT 1-4



HAYWARD \$1,690,000
Gated private one acre lot with views of SF Bay, bridges! Prestigious Greenbrier 5500+/- sqft remodeled single story 4 bd main house + 1 bd, 1 ba guest house. Pool, gazebo, 4 car garage. 4023 Oak Manor Ct

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,495,000
Views of surrounding open land, quiet court location, situate on .68+/- acre private estate lot. This 4689+/-sf, 4bd + bonus, 4.5 bath, upgraded home with beautiful landscaping has it all!

SALLY MARTIN BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,299,000
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!

DANIEL ALPHER BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$1,199,900
Inviting custom home in South Livermore nestled in a court on over 1/2+/-sf acre lot. Featuring 5bd/4.5ba, 4787+/-sf of living space. Backyard paradise with pool/outdoor kitchen, sideyard access/garden.

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,095,000
Gibson Model, 5bd (5th is bonus)3ba, 3179+/-sf, .21+/- acre lot, large side yards, new carpet, paint, 3 FP's. Walk to great park & downtown Main St.

DAN GAMACHE, JR. OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$979,950
Beautiful Charter Oaks Home in the Heart of Pleasanton! 4bd/3ba, 2541+/-sf, open floor plan, large loft, fiberglass pool, a must see! 1541 Maple Leaf Drive

MARTA RIEDY BY APPT



FREMONT \$969,000
Immaculate home in Mission San Jose! Gorgeous remodeled kitchen, fresh paint, light and bright home ready for occupancy. Sparking pool with solar unit.

MARK KOTCH BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$790,000
Beautiful 2 story 5bd/2.5ba home in Pleasanton. 2219+/-sf, new kitchen with quartz counters, updated pool salt water filtration, and spa on a 6800+/-sf lot. Regular sale!

JOYCE JONES BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$729,000
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 & SO much more!

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$729,000
3BR/3B, home with 1828 SF, nestled near the downtown area & offering views of hills. Natural Cherry cabinets, granite counters, eat in kitchen & Natural Cherry floors, updated bath. 4371 Entrada Drive

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



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.

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$479,950
Beautiful 4bd/2.5ba home in a court location. Features include tile flooring in kitchen/bath, maple cabinets, new carpets, two-tone paint, laundry room upstairs, plus central heat and air.

SUE MCKINLEY BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$446,500
2 Mstr Br Suites+/- 1557 sq. ft; Attached 2-car garage "Model Home Perfect! Gourmet kitchen w/granite. Formal LR and DR, fresh paint, new carpets, large yard w/patio/garden.

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



DUBLIN \$400,000
Fantastic 3/2 in Echo Park. Many updates including newer paint, water heater, insulation, d/p windows, furnace, oven, and carpet. Hurry! 6808 Eden St