

Pleasanton Weekly

In agreement: School district, teachers' union develop a contract that would alleviate budget situation **PAGE 5**

Young voices: Cantabella Children's Chorus to put on summer opera along with annual concerts **PAGE 10**

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*Welcome
to the
Year of the Tiger*

Chinese New Year offers a local organization the chance to share its culture **PAGE 12**





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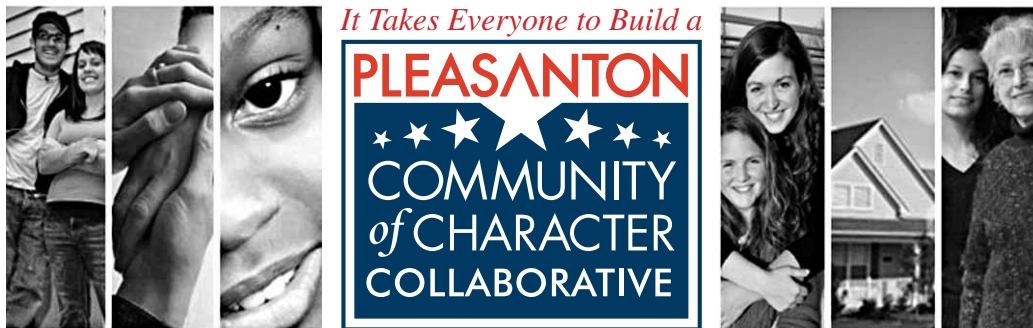
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Do you know someone who deserves a nomination?



Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award announced

April 1 deadline for submissions; winners to be named May 6

The Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award was established in 2008 to recognize Pleasanton residents chosen by their peers who consistently model high ethical and moral standards of behavior advocated by the Collaborative: Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity. **Go to www.communityofcharacter.org.**

This year's Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award recipients will be announced May 6, 2010 at the Community of Character Collaborative Luncheon Celebration at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton. Cost per person is \$35 (this includes a \$5 donation to the Community of Character Juanita Haugen Civic Engagement Scholarship Fund).

Past award recipients are:

Lori Rice (2008), Diana and Howard Mendenhall (2008), Jerri Pantages-Long (2009), Sue Evans (2009) and Ken Mano (2009).

Nomination forms and information available at www.communityofcharacter.org

About the Community of Character

For information about our organization or on becoming an Organization of Character visit www.communityofcharacter.org or contact us at P.O. Box 516 Pleasanton, CA 94566.

AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Teenagers shine at Youth & Government Day

When my 14-year-old grandson Jordan Nally asked me to join him on a YMCA trip to Sacramento, I envisioned rafting down the Sacramento River followed by a campfire supper and a sing-along. Was I surprised. This was a statewide Youth & Government program that involved most of the YMCA organizations in California, including 28 high school students and three advisors from the Tri-Valley YMCA. As I walked to the Capitol and hotel meeting rooms, I found myself among 2,500 smartly dressed teenagers on their best behavior, each carrying thick binders with a 46-page "Model Legislature & Court" program schedule. The boys wore suits and ties, and since this was a five-day conference, they had to know how to tie their own ties each morning, which was a first-time challenge for some. The girls were also dressed professionally. For everyone in this freshman-to-senior age group, the dress code for this convention was far different from the high school campuses they represented.

The trip, under the direction of Kelly O'Lague Dulka, executive director of the Tri-Valley Y, and Jeff Atwood and Tim Stier, program director and associate program director, respectively, culminated the model legislature and court program year for the Y. Its delegation along with the others participated using the actual chambers of the State Supreme Court, Assembly and Senate to study and conduct mock state government work while producing a daily newspaper to cover all the developments. The Tri-Valley Y had been preparing for six months for this conference by attending weekly meetings and also by holding two preparatory conferences in central California. The freshman division of Youth & Government is called Forum and several of the local Y's ninth graders distinguished themselves. In a rigorous political campaign, I'm proud to say that my grandson Jordan was elected Speaker of the Assembly, which made me glad I was on scene to cheer. Other local leaders who were also elected to key posts were Grant Bonham, chosen at Senate Clerk; Vidya Awasty, Assembly Clerk; Madison Brinnon, Senator of the Year; Morgan Ingram, runner-up Senator of the Year; Dena Benham, Editor-in-Chief of the Forum Press; and Edward Wang, Editor of the Forum Press. Albi Solana came home with the Y's Political Action Committee

(PAC) Team Award for his leadership and initiative as a lobbyist.

At the weekly delegation meetings preceding this conference, each delegation was required to write at least one bill to take to Sacramento for the Senate and Assembly to debate. Annie Dulka (Kelly's daughter), the Tri-Valley's bill sponsor, wrote and debated a bill that seeks to amend the elections code to allow a person that is defined as homeless to use a homeless shelter as their place of residency for the purpose of voting. Her bill quickly moved through the Assembly and went on to the Senate.

Mind you, this was serious business. Besides the program, the California YMCA model legislature printed a thick booklet each day of the convention that listed 284 different bills that were written by individual Y organizations. Assembly Bill 120, for example, written by the Wilmington branch of the YMCA of metropolitan Los Angeles, sought to amend regulations for provisional driver's licenses. The Santa Anita Family YMCA proposed AB 153 to require all pupils to complete 60 hours of community service in order to graduate from high school. Dulka's bill was AB 162, followed by AB 163 introduced by a San Diego Y that would require all DMV offices to stay open on Saturdays. Obviously, the students didn't take the state's budget deficit into consideration, a problem that has caused the governor to close DMVs on some Fridays each year.

I sat in a Jury Trial Training session where the Y youths were learning the difficulties of jury selection. Taking turns serving as prosecuting attorney or defense attorney, or as one of a number of prospective jurors, they were guided in their questioning by a volunteer Sacramento lawyer as they tried to seat a jury in a case involving harassment. In my experience as a juror or prospective juror on numerous occasions, my own view was that at least six of those finally chosen would have been rejected in a real courtroom, but the training session was a good one.

I was honored to be part of the "V.I.P." luncheon, along with six faculty members from the Pleasanton school district, including Amador Valley High's golf coach and Leadership teacher Clark Fuller and Adult Education principal Glen Sparks. Held in the grand ballroom of the Hyatt Regency, the room was packed with YMCA supporters, legislators and sponsors. I sat with the Palo Alto delegation, which operates half a dozen Y's on the Peninsula. Familiar with those Y's and their swimming pools and large workout rooms, I couldn't help but ask the Tri-Valley Y's Dulka why we don't have a big YMCA facility here. I quickly found my name added to her donors' list of those willing to help build one. ■

About the Cover

Chinese tradition celebrates this as the Year of the Tiger, Year 4708. Unlike the Western celebration of a new year, which typically lasts one night, the Chinese celebrate the Lunar New Year over 15 days. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XI, Number 7

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Streetwise

ASKED AT THE FARMER'S MARKET

What keeps you coming back to the Farmer's Market?



Robby and Dara Perkins-Arrango
Students

Dara: I like to smell the flowers and pick out a bouquet for our mom every week.

Robby: I like the dogs because the dogs are cute.

Hyuk Choi
Engineer

We're not too far away from here. We get fresh local produce. It's fun and there are lots of people. That's why we come.



Maria Doolittle
Retired

I'm from Maine, but this isn't my first time here. It's interesting because at home it's winter. The produce is wonderful.



Anthony Agpaoa
Student

This is my first time here. I've been to other farmer's markets, and they are always a good place to get fresh food, something organic, or if you just have leisure time. Family brings me into town today, so we stopped by.



Preeti Chelvaraj
Homemaker

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—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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Community Calendar at
**Pleasanton
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Have a Streetwise question? E-mail editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Get ready to give

Youth from all over the Tri-Valley and beyond will be collecting food for the needy from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 6. Participants can place bags with donations in a visible location outside of their home by 9 a.m. About 1,200 youth volunteers will go to more than 32,000 homes Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol, San Ramon, Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek, Concord, Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette and Pleasanton Hill. To participate, pick up a bag at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, at 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz, off of Valley Avenue; or at Valley Bible Church, at 7106 Johnson Drive. For details, call David Bahr at 998-6513 or visit www.youthservicecouncil.com.

Free jazz on Sunday

Get ready to groove as the Pleasanton Public Library, at 400 Old Bernal Ave., hosts Round Midnight at 2 p.m. Sunday. The group will play some well-known jazz tunes as well as blues and bossa nova. Open to the public, the free event will be held in the library's meeting room. For more information, call Penny Johnson at 931-3405.

Help, crafters needed

The Peddler Shoppe, located in the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., is looking for volunteers to help sell crafts. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays and the second Saturday of the month. Also needed are senior crafters, age 50 or older, who live in Pleasanton, Sunol, Dublin or Livermore to sell handmade creations. Items should be brought to the shop between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month for review by the committee. To learn more about the Peddler Shoppe, call JoAnn Duncan at 640-1546.

Rose Hotel launches flag program

The Rose Hotel, located at 807 Main St., is starting a new program March 1 called "United Nations — Wave Your Flag." The goal is to celebrate the diverse heritages of hotel guests by honoring a different nationality each month through United Nations Day in October. Ireland will be the first flag to be raised, followed by Canada in April and Japan in May. To learn more about the program, visit www.rosehotel.net.

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

PUSD board accepts teachers' union contract

Class-size reduction, counselors and specialists appear to be spared with teacher, management concessions

By EMILY WEST

While the school board approved a contract with the teachers' union Tuesday night, one that would save the district nearly \$4.6 million, the decision was not without controversy.

In an effort to be transparent about the budget issues and negotiations with the unions, the district had promised to provide the public with ample time to review the details of the tentative agreement prior to the board's vote. The agreement, however, was reached Friday evening, shortly after an Amador Valley High School student had been killed in an apparent suicide. It was dealing with this situation that Superintendent John Casey said delayed the management team in getting the details posted online.

School board members agreed

that a mistake was made, but that they were grateful to have concessions made by teachers and wanted to move the process along quickly.

In the agreement with the Association of Pleasanton Teachers union, teachers agreed to take three unpaid furlough days in the current school year — scheduled for April 1, May 28 and June 1 — and five unpaid furlough days in 2010-11. The contract will last for three years, with a one-year memorandum of understanding for changes in the current contract.

Bill Faraghan, assistant superintendent of human resources, said that contracts can be reopened each year to discuss salaries. Both parties can also request to open contract discussions throughout the three-year period, he added.

The eight furlough days resulted in a nearly \$1.9-million savings to

the district. Other portions of the agreement include increasing staffing ratios at the middle and high schools, from 26:1 to 27:1 and 27:1 to 28:1, respectively, at a savings of \$864,000; the suspension of the seven-period day at high school (\$448,000); suspension of voluntary staff development hours (\$380,000); and suspension of the teacher support and training advisory committee (\$15,000).

In a statement from APT president Trevor Knaggs, he said an "overwhelming majority" of the members were in favor of the agreement.

"Pleasanton teachers recognize that their district is facing a severe fiscal crisis and have shown by this vote that they are prepared to be part of the solution," he said. "They have agreed to a pay cut and other concessions. Our hope is that the

community will also recognize the need for further efforts to preserve the standard of education provided in the Pleasanton Unified School District."

With the concessions, many programs mentioned during public comment portions of recent meetings were able to be spared. These programs include: maintaining class sizes in kindergarten through third grade at 25:1 (\$1.3 million) as well as ninth-grade English and Math at 25:1 (\$404,000); elementary physical education, science and vocal music specialists (\$931,000); elementary reading specialists at one full-time position per site (\$720,000); maintaining current counseling services at all levels (\$752,000); and restoring the Barton reading program

See **CONTRACT** on Page 7



EMILY WEST

Emergency crews and police survey the scene at Main Street and the railroad tracks where an AVIS student was killed in an apparent suicide.

Amador freshman killed by train in an apparent suicide

In wake of Feb. 19 incident, school district holds community forum

By EMILY WEST

The community continues to mourn the loss of an Amador Valley High School student who was killed by a train last Friday afternoon in what police concluded to be an apparent suicide.

Fourteen-year-old Evelyn Gonzalez was killed shortly after 2:30 p.m. Feb. 19 when she was hit by a Union Pacific freight train just west of the Santa Rita Road crossing next to the high school. Police and emergency crews were on the scene into the night, with the

train still on the tracks, causing traffic problems around the hub of the city.

Funeral services were scheduled for Wednesday evening at Valley Community Church, with a crowd expected to fill the sanctuary. More than 100 fellow students also held a candlelight vigil at the school the Saturday, Feb. 20.

In response to the incident, the Pleasanton Unified School District planned a forum for the community Thursday night in the

See **SUICIDE** on Page 6

Mt. Diablo won't be renamed 'Mt. Reagan,' supervisors rule

Contra Costa board says 'overwhelming support' of community wants to keep historical name

Contra Costa County supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday in opposition of changing the name of "Mount Diablo" to "Mount Reagan" in honor of former president and California governor Ronald Reagan.

The board's vote was in response to a petition from Oakley resident Arthur Mijares, who said that he is a Christian and to him the name "Devil" for the mountain is "derogatory, pejorative, offensive, obscene, blasphemous and profane."

The U.S. Board on Geographical Names, which would make the decision on whether to change the name, had asked the supervisors to give their opinion on the proposed change.

The supervisors agreed to write a letter to the Board on Geographical Names stating that they oppose any change to the name because of the overwhelming support from the community of keeping the name Mount Diablo, the historical significance of the name and the financial implications of a name change to local businesses and government agencies that use the name "Diablo" in their titles.

According to the conservation group Save Mount Diablo, the reference to "diablo" or the devil can be traced back to 1805 when Spanish military troops were searching for runaway Mission Indians. The soldiers found a camp of Chupcan people and surrounded it, but during the night, the Indians escaped without notice into the thick brush. The foiled soldiers called the site "Monte del Diablo" or

See **MT. DIABLO** on Page 6

Character appreciation

Collaborative seeks nominations
for community volunteers

When it comes to setting goals, the people of Pleasanton often refer back to the basics that have helped shape this community of character.

The traits of responsibility, self-discipline, compassion, honesty, respect and integrity are highlighted throughout the city limits. Juanita Haugen, late and longtime school board member, was instrumental in developing these six traits for the school district. She later expanded the program and became co-founder of the Community of Character Collaborative four years ago.

The Collaborative is now seeking nominations for the 2010 Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award. Established in 2008, it recognizes Pleasanton residents modeling high ethical and moral standards of behavior. Much of it reflects Haugen, the award's namesake, who spent countless hours of her life in community service.

Nominees must be Pleasanton residents, demonstrate a commitment to quality volun-

teer work in the community and exhibit volunteerism above and beyond their day-to-day duties. Past award recipients include Lori Rice and Diana and Howard Mendenhall in 2008, and Jerri Pantages-Long, Sue Evans and Ken Mano in 2009.

To nominate someone who has demonstrated a commitment to the Community of Character traits through volunteer work, can download a form from www.communityofcharacter.org. Forms may also be picked up at the Pleasanton Unified School District office, 4665 Bernal Ave.; the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave.; or at City Hall, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Forms must be submitted by April 1 and winners will be announced May 6 at the Community of Character Collaborative luncheon. The event will be held at Castlewood Country Club. Tickets are \$35, which includes a \$5 donation to the Community of Character Juanita Haugen Civic Engagement Scholarship Fund.

—Emily West

Sheraton Pleasanton has been sold

Previous financiers of hotel near Stoneridge
Shopping Center had filed default notice in
January 2009

BY JANET PELLETIER

The Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel next to Stoneridge Shopping Center has been sold for \$12.3 million, the hotel has announced.

PKF Capital San Francisco said it arranged the sale of the 170-room hotel to Pleasanton Lodging LP, a partnership involving principals from Sethi Enterprises and Kapoor Enterprises.

The property was converted to a Sheraton Hotel from a Wyndham Garden Hotel in 2006 after a multimillion dollar renovation. Another \$500,000 in renovations

was planned to be spent last year but was curtailed due to financial problems.

According to Alameda County property records, the financiers of the Sheraton filed a notice of default in January 2009 due to the worsening economy and a reduction in business travel. The hotel later went into foreclosure.

"The new owners have a great plan to retain the Sheraton brand and solidify its position as a preferred corporate address," Mark McDermott of PKF said in a statement. ■



Wayne and Karen Couto took in the sights, sounds and competition at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.



The Olympic experience

Couple travels to Vancouver to check out the games

Pleasanton residents Wayne and Karen Couto have had a whirlwind past few days in Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

They brought a copy of the Weekly newspaper to the opening ceremonies last Friday, taking in the special performances. Then, they headed out to Whistler to

watch the men's luge event.

"We love the Olympic spirit of peace and competition and have always wanted to attend," Wayne Couto said via email from Vancouver. "We had been to Vancouver and Whistler on our first vacation as a couple, so this was the perfect opportunity."

As of Wednesday evening, Team USA narrowly held the medal count lead over Germany, with a total of 26 and 24 medals, respectively. The games will end with closing ceremonies at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 28.

—Janet Pelletier

SUICIDE

Continued from Page 5

Amador Valley High library. At the forum, counselors spoke to parents and members to the public about how students are currently supported in the schools. They also reviewed signs of depression and looked for ways the community and schools can work together to support students.

Counselors were also made available over the weekend as well as throughout the week at the high school. Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, told the school board Tuesday night that counselors from both Amador Valley and Foothill high schools will meet and discuss measures that can be adopted to prevent tragedies of this kind from occurring again.

Johnson also mentioned that they are converting the anonymous student support tip line at 417-5199 to receive texts along with voicemails. He added that phone numbers will show up if a message is texted to the line, but that they will commit to honoring the promise of anonymity.

"We encourage families to keep lines of communication open with

your students and talk with them about their concerns and feelings," PUSD spokeswoman Myla Grasso said in an email to parents and staff.

Signs of depression, she added, include: sudden changes in behavior, dramatic changes in appetite, sleeping difficulties, poor performance in school, trouble concentrating and agitation, inability to sit still, unexplained loss of energy or excessive fatigue, loss of interest in friends, increased drug/alcohol use, constant feeling of worthlessness or self-hatred, excessive risk taking, preoccupation with death, dying, or suicide; and giving away of personal or prized possessions.

Pleasanton Police Lt. Jeff Bretzing said he could not say why Gonzales walked onto the tracks but the investigation is continuing. The incident was called into police at 2:32 p.m. The last period at Amador ended at 3:09 p.m. Students can leave campus earlier on pass if approved by the district office or if

their seventh period class was cancelled. Students in that class noted that Gonzales was absent.

Family and peers sought comfort in posting online messages to a Facebook group as well as the Pleasanton Weekly's Town Square forum.

"I went to the candlelight today, and as soon as the lady began to speak Spanish and talk about Evelyn, I broke down in tears," an unidentified sophomore wrote on Town Square Saturday. "Yet, I didn't even know Evelyn. It's so sad to think she felt so alone and felt so unloved she would do this; I hope she's in heaven and that she is happier. My thoughts and prayers go to her family, especially to her mother and father."

"I always saw u at lunch and you always looked soo happy with your friends... I was soo sad to hear about what happened to you. I hope you are happier now...I'm soo sorry to the family. I hope everyone is doing alright," wrote Brianne Isabelle Becker on Facebook.

Resources provided by the school district include the 24-hour Crisis Support Center, which can be reached at 1-800-309-2131, or the nonprofit website, www.suicide.org. ■



Evelyn
Gonzalez

MT. DIABLO

Continued from Page 5

"Thicket of the Devil."

Later, English-speaking settlers mistakenly assumed that the name "monte" meant "mountain" and called the mountain "Mount Diablo."

Benjamin Medel, who said he is a descendent of the Miwok tribe that lived in Contra Costa County,

said he was in favor of renaming the peak, in part because the name to him represents the historic mistreatment of American Indians.

However, he suggested the new name reflect the mountain's historical ties to the Miwok tribe.

The petition to change the mountain's name is Mijares' second attempt. In 2005, he petitioned the U.S. Board on Geographical Names to change the name to "Mount

Yahweh." The board also considered the names "Mount Miwok" and "Mount Ohlone," but ultimately decided against changing the name after hearing opposition from county supervisors, the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names and numerous local organizations, many of which use the name "Diablo" in their titles.

—Bay City News



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Livermore Lab unveils technology to save truckers billions of gallons of diesel fuel

‘Significant step toward reducing the U.S. dependency on fossil fuels’ — Lab Director George Miller

By JEB BING

After more than a decade of research, scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Tuesday unveiled technology that they say could save 3.4 billion gallons of diesel fuel each year in the trucking industry.

At a news conference inside a wind tunnel at NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, scientists explained how reducing the aerodynamic drag of a semi-truck can increase the truck's fuel efficiency, saving \$10 billion in diesel fuel costs annually.

Aerodynamic drag is caused by pressure differences around the vehicle, and at highway speeds semi-trucks use more than 50 percent of the energy produced by the vehicle engine to overcome that drag, ac-

ording to scientists.

About three weeks ago, scientists brought a semi truck to the wind tunnel, owned by the U.S. Air Force and located at Ames. There, the truck has been undergoing tests, according to Kambiz Salari, a senior scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Scientists have learned that inserting a gap-seal plate between the truck and the trailer, base flaps on the side of the trailer in the rear, and an underbody device on the base of the trailer that blocks air flow beneath the truck can increase fuel efficiency by up to 12 percent, Salari said.

The technology to reduce the aerodynamic drag still needs about 2.5 to three years to complete before it can be put on the market,

Salari said, but testing the truck in a wind tunnel helps move the process forward.

"This is a significant step toward reducing the United States' dependency on fossil fuels," Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory director George Miller said.

The wind tunnel, which is large enough to fit a Boeing 737 plane, became operational in 1987 and functions as a test zone for parachutes, helicopters, planes and other vehicles, according to David Duesterhaus of the Ames Research Center.

Wind blows up to 100 knots in the tunnel and can simulate whatever speed is needed, Duesterhaus said.

Bay City News
contributed to this report



Writing the community Torah

Many in the Tri-Valley Jewish population gathered last weekend to create a new community Torah. Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of Chabad of the Tri-Valley, which planned the event, said young and old wrote letters in the Torah with the scribe, Rabbi Moshe Liberow of Colorado. The Jewish scriptures are comprised of 204,805 letters, symbols and characters. Accuracy is key, Resnick added, as the document is unusable if it contains an error. It is expected that the scribe will complete the project in about 265 full-days of work. To learn more about Chabad of the Tri-Valley, call 846-0700 or visit www.jewishtrivalley.com.

Honoring regional artists

Bankhead Theater hosts evening showcasing music, performing and visual arts March 4

Livermore's Bankhead Theater will host an event to honor regional artists, including those from Pleasanton.

Called "Champions for the Arts: A Celebration of Our Regional Arts Heroes," the free event from 7 to 9 p.m. March 4 will recognize the hero within each child as well as the adult heroes who bring arts to the youth.

Festivities include a Valley Dance Theatre performance of "Arabian Coffee" from "The Nutcracker," featuring Pleasanton Middle School Student Tory Bettencourt and Andrew Koponen; a Livermore High

School Winter Drama Production of "The Laramie Project"; and a performance from the Granada High School Jazz Ensemble.

Civic Arts Manager Andy Jorgensen, founder of the children's theater workshop, will receive the Champions for the Arts award, to be presented by County Supervisor Scott Aggerty. Other winners include Dr. Philip Manwell, dean of Art and Communications, Las Positas College; and Kathryn Sherrod FAME program director, Fine Arts Mini Experience. The Award of Honor will go to Joan Seppala, president and founder of the Livermore Valley

Performing Arts Center.

The evening will also include a dessert and wine reception in the lobby.

A three-dimensional art exhibit will also be on display at the Bankhead Theater's lobby as a part of Art IS Education, an annual showcase of youth arts learning in Alameda County during National Arts Education month.

For more information, call the Bankhead Theater ticket office at 373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org. The theater is located at 2400 First St. in Livermore.

—Emily West

Las Positas, Chabot colleges accredited again

Report commends Las Positas for its 'quality of instruction'

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges has reaffirmed the accreditation for Las Positas College in Livermore and its sister campus Chabot College in Hayward for the next six years.

The accreditation received by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District officials was part of the year-long process where both colleges conducted extensive self-studies and prepared written reports for the commission.

Accreditation team members visited both campuses and met with faculty, staff and students.

"The reaffirmation of our accreditation is a reflection of

our self-inquiry process as a college," said Dr. DeRionne Pollard, Las Positas College president.

"The report commends Las Positas for our quality of instruction and our commitment to student success. We are delighted with the results," she added.

Copies of the reports are available through the college websites (www.laspositascollege.edu and www.chabotcollege.edu) as well as the district website (www.clpccd.cc.ca.us) and in the college libraries. To learn more, call Laura Weaver, 485-5215.

—Emily West

CONTRACT

Continued from Page 5

(\$106,000).

The PUSD management team also agreed to some concessions by taking five unpaid furlough days in 2010-11 and giving up mileage stipends. This would save the district about \$240,000, which they recommend be put towards keeping a vice principal at each high school. Last year, management concessions included three furlough days and mileage stipends.

School board president Chris Grant, as well as other board members, expressed gratitude for the concessions, but hope the community will still move forward in taking action.

"My biggest concern is that the community will say 'OK' about the results of the concessions," he said at Tuesday night's board meeting. "Teachers didn't cause the budgetary situations at the state, nor did

the kids or the administration. My message to the community is that this doesn't solve the problem."

The next step, he added, would include a parcel tax. Grant said he's convinced that a parcel tax is needed and that a long-term solution for school funding can't be done by family donations.

Prior to talk of concessions, the school district had estimated their budget deficit to be near \$8 million. This figure takes into account \$1.3 million of one-time funding that saved programs or the current year, \$2.3 million in rollover costs and \$3.3 million in loss of funding from the state. This figure could change, as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is expected to release his revised budget in May.

The possible cut list still has \$8 million in reductions despite the concessions, as the district has to deliver the notices of potential lay-off to employees by March 15.

The school board's next regu-

larly meeting on March 9 was cancelled, so they are scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. March 23. There will also be a meeting with the superintendent search firm at 5 p.m. March 15. ■

For a complete list of East Bay events check out **Community Calendar at Pleasanton Weekly.com**

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Opinion

LETTERS

Capacity of teacher, not classroom, matters

Dear Editor,

I have been receiving and enjoying the Pleasanton Weekly since my second summer sojourn in your city.

The recent letter from Christina Hicks decrying the increase in school class sizes from 25 to 30 struck a nerve with me ("Larger class sizes worrisome," Dec. 25, page 8). As a former teacher and a product of a system where 40 students were considered to be a small class, I have observed that it is the capacity of the teacher, not of the classroom, that makes the difference.

Also, since teaching is often just a jump-start on the way to another profession, I truly believe one of the most important pre-hiring interview questions should be, "Do you like working with children?"

Dorothy Green
Allentown, Pa.

Train crossing should be monitored

Dear Editor,

My family and I are deeply saddened by the life that was lost Feb. 19. I know our neighbors feel the same as well. There are really no words that can address this loss adequately or otherwise. I know the community cares and it is my sincere hope that an avenue is made available to those who wish to help the family if they so desire. I realize this is a very raw time, but safety should never wait. We have crossing guards at the various school crossings and that's wonderful. Maybe it's time to consider some type of adult oversight where the train crosses. I think the danger that exists there speaks for itself. Maybe having some information made available that details the train schedule in advance, in the hands of responsible adults, would assist in forming a framework in which to provide additional supervision during key times of the day. I realize this doesn't address the evening foot traffic but I think some sort of dialog needs to begin.

Daniel Ormonde

Officials are wasting taxpayer dollars

Dear Editor,

This past Tuesday proved to be an interesting day to watch our mayor, Jennifer Hosterman, speak out of "both sides of her mouth." Speaking at a meeting hosted by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at the Pleasanton Hilton Hotel, Mayor Hosterman delivered her "State of the City"

address. In that address she said, "we (the mayor and City Council) are equally bound to a conservative fiscal policy that helps to insulate Pleasanton from the perils of the global economy." Then on Tuesday evening, Mayor Hosterman and her City Council cronies voted to waste \$79,000-\$97,500 of taxpayer funds to put the Oak Grove referendum on the June 8 ballot rather than waiting for the Nov. 2 ballot.

Hosterman, Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio said that putting Oak Grove on the November ballot would give Oak Grove opponents more time to prepare their arguments for voting down the measure. So, I guess, they don't want the citizens of Pleasanton to hear all the pros and cons about Oak Grove before making an informed decision!

I also found it interesting that Councilman Thorne told his supporters at his re-election bid launch meeting, "he will continue and even intensify his focus on fiscal restraint..." Yet he joined the developer-friendly threesome to needlessly spend our taxpayer money.

All three who supported the June 8 ballot agreement show their true fiscal irresponsibility and continue to turn a deaf ear to their constituents.

Edward Janas

Voters already decided on Oak Grove

Dear Editor,

Why would the Pleasanton City Council vote to spend \$79,000 to put the Oak Grove matter back on the ballot? Didn't the voters just decide that matter? They don't want homes built on the ridge, they goofed, they should have reversed their position because the voters told them to do so!

They're now mimicking the State Legislature's practice of creating initiatives for the ballot on matters they are afraid to take responsibility for by their vote.

Joe McAdams

Thanks to Torrico, Buchanan

Dear Editor,

As a supporter of the We the People program, I'd also like to thank State Assemblymembers Torrico and Buchanan, both of which represent parts of Pleasanton, for their continued support of the We the People family. Torrico was the keynote speaker on Wednesday night of the state competition and Buchanan announced their joint sponsorship of ACR 11, a California Civics Day for Teachers. As school funding becomes a greater and greater issue in Pleasanton, I know our voices are being heard in Sacramento.

Susan Piekarski

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Taking a look at Oak Grove

Investors Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic bought 793 acres of rangeland in Pleasanton's southeast hills in 1979. They were told and the city's General Plan at the time confirmed that the property could be developed. So did the 1985, 1996 and the just-approved 2009 General Plans. Because the rangeland had state-imposed restrictions on when it could be taken out of its agriculture designation, the Lins sold 230 acres of their property to Westbrook Homes in 1985, which then built 215 homes in a development called Kottinger Ranch. But in approving the development, the City Council ruled that Westbrook could only build the first 50 homes until Bernal Avenue was completed, which Westbrook couldn't afford. So the Lins stepped in and completed the Bernal loop between Independence and Kottinger roads, selling property they owned where a future West Las Positas interchange at I-680 was planned to the North Pleasanton Improvement District for \$1.5 million to cover the Bernal Avenue construction cost.

When the state agricultural restriction ended a few years later, the Lins decided to complete their development plans with a proposal for 98 homes and an 18-hole championship golf course. They would build it on the 562-acre parcel they still owned above the newly developed Kottinger Ranch. The City Council approved the plan but a citizens' group successfully challenged the action and, in a referendum, reversed the council's approval in an election that turned on several hundred votes. While the new residents of Kottinger Ranch opposed the expected heavy golf course traffic on Hearst Drive; many others in the city objected to the development plan that called for removing 3,000 of the Lins' site's 18,000 trees to clear land for the golf course.

Now the Lins are back with a revised plan called Oak Grove that calls for the development of 51 lots for new custom homes at the top of Hearst Drive and a gift to the city of 497 adjoining acres free of charge to the city of Pleasanton. The city has plans to use the land for trails, equestrian paths, a park and accessible public open space. The council again approved the Lins plan, with a development agreement attached that also has the city receiving \$1 million in traffic-related funds, a new hillside firefighting vehicle and a requirement that the Lins must pay for building all the trails and other amenities in the parkland before the sixth home lot can be sold. Again, some residents of Kottinger Ranch object to the development as well as others, such as former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala who objects to new homes in the southeast hills. After the council vote in late 2007, Ayala organized a citizens' coalition called "Save Pleasanton's Hills" and successfully collected enough signatures to force another referendum on the Lins' project. After two years of litigation by both parties, the referendum will now be on the June 8 state primary ballot, asking voters to decide if they want to allow or reject the Oak Grove plan.

Although the council approved Oak Grove in 2007, the issue goes back to 2004 when the Lins asked again to build 98 homes on their property, but without a golf course. They assumed that because their acreage is still shown in the new General Plan as accommodating up to 98 homes, their plan would win Pleasanton's approval. They even cut the number to 51 in a compromise with critics and threw in the 497 acres of adjoining land to sweeten the deal.

Now it's up to the voters to make the final call. Between now and then voters should read city Ordinance 1961 and the Oak Grove development agreement that's attached, available as one document on the city's Web site. The coming campaign over the Oak Grove measure will be heated; voters owe it to themselves to learn what the Oak Grove plan is all about. ■

Code of ethics

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

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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.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

Cause to possible quarry explosion still being investigated

Both Alameda County and Livermore-Pleasanton fire departments responded to reports of an explosion at the Granite Construction Company in unincorporated Pleasanton just before 9 a.m. last Friday.

County Deputy Chief Dave Lord said that while resi-

dents may have heard a loud boom, it is unclear at this time whether the incident at Granite Construction Company, located at 1544 Stanley Blvd., was an explosion.

During the response, Lord said crews put out the fire quickly, within 15 to 20 minutes, and no injuries were reported.

"We don't go there that often, so accessing it was a challenge," he added.

While there were no damage estimates yet, he said it didn't seem to be significant. Operations were shut down for a period of time, but started back up, although the involved equipment was out of service, he added.

POLICE REPORT

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

Feb. 14

Identity theft

- 12:46 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Burglary

- 4:49 p.m. in the 100 block of Spring Street

Vandalism

- 10:23 a.m. in the 3400 block of Old Foothill Road
- 2:39 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Bernal Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:46 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; under the influence of a controlled substance, controlled substance possession, public intoxication

- 1:34 a.m. in the 800 block of Division Street; public drunkenness

- 2:03 a.m. in the 800 block of Division Street; public drunkenness

Battery

- 2:19 p.m. in the 800 block of Palomino Drive

Feb. 15

Theft

- 5:03 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:24 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 11:36 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Burglary

- 7:00 a.m. in the 700 block of Rose Avenue; vehicular
- 8:41 a.m. in the 400 block of Division Street; vehicular
- 9:49 a.m. in the 2000 block of Foxswallow Road
- 4:53 p.m. in the 4400 block of Pleasanton Avenue; vehicular

Drug violations

- 12:59 a.m. at the intersection of Blacow Street and Valley Avenue; selling controlled substances, under the influence of controlled substance, non-narcotic controlled substance possession

Feb. 16

Identity theft

- 1:19 p.m. in the 6700 block of Paseo San Leon

Vandalism

- 7:29 a.m. in the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- 8:11 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- 10:46 a.m. in the 3400 block of Nevada Court
- 3:07 p.m. in the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Drug/alcohol violations

- 3:31 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; public drunkenness
- 10:12 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard and Golden roads; DUI
- 11:19 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Blackbird Drive; DUI

Feb. 17

Identity theft

- 8:30 a.m. in the 7400 block of Muirwood Drive

Burglary

- 6:59 p.m. in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive

Marijuana possession

- 5:10 p.m. in the 6000 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Feb. 18

Theft

- 8:47 a.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue
- 9:56 a.m. in the 1300 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft
- 10:05 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft
- 10:19 a.m. in the 3400 block of Stanley Boulevard; grand theft
- 12:43 p.m. in the 400 block of Junipero Street; identity theft

- 1:02 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; stolen vehicle

- 2:03 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement, conspiracy

- 2:39 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; stolen property possession, petty theft

- 7:52 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; grand theft

- 8:46 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen property

possession, petty theft

Vandalism

- 11:21 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue

Solicitation

- 1:36 p.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive
- 9:51 p.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

Assault with a deadly weapon

- 7:41 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Feb. 19

Theft

- 10:53 a.m. in the 2200 block of Segundo Court; grand theft
- 6:48 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen property possession, shoplifting

Vandalism

- 6:52 a.m. in the 3400 block of Old Foothill Road
- 11:06 a.m. in the 8200 block of Golden Eagle Way
- 6:48 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:59 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and East Angela Street; DUI
- 8:31 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; controlled substance for sale

Battery

- 6:48 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Feb. 20

Theft

- 5:59 a.m. in the 500 block of St. John Street; petty theft
- 6:29 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:54 p.m. in the 4100 block of Mohr Avenue

Vandalism

- 12:09 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

DUI

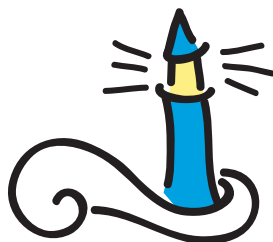
- 12:45 a.m. in the 4300 block of First Street
- 2:51 p.m. at the intersection of Sycamore Road and Sunol Boulevard
- 3:12 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: PRZ-41, City of Pleasanton – Consider amendments to Chapter 18.68 (PUD Planned Unit Development District) and Chapter 18.20 (Design Review) of the Pleasanton Municipal Code regarding the PUD Planned Unit Development District
- Public Hearing: Further consideration of an appeal of the Planning Commission's denial of an application for a vesting tentative map regarding the conversion of the Vineyard Villa Mobile Home Park and approval of a settlement agreement

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, March 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approval of the revised design for a transit-related art mural
- Presentation from Non-Profit Agencies and Recommendation to allocate Community Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2010/2011

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue
Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Pleasanton invites you to apply for vacancies on the following commissions and committees:

Civic Arts Commission – 1 Member, 1 Alternate

Housing Commission – 1 Member

Human Services Commission – 2 Members, 1 Alternate

Library Commission – 1 Alternate

Parks & Recreation Commission – 1 Alternate

Youth Commission – 6 Youth Members

Committee on Energy & the Environment -- 1 Member

Economic Vitality Committee -- 1 representative from each of the following categories:

Commercial Services Firm

Environmental Industry

Infrastructure

Medical Services

Medical Technology

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) Citizens Advisory Committee
3 Pleasanton representatives

Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging -- 1 Pleasanton representative

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's web site at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 19, 2010. Postmarks are not accepted.

If you are interested in serving on a commission or committee that has no current vacancies listed, you may register your interest in future vacancies by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027 or by completing an interest card on our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Employment Opportunity

The Pleasanton Downtown Association seeks a self-motivated, visionary with great networking skills to serve as Executive Director to oversee the promotion and marketing of the City's vibrant Downtown. Please submit a resume and letter of interest to the following or online at: www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us by March 5, 2010.

City of Pleasanton
Human Resources
PO Box 520
Pleasanton, CA 94566

**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

Young voices

Cantabella Children's Chorus holds open auditions Sunday for 'Piper of Hamlin'

BY EMILY WEST

Cantabella may not be a household

name yet, but the internationally acclaimed program based in the Tri-Valley is on its way.

In its 18th season, Cantabella Children's Chorus has grown to 180 to 200 kids in two locations, one in Livermore and the other in Pleasanton. Founded by Bee Chow, current director, the program follows the academic year, with winter and spring concerts performed by children in kindergarten through high school.

During the summer, the group often travels to various festivals. Last year, they attended the Golden Gate International Chorus Festival and won first place in the historical category and second in the folk song division. Another time, the group went to Colorado for the Sing a Mile High children's choral festival.

Chow said in the summer of 2005, they decided to produce an opera, "Hansel and Gretel." The program was popular, but time consuming, so they're back at it with "The Piper of Hamlin."

"Our chorus has participated in operas on and off with the Livermore Valley Opera company," Chow said. "They would ask me to prepare a group for a child's role. The operas are very adult, they're not really for kids. We've always wanted to do something that's more kid friendly."

"The Piper of Hamlin" fit the bill, and will be coming to the Amador Theater in July. Cantabella is holding an open audition for the summer opera from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday in Livermore. Chow, who will oversee the auditions with a stage director, will be looking for about 50 children in grades 4 to 12 who are able to sing and act. While the scheduling is filling up, they will be able to take some walk-ins. Call Cantabella for more information, including an application form, at 292-2663. There is a \$20 audition fee, which is put towards the tuition if they are placed in the production.

Rehearsals will be held in Livermore, from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m. weekdays from July 6 to 23, with dress rehearsals on July 22 and 23. Three performances at the Amador Theater are scheduled for July 24 and 25.

When it comes to teaching the children, Chow said she sets high expectations.

"You have to set the bar high, that's my philosophy," she said. "I don't want to go below, I want to set the bar up. They usually live up to my expectation."

The production will be a community effort,

but that's not to say it won't be near professional grade.

Chow will produce and conduct the opera and her staff includes stage director and choreographer Bethanie Baeyen, who has a degree in theater arts and more than 10 years of stage production in the Bay Area. Tom Harland is the set designer, who will bring his expertise as a retired Ohlone College professor of art and founder of the Sunol Repertory Theater. Costume designer Margene Rivara is an experienced children's clothing and costume designer as well as the president of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council.

Howard Tsztoo, president of Cantabella's board of directors, is proud of the program and all it is able to accomplish.

"It's like a diamond in the rough," he said. "People don't really know about Cantabella, but we operate at such a high caliber, people should take advantage of that."

Of the more important aspects of the program, in addition to learning to sing well, Tsztoo said, are the values instilled in the children.

"It teaches kids great values, such as discipline and the value of being a team member in a choir," he said.

According to Tsztoo, who has been involved in the program for about six to seven years, the board has a desire to help the community. They will have a performance at the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council fundraiser for the Firehouse Arts Center at 4 p.m. March 28. They are also planning to raise money for Tri-Valley schools with one of their opera performances this summer.

"We're very concerned about what will happen to the (school) arts and music programs without some level of support," he said.

In addition to the PCAC performance in March and the three opera shows in July, Cantabella will have their annual spring concert May 22, all of which will be at the Amador Theater, located at 1155 Santa Rita Road.

There is currently a waiting list to join the choir program, with placements expected to be announced in June. A semester's tuition ranges from \$195 to \$350, plus a \$40 to \$55 fee. Some scholarships are available.

To learn more about Cantabella, call 292-2663 or visit www.cantabella.org. ■



The Cantabella Children's Choir last performed an opera, "Hansel and Gretel," in 2005. This year, the summer show will be "The Piper of Hamlin."

POETIC PLEASANTON



BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN

A spark of young talent

The Pleasanton Teen Poets Laureate were the rock stars at a January visit to Pleasanton Middle School. Vivienne Chen of Amador Valley High School and Foothill's Nick Quan spoke to the students about why they write and the benefits they get from writing. They also read some poems and gave background on what prompted them to write them.

After our visit, the three of us went to a downtown coffee shop and wrote two poems. We all wrote on the same theme of "matches." The results from the 15-minute exercise were remarkable. We'll share Vivienne's poem, "match" this month and Nick's poem, "Hot Flood" in March.

To honor their selection as Poets Laureate and to recognize their efforts in reaching out to other students, the City Council will welcome the teens at the start of their March 16 meeting. Teens will read their "Match" poems at that time.

"match"

by Vivienne Chen

*you were always the match
igniting my parched, wooden frame
raised me from the dust
a light, dancing flame.*

*but without you
I'm fading
embers die away*

*fine grains of me
floating
flickering
falling*

ashes in a tray.

Haiku workshop

To spark your interest in a short form of poetry known as Haiku, we are holding a workshop with an internationally known Haiku master, Jerry Ball, a former professor at Las Positas College. The program is from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 23 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. Inspired by the first buds of spring, here is one of my haiku:

*Bluebirds sing for spring
daffodils lift their young heads
to listen and wait.*

Details on the "Keep it Short: A Haiku Workshop with Jerry Ball" are available at www.civcartsliterary.org.

Deborah Grossman is Pleasanton's poet laureate.

express

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NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY PETER CANAVESE

Shutter Island

★★★

Rated R for disturbing violent content, language and some nudity
2 hours, 18 minutes

Movie projectors have shutters that regulate the output of light, and cameras have shutters that regulate the intake of light, not unlike the iris of the human eye. So it is, then, that "Shutter Island," Martin Scorsese's new film from Dennis Lehane's novel, takes on a reflexivity reminiscent of the work of two of Scorsese's idols, Alfred Hitchcock and Michael Powell.

With its symbolic lighthouse keeping silent watch, "Shutter Island" tells an age-old story — one that goes back over 2,000 years to Sophocles — of the human capacity to withhold or accept light, a.k.a. the truth, as it insistently shines into our Jungian shadows.

Jutting disconcertingly from Boston Harbor, the foreboding Shutter Island is home to Ashecliffe Hospital for the Criminally Insane. In 1954, U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels (Leonardo DiCaprio) and new partner Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo) arrive to investigate the mysterious and perhaps fatal disappearance of a female patient. They meet with stone walls both literal and figurative, as chief physician Dr. John Cawley (Ben Kingsley) and colleague Dr. Jeremiah Naehring (Max von Sydow) discuss and display defense mechanisms. Something lies beneath the orderly surface of Ashecliffe, but

what?

A postwar alcoholic, Teddy is haunted by varieties of violence: the death of his wife and children in an apartment fire; his war experience, including the liberation of Dachau; and now, on Shutter Island, the psychological violence between men as ideologies clash for dominance. Even the psychiatric profession is at war, with surgical and pharmaceutical options jockeying for sway over old-fashioned person-to-person therapy.

Teddy's investigation will take him into the heart of a dark labyrinth, literally (in the form of the off-limits "Ward C") and figuratively as he is pulled down into the claustrophobic insanity of the place he's supposed to be investigating. (Some of the film's first words are famous last words, spoken by Teddy to a warder: "You act like insanity is catching").

A mystery and a paranoid thriller with more than a touch of Gothic horror, "Shutter Island" gives Scorsese plenty of to work with. In most respects, his direction here is masterful. The music (a modern-classical collage soundtrack again produced by Robbie Robertson), the richly detailed production design of Dante Ferretti, and the overall genius of Scorsese's audio-visual storytelling transcend the practical element of Laeta Kalogridis' purposefully cluttered screenplay to feed a fever dream. Aptly, the famed German expressionist silent "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" was another inspiration to the



filmmaker.

Because it's a Scorsese film, the cast is cream of the crop. Along with Ruffalo, Kingsley and von Sydow, Michelle Williams, Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson, Jackie Earle Haley, Ted Levine and John Carroll Lynch all strike appropriately dissonant notes that contribute to the picture's unsettling tone.

As for DiCaprio, he's never been better; pushed to extremes, he ably conjures the torturous strain of each situation. The perhaps overlong midsection of "Shutter Island" can be trying, and certainly, apart from the presence of its star, the film is defiantly uncommercial in its sometimes indulgent arrhythmia and its tingly unreliable narrative. But multiplex entertainment this distinctive and provocative doesn't come along every day: It's a head trip well worth taking. ■

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By ELYSSA THOME

Feb. 14, 2010 marked the first day of a new year — a new lunar year. Chinese tradition follows a different calendar than Western culture, which makes now — not Jan. 1 — the time for a fresh start. Unlike the Western celebration which typically lasts one night (and however long it takes to recover), Lunar New Year requires 15 days of celebration. Year 4708, the Year of the Tiger, will have been properly welcomed by the end of the weekend.

Tomorrow marks the final day of celebration of Lunar New Year. Across the globe, communities will gather together to celebrate what is known as the Lantern Festival. In San Francisco, the well known Chinese New Year's Parade will roll through Chinatown with elaborate costumes, floats, fireworks and the Golden Dragon. Closer to home, the Chinese American Cooperation Council will be ringing in the new year with a community event at 5 p.m. in Amador Valley High School's gym.

The carnival is part of CACC's seventh Tri-Valley Chinese Culture Day. The casual event is free to enter and will offer an opportunity for everyone in the community to learn about and celebrate Chinese culture. Last Saturday, the Amador Theater was sold out for the other portion, the Chinese New Year Evening Gala. Together, the CACC hopes the events will be an opportunity to celebrate Chinese tradition while sharing that tradition with the rest of the community.

"The CACC mission is to be a bridge between China and the U.S. so the New Year's event is an opportunity for us to show our culture," said Amy Liu, the principal of the CACC's Chinese school. "It's an opportunity for us to showcase what we have but also to invite others to be a part of it."

In addition to extending the invitation to the community at large, state and local officials were invited to take part in the event. Officials from Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville attended the Evening Gala, and many that did not sent letters of support, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who did not attend, said in a letter to the CACC, "The Chinese Culture Day serves as the largest Chinese community event in the Tri-Valley and provides a forum for diversity and sharing in the region. This is a wonderful opportunity for local residents to experience a cultural exchange."

Happy New Year (again)

While the CACC shares culture year round, Chinese New Year is the most important celebration in Chinese tradition. The first day of Lunar New Year festivities is a day for families to gather and celebrate together, and the last day is for community celebration. The event tomorrow will have performances, booths and food to share with the whole community.

The Evening Gala presented a more formal display of Chinese culture, with performances by professionals from the Bay Area and China, as well as adult and child performers from CACC's school. While most of the performers from the Chinese school will put on their show Feb. 27, three young groups of dancers made the gala even more special. These young members of the local Chinese community are helping to share traditions many of them are just learning for themselves.

A few of the young dancers in the gala shared what they enjoy about Chinese New Year after a rehearsal the night before the show.

"I like everything about Chinese New Year. Especially the fireworks," said Celine Wang, a young student of the CACC Chinese school in dance and language.

"I like it because you can scare away the bad luck," said Sandy He, a fellow student and good friend of Wang.

The girls explained that the red colors and loud fireworks help scare off the monster that represents bad luck. The monster used to eat people, but a brave man learned how to get rid of him. Other reports say the monster was captured by an ancient Taoist monk, so the celebration now protects against the bad luck the monster represents, and not the monster itself.

The roughly 4,000-year-old tradition has many symbols and myths associated with each aspect of the festivities. Still, many think the celebration is



PHOTOS BY WEIMIN LI

Clockwise from top: Students of the Chinese American Cooperation Council School perform the "Happy Chinese New Year" dance at the evening gala last weekend. Xiaopei Chinese Dance performs a group dance, "Dances of Yunnan."

important for what it means for today. Lily Zhang, an active volunteer with CACC and one of the masters of ceremonies at the gala, is one of those people.

"It's important because it is like any traditional holiday with time for families to get together, celebrating family and the New Year," she said. "It is about putting hardships behind you and starting a new year with confidence and luck."

A growing force

The People's Republic of China has been in the headlines almost daily as the nation positions itself as a global power. With so much attention in the headlines, the members of CACC believe it is important to understand how close the geographically distant country is.

A growing number of Pleasantonians celebrate Chinese New Year as the local Chinese population grows. According to the Alameda County Census, the Chinese population in Pleasanton has grown steadily

from 1.8 percent in 1990, to 4.5 percent in 2000 and to over 6 percent in 2007.

If the size of the CACC is any indication of growth in interest in Chinese culture, that number has skyrocketed. A group which began with just nine families in 2003 now has close to 1,500 people enrolled in 85 language and enrichment classes offered on Sundays.

At the event last Saturday, Master of Ceremonies James Li (a famous television host in China) joked that the group, since it is the "Cooperation Council," should invite U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao to next year's event. While the comment was met with the expected laughs, the idea he expressed is actually right in line with the aim of the group. While the CACC may not be able to get the two nations to sit down and talk, they did invite local politicians to be part of the celebration.

U.S. Congressman Jerry McNerney expressed to the crowd at the Evening Gala that the type of cultural exchange being presented is the best way to get

people working together at all levels. McNerney also thanked the CACC for sharing their culture here in Pleasanton.

"I live right here in Pleasanton and I am always honored that so much cultural activity happens right here in the Amador Theater," McNerney said. "Thank you especially to this community for sharing such grace and honor."

Tiger strong

This year marks the year of the Tiger, which is associated with strength and vigor. CACC's president, Dennis Zhang said he hopes the efforts of CACC and collaboration within the Tri-Valley will help make this a much-needed year of strength and vigor for the community.

"This community has grown stronger, Tiger strong," he said. "Let's celebrate the Year of the Tiger and look forward to a brighter future."

For more information about CACC and the programs it offers, visit its website at www.caccusa.org. ■

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Civic Meetings

CONSUMER EDUCATION SEMINAR
This event is at 1:30 p.m. March 4 at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Identity Theft and Fraud and Scam Prevention seminar. Experts will present information on common scams to avoid, ways to protect yourself and tips on what to do if you have been a victim of fraud. Call 510-577-2310.

Classes

6 WEEK MEDITATION CLASS In the Flow-Opening the Pathways of the Energy Body is a six-week meditation class that will focus on the flow of life force and earth energy through the aura and chakra system. Class meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 and 8. Call 202-1752 or email mari_c40@yahoo.com to register. Cost is \$60.

PEE WEE ART TIME Preschoolers and their parents can spend the morning creating art together. Enjoy enriching toys, books and story time. Three 4-week sessions. 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. March 11 Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Cost \$80. Call 462-5915 or visit www.sites.google.com/site/peeweearttime/.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ROUNDTABLE Share ideas with other business owners March 9. Explore how to differentiate your business from the competition, creative/affordable marketing, adapting to business in a down economy, handling growth, motivating personnel, and developing "outside the box" business strategies. Cost is \$45. Call 426-4280.

SUCCESS WITH MONEY AND SPENDING CLASS Find out how to recognize self-defeating money habits, attitudes and beliefs at this class from 9 a.m. to noon March 6 at Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Rm. 202, Livermore. Discover lasting practical solutions to money problems. Cost is \$49. Call 424-1467 or visit www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed.

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 Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Supplies are available for class. Cost is \$12. Call 200-4060.

Clubs

BOOST YOUR CAREER AT TOASTMASTERS Grow professionally at Chamber Chatters, a Toastmasters club that meets from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills. Visit <http://chamberchatters.wordpress.com/>.

BUSINESS BUILDER NETWORKING A breakfast meeting is held at 7 a.m., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. This group of business persons are dedicated to enhancing careers through exchange of social/professional contacts. Each occupation is represented once. The First two meetings free. Call 829-5620.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month. It is a time for social gathering and history of our American roots. We are descended from Patriots who won the American Revolutionary War of Independence from England. For meeting time and location, call Susan, 699-4147.

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.

Concerts

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Events

'CHICKS WITH SHTICK' WITH LAURIE KILMARTIN This show is from 7:30 to 9 p.m. March 6 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. It features headliner Laurie Kilmartin, who has been on Comedy Central, Jimmy Kimmel, and Tough Crowd, as well as other funny Bay Area females. Cost is \$15 plus two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjocoscomedy.com.

2010 BRIDAL FAIR Elliston Vineyards, 463 Kilkare Road, Sunol, will host their 2010 Bridal Fair from noon to 4 p.m. March 7. Tour the mansion, speak with a coordinator and meet with local wedding professionals. Admission is free with reservation and \$5 at the door. Call 862-2377 or visit www.elliston.com.

BRAIN FITNESS LECTURE Dr. William Jagust discusses his cutting edge research on age-based memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer's disease. 6:30 p.m. March 9 at Farmer Restaurant, 855 Main St. Cost \$10. Call 463-6615 or email audrey.glafkides@morganstanley.com.

EIGHTH ANNUAL YOUTH FOOD DRIVE The drive will be held, rain or shine, on March 6 in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol, San Ramon, Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek, Concord, Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette and Pleasant Hill for Alameda and Contra Costa county food banks. Place bags by 9 a.m. to be seen from street. Call 998-6513 or visit www.youthservicecouncil.com.

FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON Daughters of the British Empire Fashion Show & Luncheon Saturday is from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 6 at the Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Drive. Proceeds will be donated to the Hospice Foundation of the East Bay and the British Home for Retired Men and Women in Sierra Madre, Southern California. Tickets are \$30. Call 510-796-2810 or email pam.stewart@comcast.net.

FREE BAY-FRIENDLY PLANT TOUR Local plant and landscape experts take gardeners on a tour of Regan Nursery, 4268 Decoto Road, Fremont, and discuss examples of Bay-Friendly plants. Event is from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 27 and includes a discount on Bay-Friendly plants, free copy of the Bay-Friendly Gardening Guide and prizes. Call 510-444-SOIL or visit www.BayFriendly.org.

HACIENDA SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Hacienda School, 3800 Stoneridge Drive, is holding an open house from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. March 5. Hacienda School is a year-round, full day program for grades 1-8. It offers individualized Montessori curriculum with emphasis on thinking skills and personal values. All students receive Chinese and Spanish instruction. Call 485-5750.

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PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE

Pleasantonians 4 Peace is again sponsors a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. The group reflects on the human and monetary costs of the war, honors veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. They plan to continue this monthly event as long as necessary. Contact Cathe Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

SATURDAY NIGHT FUNNIES WITH JEFF APPLEBAUM Every Saturday, this 90-minute show features some of the best veteran and upcoming stand-up comedians in the Bay Area. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Cost is \$10, plus two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit

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Exhibits

MASTERS REVISITED & REVISED

From 11 a.m.-7 p.m. until Feb. 28 at the Berry Patch, 350 Main St., artists take a look at Masters from the past: Dali, Picasso, Matisse, Kandinsky. Blending their own style and technique they revise a selected work and create a Homage to that artist. Presented by Poetry On Canvas. Call 461-5084.

Film

HALF THE SKY LIVE Celebrate International Women's Day with L-P-D Branch AAUW from 6 to 9:30 p.m. March 4 at Regal Hacienda Crossings, 5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. See "Half The Sky Live" at 7:30 p.m. following a 6 p.m. dinner at Fuzio's. True stories of extraordinary women struggling under dire circumstances. Call 846-5056.

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CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
The third annual Charity Golf

Tournament, benefiting the Tri-Valley YMCA will be April 30 at Callippe Preserve Golf Course. Early bird rates are \$165 or \$850 for a corporate foursome and include lunch, golf, cocktail auction and live action. Events for non-golfers, including dinner and auction, are \$40. Register online at <http://trivalleyymcaeastbay.org>. Call Marilyn Casper at 475-6108.

Kids & Teens

JOB'S DAUGHTERS BETHEL No.14 This group meets at 7 p.m., on the second and fourth Monday of every month, at Pleasanton Masonic Lodge, 3370 Hopyard Rd. The group is for girls between the ages of 10 and 20 years old who have a Masonic relationship. It teaches the girls team work, leadership and public speaking. Call 683-5401.

Lectures/ Workshops

GET ORGANIZED Professional organizer Emily Wilska shares her system for regaining control of your space, stuff and time and living a richer, happier, saner life. Workshop is from 2 to 3 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. Her book, "Knack Organizing Your Home: Decluttering Solutions and Storage Ideas", will be for sale. Call 803-7286.

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE Pamela McDonald, NP, author of "APOE Gene Diet" and Kate Mackinnon,

PET OF THE WEEK

Shirley wants love and cookies

Meet Shirley, a spayed female Pit Bull Terrier mix who thrives on love and attention. Shirley likes to cuddle and she gets along well with other well-matched dogs. Shirley loves dog cookies. You should see her drool when she sits for a cookie and she has to wait, wait and wait until you hand it to her! Shirley has warm brown eyes, short brindle-colored fur, and the gray in her face makes Shirley look older than her six years. She is a smart girl and will no doubt learn your house rules quickly. Because of her sweet personality, SPCA staff says Shirley would be a fine choice for a first-time dog owner, family with children, or both. Shirley is available for adoption at the East Bay SPCA - Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670. See some cute photos of Shirley and other available dogs at the East Bay SPCA - Tri Valley at www.virtualpetadoptions.com.



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

PT, Craniosacral Therapist, will discuss Integrative Medicine: Providing Powerful Tools for Real Changes from 7 to 9 p.m. March 11 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Call 980-9655 or visit www.apoegenediet.com.

Live Music

DAVE MASON Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer Dave Mason will perform from 8 to 10 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Featuring songs from his newest album, 26 Letters -ñ 12 Notes, as well as favorites. The audience is encouraged to bring food donations to the theater to benefit The Haven Food Pantry. Tickets are \$25-\$35. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civictartstickets.org.

EARLY MUSIC CONCERTS AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE Early Music at Las Positas College presents Judith Linsenber on recorder and Katherine Heater on harpsichord at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Las Positas College Library, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. The first concert of the 2010 season, features a solo recital of a Bach cello suite transcribed for recorder and other Baroque favorites. Tickets are \$15 or \$5 for students. Call 424-1209 or visit www.lpclearlymusic.org.

On Stage

SUNOL REPERTORY THEATRE MELODRAMA The Sunol Repertory Theatre presents its 29th season production of "She Was Only Marginally Modest" or "Have You No Shame?" by Vern Harden and directed by Sue Marshall. Shows are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays from March 6-27 at Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Tickets are \$15 and on sale at Little Valley Winery, 739 Main St., Pleasanton.

Scholarships

LPD AAUW LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP The Local Scholarship Foundation of the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of AAUW is now accepting applications. Applicants must be women who live, or have gone to high school, in the branch cities, be an undergraduate planning to attend a four-year college in fall 2010. Applications are due April 1. Call Joan at 484-0602.

RECRUITMENT GRANT AVAILABLE A \$500 recruitment grant from the local chapter of Delta Kappa

Gamma is available for a female student pursuing a career in education. Applicants must be a graduate of a high school in Pleasanton, Livermore or Dublin; be a full-time student of upper division or graduate standing as of fall 2010; and must have a good GPA. The deadline to apply is March 20. For information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Kathy Brooks, 1581 Oslo Ct., Livermore, CA, 94550.

Spiritual

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP EVENING WOMEN'S CLASS BSF is a 33-week, in-depth, interdenominational Bible Study at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. This year's study is the Gospel of John. Starts at 6:55 p.m. Sept. 14 and includes a full program for children grades 1-12. New members are welcome throughout the study. Call 426-0481 or visit www.bsfindernational.org.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? Anyone interesting in learning about how to become a Catholic can attend an Inquiry Meeting at 9:30 a.m. Sundays in the St. Augustine Church Rectory, 3999 Bernal Ave. Call Father William at 846-4489.

PURIM AT BETH EMEK At 5:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., celebrate the triumph of loyalty over bigotry, the story of Esther will be read in Hebrew (admission free). At 7 p.m., Beth Emek will feature Purim Spiel with costumes, entertainment and home-made refreshments. Tickets are \$10. Both events are BYOB and for those over 21. Call 931-1055 or visit www.bethemek.org.

Support Groups

FIBROMYALGIA "PLUS" This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m., on the first Thursday of every month, at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Please come fragrance free. Call Teresa at 443-5707 or JoAnna at (510) 276-0530.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 4 at State Compensation Insurance Fund, 5890 Owens Dr. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

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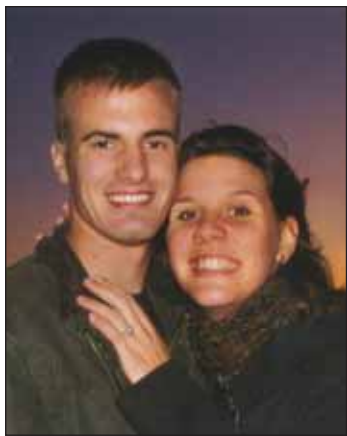
ENGAGEMENTS

Susanna Lauren Amber Davies and Brian Martin Leima

Susanna Lauren Amber Davies and Brian Martin Leima have announced their engagement to be married.

Susanna is the daughter of Jonathan Davies and Susan Sheldon Davies of Milton Keynes, England. She graduated from Denhigh School in England in 2005 and received her masters in Nineteenth Century Literature in 2010 from the University of Sussex in England.

Brian is the son of Constance and Martin Leima of Pleasanton. He is a 2004 graduate of Foothill High School and graduated as an ROTC Scholar from Oregon State University in 2008. He's currently a USMC second lieu-



tenant in the Marine 1st division, HQ battalion and is stationed at Camp Pendleton.

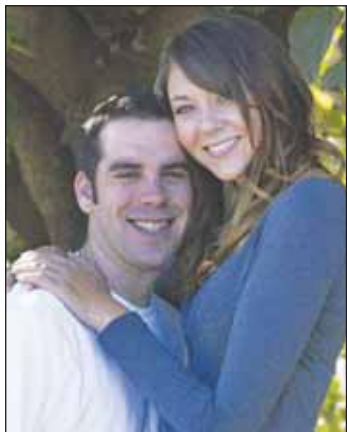
The wedding will take place July 3 at All Saints Church, Loughton in the bride's hometown. The couple plans to reside in Carlsbad, Calif.

Kristen Martin & Craig Holt

Kristen Nichole Martin and Craig Alan Holt have announced their engagement to be married.

Kristen is the daughter of John and Clarrisa Martin of Tulare, Calif. She was a 2003 graduate of Tulare Western High School and received her degree from Cal State Long Beach in 2007. She is a behavioral technician for California Unified Service Provider in Torrance, Calif.

Craig is the son of John and Cherie Holt of Pleasanton. He graduated from Amador Valley High School in 2002 and received his degree from Cal State Fresno in 2006. He is employed as an electrical engineer for Southern California Edison in Pomona, Calif. Both Kristen and Craig are



attending graduate school to obtain their master's degrees.

The couple will marry Aug. 28 at Bianchi Winery in Paso Robles, Calif. They plan to honeymoon in Jamaica and will live in Long Beach.

OBITUARIES

Mavis Mae Williams

Mavis Mae Williams died Feb. 10 at the age of 88.

Mrs. Williams was born May 19, 1921 in Decoto, Calif. She was a longtime resident of Fremont before moving to Pleasanton and later, Livermore.

She is survived by her daughter, Janice Robinson (Paul Scott Robinson); grandchildren, Derek Krikava, Keith Krikava, Jason Krikava, Kelly Reilly Kent (Jessie Kent) and Katie Nicole Reilly; and great-grandchild, Taylor Mae Krikava. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Wilbur L. Williams; and treasured daughters, Maxine Blankenship and Roberta Krikava.

A service was scheduled to be held Feb. 16. Burial was to follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sisters of the Holy Family, 159 Washington Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539.

Connie Eileen Myers

Connie Eileen Myers died Feb. 14 with her husband, Dennis, and children — David Dunkin and his wife, Elsa, and Dawn Newport and her husband, Ryan, and their unborn daughter — at her side.

Mrs. Myers was born in 1950. She was loved by many and will be missed by all who knew her. Family and friends meant everything to her; she placed everyone else first and herself last.

A service was held Feb. 19 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary with a reception following at Vineyard Villa.

Evelyn Irene Gonzalez

Evelyn Irene Gonzalez, totally loved daughter of Saida Diaz and Jose Gonzalez, died suddenly Feb. 19 at the age of 14.

Born May 23, 1995, Evelyn was the light of her parents' world and say they will always have with us her beautiful smile and voice. They will always remember her ability to enjoy life wherever she

was and whomever she was with. Evelyn made new friends all the time enjoying all types of exercise (especially track) and any outside activity while being equally at home with her online stories and letters. She was an expert Guitar Hero player and reveled at her Wii games.

She is survived by parents Saida Diaz and Jose Gonzalez; cherished brother Axel Gonzalez of Pleasanton; sister Wendy Diaz of Guatemala; grandparents Marina Guerra and Salomon Diaz of Guatemala; grandfather Juan Gonzalez of Mexico City; aunts and uncles Armando Gonzalez of Bay Point, Maria Diaz and Victor Chicas of Fairview Oregon, and Silvia Gonzalez, Adriana Gonzalez, Gabriela Gonzalez, Susana Gonzalez all of Mexico City, Rosalina Diaz of Guatemala, Alfredo Diaz of Nebraska; and numerous cousins who all loved her very much.

Evelyn's extended family includes her many friends from Amador Valley High School, Harvest Park Middle School, teachers and her beloved "gato" Nermal.

Evelyn's many friends and family attended a memorial service Feb. 24 at Pleasanton Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Evelyn's name may do so to the Saving Teens In Crisis Collaborative, P.O. Box 441363, West Somerville, MA, 02144; www.savingteens.org.

Elaine Marie Anderson

Elaine Marie Anderson died Feb. 18 peacefully at her home in Pleasanton, surrounded by two of her daughters and a devoted caregiver. She was 86.

Born May 9, 1923 in the Bronx, N.Y., she was described as a light to everyone who met her. Her father was French and her mother was mostly of German heritage. Her family was very musical. Her father played the French horn, her mother the piano, and Mrs. Anderson and her two sisters sang in their church choir and various choral groups.

Mrs. Anderson met her husband, Ralph, when her family moved to a new neighborhood during her high school years. He lived a few doors down the block and delivered newspapers. They were married in 1943 while Mr. Anderson was on a two-week leave from the Army during WWII.

Throughout her life, she was a loving wife, a wonderful mother, and a skilled and competent manager of her household. She and Ralph viewed their life together as a partnership. Each had his or her own areas of expertise and responsibility.

She is survived by her three daughters and their husbands: Laura Anderson (John Hall), Claudia Smiley (Robert), and Robin Butler (Steven); one grandson, J.R. Butler; and

several nieces and nephews.

Her husband of 66 years, Ralph, preceded her in death almost five months earlier.

A viewing was held Feb. 25 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton and a funeral taking place Feb. 26 with interment following at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette.

Arvilla Ruth Bollier Longacre

Arvilla Longacre, a wonderful and well-loved mother and grandmother, died Feb. 18 at the age of 86.

She was born on March 24, 1923 in Horace Greeley County, Kansas to Mary Orpha Barrows Bollier and Chester Roy Bollier. She was raised on a farm in Kansas, and graduated from high school in 1941. After completing her Nurses Training in Wichita, she then joined the Navy and served at the Naval Hospital in Oakland for three years. Following her time there, she returned to Ohio State for her bachelor's degree in Nursing, and graduated in 1950. Returning to California, she married Charles Innes Longacre in 1955, and lived in Lindsay. She later taught nursing at Bakersfield College for over 10 years, received her master's degree at Cal State Bakersfield in 1981, and retired in 1984.

Mrs. Longacre was very energetic and caring, characterized by her kindness and giving spirit. She was a very special woman who thought primarily of others, and had a true servant's heart.

As a committed Christian, she was involved her entire life in a variety of churches, and loved both music, and especially, medical missions. She worked diligently with Medical Ambassadors, and served in missions with Mercy Ships to South America, missions trips to Mexico, and outreaches in Hawaii, as well as with the Gideons. She loved the missionaries she worked with, and was a constant support for them.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, who died in 1981.

Mrs. Longacre is survived by her daughter, Amy Liu Longacre, and her son-in-law, Ed Liu along with their three children, Nikki, Jeremy and Zachary Liu. She also is survived by her three stepchildren, Vicki Peirates with her sons Tristan and Adrien, Shirley Longacre along with her children Julie, Antoine, Capucine and Marine Andre, and John Longacre with his wife, Linda. She was preceded in death by her stepson Charles Longacre, but his daughter Lowrie and granddaughter survived along with his son, Michael, and his two children.

A memorial service was scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy.



For a complete list of East Bay events check out [Community Calendar](http://CommunityCalendar.com) at [Pleasanton Weekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com)





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801 Apartments/Condos/Studios
Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - 904.00

805 Homes for Rent
ALL AREAS - HOUSES FOR RENT
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Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1795/mo

809 Shared Housing/Rooms
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Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA
Upstairs Suite for Rent 1 Bedroom 1 Bathroom down stairs access to kitchen T.V. Room with Internet Desk and access Small pet possible needs to get along with small pug Close to 550 and 680 highway entrance Access to 3 swimming pools and 2 tennis courts Garage parking if needed
Call 925 699 1324

825 Homes/Condos for Sale
Livermore, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$419950
Pleasanton, 4 BR/2 BA - 630500.00

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage
Colorado Land Foreclosures
One day sale February 27, 2010. Start @ 35 AC- 24,842. Many 35-100 ac parcels. Great recreation areas. Banks will finance. Call now. 866-696-5263, x 5498. (Cal-SCAN)

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Your First Steps to Avoid Foreclosure is a FREE report that I've prepared for you, available at: www.savehomenow.com

Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

6557 HANOVER CT., PLEASANTON, **\$965,000**



Extensively renovated and all new! 5bd/3ba, 3,050+/-sq.ft on a 9,889+/-sq.ft lot, gourmet granite kitchen, granite baths, hardwood floors, quiet court location with views and sparkling pool and spa. Sold by Tim McGuire of Alain Pinel Realtors. (925) 462-7653

Pleasanton Home Sales January 2010

BY DOUG BUENZ

The Pleasanton real estate market saw fewer closed home sales in January, with 35 closed single family homes, down from 44 in December. The median sales price for Pleasanton was \$707,000 in January, up from \$654,000 in December. However, the median price per sq ft dropped to \$336 in January, down from \$356 in December.

Average days on market for the closed sales

was 47 in January, down from 55 in December. On average, homes sold for 98.1% of the asking price. 1/3 of the closed sales were distressed sales, either short sales or bank owned properties. This is up from 25% in December. 7 of the 44 home sales, or 15%, were over \$1 million.

Courtesy of Doug Buenz at Alain Pinel Realtors. For more information call (925) 463-2000 or visit www.680homes.com.

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Danville

5 BEDROOMS

1 Tamalark Lane \$1,695,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 977-8965

Dublin

4 BEDROOMS

7870 Galway Court \$1,688,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2585

6593 Spruce Lane \$547,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 785-6088

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS

843 Chippewa Way \$510,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4096

2670 Vernazza Drive \$849,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4121

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS

3322 Santa Rita Road \$305,000
Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

607 Palomino Drive, Unit A \$338,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 352-7307

3 BEDROOMS

4022 Francisco Street \$505,000
Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

4 BEDROOMS

1012 Bartlett Place \$1,129,950
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3833

3504 Ovella Way \$1,450,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

2367 E. Ruby Hill Drive \$2,100,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

3911 Vineyard Avenue \$629,950
Sat 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2585

4471 Linda Way \$775,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

589 Burger Court \$840,000
Sun 1-4 Jim Lavey - Allied Brokers 846-3755

1839 Begonia Court \$945,000
Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

5 BEDROOMS

1075 Shadow Hills Court \$1,399,900
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

9663 Crosby Drive \$1,898,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2585

3254 Novara Way \$2,050,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

3641 Huff Court \$880,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-8998

6 BEDROOMS

417 East Vineyard Avenue \$3,998,000
Sun 1-4 Randall Davidson 461-3316

The #1 Resale Team in Pleasanton and Ruby Hill
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<p>3504 Ovella Way, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton</p> <p>Gorgeous 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA, 4,339 sq. ft. "Villa" offers a granite and marble kitchen, spacious living spaces, oversized bedrooms, views and more. NEW PRICE \$1,450,000 OPEN SUN 1-4</p>	<p>4471 Linda Way, Pleasanton</p> <p>Walk to historic downtown. 2,180 sq. ft., 4 BR, 3 BA + bonus, hardwood floors, 2 master suites, huge backyard with endless potential. Offered at \$775,000 OPEN SUN 1-4</p>
<p>3254 Novara Way, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton</p> <p>A private location, beautiful views and spacious home. Approx. 5,300 sq. ft., 5 BR, 5 BA. Overlooking the 10th fairway of the golf course. Offered at \$2,050,000 OPEN SUN 1-4</p>	<p>2367 E. Ruby Hill Dr., Pleasanton</p> <p>Beautiful 5,455 sq. ft. home featuring 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, executive office, huge gourmet kitchen, backs to golf course and views beyond. NEW PRICE \$2,100,000 OPEN SUN 1-4</p>

Thinking about selling your home this Spring, call us as NOW is the time to prepare.

<p>Fran & Dave Cunningham 925-202-6898 DRE License #01226296 & 00930892</p>	<p>Donna Garrison 925-980-0273 DRE License #01735040</p>	<p>Susan Schall 925-397-4244 DRE License #01713497</p>
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SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 13
Lowest sale reported: \$285,000
Highest sale reported: \$850,000
Average sales reported: \$489,154

Livermore

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$85,000
Highest sale reported: \$965,000
Average sales reported: \$456,389

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$250,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,775,000
Average sales reported: \$752,812

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$125,000
Highest sale reported: \$888,000
Average sales reported: \$540,079

Source: California REsource

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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2010

Dublin

7313 Bower Lane B. & G. Kenny to S. Yeillumahanti for \$305,000
7445 Brigadoon Way Carda Trust to C. Pahl for \$432,500
3465 Dublin Boulevard #127 Toll Dublin Limited to F. Torres for \$382,000
10739 Dulsie Lane A. Kolics to G. Pentony for \$440,000
3640 Finnian Way Harborview Mortgage to S. Zhu for \$350,000
4333 Fitzwilliam Street US Bank to J. Asghar for \$410,000
3782 Hobstone Place J. Yin to B. & S. Gupta for \$850,000
5633 Idlewood Street JP Morgan Chase Bank to Duncan Trust for \$571,000
7072 Newport Court I. Paul to J. & C. Calander for \$415,000
4630 Rimini Court Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to J. MacKlin for \$637,500
5195 South Forestdale Circle Washington Mutual Bank to P. & R. Patel for \$711,000
7808 Tuscan Drive M. & J. Ferreira to C. Kuo for \$285,000
4366 Westport Way S. & T. Gonzalez to L. King for \$570,000

Livermore

1817 Baywood Common S. & R. Fallis to L. Voss for \$399,000
3098 Chateau Way M. Castro to D. & C. Hatzenbuehler for \$453,000
1986 Cornflower Common R. Wagner to S. Silva for \$363,500
2551 Cowan Way GMAC Mortgage to W. & J. Houston for \$805,000
212 Elvira Street R. Gumbs to R. & Y. Chun for \$300,000
6679 Forget Me Not H. Choi to P. Munyasia for \$320,000
871 Hazel Street GMAC Mortgage to T. & C. Montgomery for \$385,000
2498 Livorno Court C. Nguyen to T. Rien for \$790,000

1085 Murrieta Boulevard #209 Wells Fargo Bank to K. Ng for \$85,000
750 Orion Way G. & G. Buchmann to J. Bassett for \$615,000
1612 Prima Drive Petlansky Trust to A. Nanni for \$965,000
527 Rose Street Bear Stearns to K. Martinez for \$286,000
5823 Running Hills Avenue R. Wallace to A. Ziebarth for \$285,000
747 Sunset Drive Hansen Trust to K. & T. Parodi for \$450,000
417 Swan Drive Nather Trust to J. Choe for \$603,500
482 Virginia Drive Y. Cho to D. Olmsted for \$385,500
5436 Windflower Drive Washington Mutual Bank to G. Sommer for \$292,500
1205 Winding Stream Court J. Hopkins to D. & K. Burns for \$432,000

Pleasanton

3248 Arbor Drive Aurora Loan Services to Tonya Trust for \$870,000
1332 Bordeaux Street Aurora Loan Services to D. Chen for \$980,000
4789 Del Valle Parkway S. & P. Meyer to A. & N. Franklin for \$577,000
4496 Desertwood Place P. Wu to S. & B. Wallace for \$705,000
4039 Ghiotti Court T. Rien to A. Lakkreddy for \$438,000
2367 Goldcrest Circle M. Franco to HPM Investments for \$250,000
1657 Holly Circle Seadrift I to G. Manning for \$500,000
4370 Krause Street Wells Fargo Bank to J. Zhong for \$385,000
5422 Montalvo Court K. Vincent to W. Wong for \$475,000
4007 Peregrine Way D. & K. Overcash to V. Marini for \$505,000
1923 Rheem Drive M. Lam to C. Tam for \$570,000
1842 Sannita Court First Horizon Home Loans to M. & J. Quazi for \$1,775,000
1008 Sycamore Creek Way Sethna Trust to Bechtold Trust for \$1,400,000

446 Sycamore Road C. Lamb to Mentor Abi Limited for \$905,000
3033 Warrenton Court P. & D. Kirchner to P. Narasimhalu for \$765,000
1962 West Lagoon Road S. Park to Y. Yang for \$945,000

San Ramon

212 Arianna Lane US Bank to A. Nair for \$460,000
9784 Broadmoor Drive Harborview Mortgage to M. Fortayon for \$450,000
3763 Crow Canyon Road L. Treadway to M. Turkalj for \$340,000
416 Deerhill Drive M. & M. Deoliveira to W. & H. Lee for \$725,000
9543 Ernwood Street J. McIntire to E. & R. Hernandez for \$595,000
753 Galemeadow Circle M. Morris to R. & S. Menon for \$550,000
9335 Mediar Drive D. & K. Harrison to C. Chen for \$888,000
800 Mornington Court D. Mahaghaes to S. & A. Yuan for \$770,000
100 Pearlgrass Court Wells Fargo Bank to P. Lynch for \$610,000
105 Reflections Drive #17 Morgan Stanley to P. & M. Maghami for \$285,000
275 Reflections Drive #26 US Bank to C. & G. Shih for \$125,000
115 Rodriguez Court Pasternak Trust to F. Wang for \$853,000
4 Rosemary Lane B. Cholasamudram to F. & D. Zavaliche for \$605,000
313 South Overlook Drive #143 J. Debenning to E. Infald for \$270,000
280 Summerford Circle D. Gardner to P. Xu for \$713,000
50 Victory Court JP Morgan Chase Bank to K. Chidambaram for \$625,000
2165 Watermill Road A. Balwant to A. & M. Chen for \$512,500
775 Watson Canyon Court #145 M. Brown to J. Scott for \$286,000
6180 Yardley Lane K. Sulzback to Z. Zhou for \$599,000

Source: California REsource

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1349 LAWRENCE ROAD
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 5 BR 3 BA 1.4 level acres,pl/spa,covered/lighted arena w/sand fting,5 stall barn w/pipe paddocks 925.847.2200



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4107 MOLLER DRIVE
BEAUTIFUL! \$550,000
 3 bed, 2.5 bath, upgraded baths,fireplace & up-stairs patio, new SS appli,granite counters/laminate floors,convenient loc. 925-847-2200



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2528 LEONA PL
QUAINT COMMUNITY \$1,095,000
 4 BR 3 BA den/optional 4th bdrm,wonderful floorplan,granite counters/island,29,000 sf lot w/ privacy 925.847.2200



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DUBLIN

5982 HILLBROOK PL
STYLISH/SOPHISTICATED \$470,000
 3 BR 3.5 BA Gourmet kitchen w/granite counters/ island,SS appli,1 bed/bath on lower level,2 car garage 925.847.2200

4519 BRANNIGAN ST
HIGHLY UPGRADED \$450,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA Dublin Ranch Cottages Condo with premium cherry wood floors, light and bright. Too many upgrades to list. 925.847.2200

8899 BELLINA COMMONS
BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED \$399,900
 3 BR 2.5 BA aprx. 1600 sf,2-car garage,built 2006, great commute loc, kitchen w/granite slab/island 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

21800 MINES RD
COUNTRY LIVING \$375,000
 2 BR 2 BA w/amenities!Bunk house w/1 updated bath/laundry area.Wood stove;3 generators,4 water tanks 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

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

1624 CINDY WAY
BEAUTIFUL HOME! \$1,099,000
 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

4117 CRISFIELD LN
DESIRABLE COURT LOCATION \$665,000
 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,mast w/walk-in, deck/covered patio 925.847.2200

2935 LIBERTY DR
GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD! \$460,350
 2 BR 2 BA updated w/tile flrs, newer appli/inside laundry, light/bright, beautiful yard w/rear deck 925.847.2200

7835 CANYON MEADOWS CIRCLE, UNIT E
BEAUTIFUL HOME! \$265,000
 2 BR 2 BA top floor w/2 balconies/views! Great location! Fireplace, tile entry, large eating area in

kit 925.847.2200
3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 54
GREAT LOCATION! \$19,900
 1 BR 1 BA covered driveway,great loc in prk,comm center has pool,spa,libraryMo space rent,\$875 925.847.2200

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2140 CANYON CREST AVE
GORGEOUS! \$775,000
 4 BR 3 BA w/over 2800 sf & apx 8000 sf lot.Walk to elem sch!! Gourmet kitchen,backyard w/large patio 925.847.2200

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GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATE



8044 Golden Eagle Way PLEASANTON
Designer features throughout w/ extensive use of cherry wood, stone & more. Level park-like backyard, pool, spa, lrg grass area. Photos - www.8044GoldenEagle.com
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

GORGEOUS CUSTOM 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 Weiner 925.872.1416

DRAMATIC HOME!



833 PIEMONTE DRIVE PLEASANTON
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Diane Gilfether 925.648.5443

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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.
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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.
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DOWNTOWN LIVING



4524 2ND STREET PLEASANTON
Stunning remodel on desirable 2nd St. Walk to all that downtown Pleasanton has to offer. Custom Cherry Cab's Granite Slab. S/S appliances. Harwood floors thru-out.
Todd E. Martinez 925.784.7000

ENERGY EFFICIENT



3355 TOURIGA DR PLEASANTON
Highly energy efficient turn key home. Mostly everything has been updated or replaced in the last year. 4Bd, 2.5Ba 45K solar system w/ no energy bill. Vintage Hills
Jared Higgins 925.855.4178

UPDATED



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

WALK TO DOWNTOWN



3911 VINEYARD AVE PLEASANTON
Contemporary living. One the the most upgraded homes you'll find for the price. Hand scraped hickory flooring, crown molding, maple cabinetry, granite counters.
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3771 PLATT CT N PLEASANTON
Fantastic opportunity for large, 4-bedroom home in established Pleasanton neighborhood. This property has been well-maintained, with an updated kitchen.
Greg Fielding 925.855.4029

TWO STUNNING ESTATES



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

RUBY HILL ESTATE



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

VINES & HILLS GALORE



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

LARGE CORNER LOT



2670 VERNAZZA DR LIVERMORE
Custom paint, beautiful hrdwd flrs, granite ktchn counters w/full granite bcksplsh, ss appliances, surround sound & more! Desirable Vinsanto neighborhood!
Taso Tsakos 925.648.4199

SPARKLING POOL



2670 VERNAZZA DR LIVERMORE
Very Nice Home, GREAT location next to park. New tile floors in Family Room and Kitchen. Formal Dining room, open floor plan. Side Yard Access for RV or boat.
Vickie & Bill Keller 925.583.2182

FIVE BEDROOMS



4263 Cornell Way LIVERMORE
Spacious, light & airy home w/ FIVE bedrooms in a great neighborhood near Livermore Lab! New kitchen, new bathrooms, Pergo floors, Italian tile fireplace w/ insert.
Karen Wilson-Fontaine 925.583.2171

UPDATED BEAUTY



1257 Gonzaga Ct LIVERMORE
Updated kitchen cabinets, recessed lighting, crown moulding, new roof, dual pane windows, 6 panel doors, mirrored closet doors, hardwood floors & tile.
Vickie & Bill Keller 925.583.2182

CONTEMPORARY



7870 GALWAY CT DUBLIN
New custom, top of the line features incl.; solid quartz counters, glass mosaic, designer fireplace, Wolf appliances, home theater w/wet bar, steam shower & more!
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

MEDITERRANEAN STYLE



7810 BLOOMFIELD TER DUBLIN
Completely remodeled with high end upgrades. AGA gourmet stove, Sub-Zero Frig, Stone stairs, Bonus Room, Farmers sink, Cherry plank floors throughout.
Vickie & Bill Keller 925.583.2182

BRAIRHILL



11391 CRESTA LN DUBLIN
Great floorplan with room to grow. Tile roof, hardwood floors, new carpet, new appliances & great views from the Master Bedroom. Located in the Western Dublin foothills.
Susette Clark-Walker 925.251.2547

Blackhawk East 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Ste. 200 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 925.385.2330	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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5433 Old School Road ~ San Ramon



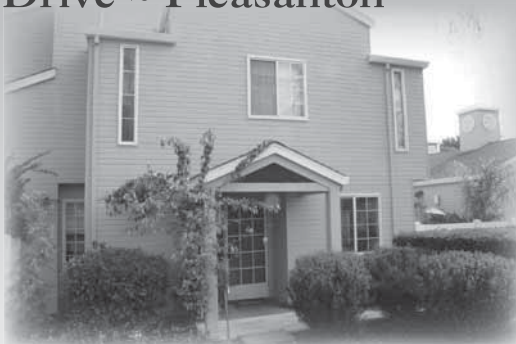
Prime Country Property

7 acres of peaceful, serene land with panoramic views and a 2747 sq. ft., 4BD/2B Ranch style home. Features tile flooring throughout, Corian counters and a 3-car garage w/half bath and a horse ready barn! Offered at \$949,950

7729 Creekside Drive ~ Pleasanton

Gold Creek Townhomes

3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, Approx. 1614 sq. ft. Beautiful Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors throughout. Secondary bedrooms have Bamboo wood floors. Two Car attached garage, two patios, deck off master bedroom. Offered at \$493,500



Delores Gragg
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DeloresGragg.com

Sonali Sethna
REALTOR®
Lic#01194792
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SonaliSells.com

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417 EAST VINEYARD AVE.
Ruby Hill Vineyard Estate



Randall Davidson
925.461.3316



Elizabeth Davidson
925.699.4236

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THIS SUNDAY!
FEB. 28 · 1-4PM

OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME
OFFERED AT: \$3,998,000



TWENTY ACRES OF RUBY HILL VINEYARD VIEWS

Whether you are looking for a private retreat, a space to create family memories or a fabulous entertainment home, when you see this elegant 8,848 SqFt, 20+/- acre property, you need look no further. There are 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, and 5 fireplaces. This designer owned dream home has been infused with charm and unique details. Contact us for a personal tour or any other inquiries.

Randall Davidson DRE#01799450 • Elizabeth Davidson DRE#01861633

WWW.LEGENDSREALTYRUBYHILL.COM

1436 IRONGATE CT. PLEASANTON
IRONWOOD ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD



5 BEDROOMS, 4.5 BATHS 4,205SF.
10,722SF. LOT COURT LOCATION,
OPEN FLOOR PLAN & BONUS ROOM
\$1,375,000

3641 HUFF CT. PLEASANTON
STONERIDGE ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD



5 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHS 2,913SF.
4,995SF. LOT COURT LOCATION,
OFFICE & BONUS ROOM
\$880,000

LOCATED IN PHEASANT RIDGE



6 BEDROOMS, 6 BATHS 5,096SF.
14,519SF. LOT. OPEN FLOOR PLAN,
OFFICE AND BEDROOM DOWNSTAIRS!

1839 BEGONIA CT. PLEASANTON
CHARTER OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD



4 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHS 2,541SF.
8,140SF. LOT. BEDROOM AND FULL BATH
DOWNSTAIRS, 3 CAR GARAGE & POOL/SPA
\$945,000

4022 FRANCISCO ST. PLEASANTON
JENSEN/AMADOR NEIGHBORHOOD



3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS, CENTRAL AIR,
NEW WINDOWS
\$505,000

3322 SANTA RITA RD. PLEASANTON
LOCATED CLOSE TO 580 & BART



2 BEDROOMS, 1.5 BATHS, 1,140SF.
INDOOR LAUNDRY & GARAGE
\$305,000

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NEEDS**

4-5 BD IN BIRDLAND/PLEASANTON VALLEY • 4 BD IN VENTANA HILLS
1ST TIME BUYER \$400K MAX • 4 BD NEWER UNDER \$900K



Tim McGuire
 925-462-SOLD
 WWW.TIMMCGUIRE.NET
 DRE#01349446



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COMING SOON

3bd/2ba, Country model in Pleasanton Valley
 1,696+/- sq. ft. on 7,200+/- sq. ft. lot.
 Hardwood floors new 40 year roof, windows,
 furnace, A/C, walking distance to K-12 schools.

Call Tim for a private showing



COMING SOON

4bd/2.5ba, Calaveras model
 in Original Country Fair,
 2,853+/- sq. ft. on 13,000+/- sq. ft. lot.
 Remodeled throughout, pool/spa.

Call Tim for a private showing



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The latest from The 680 Blog

Low Down Payment Buyers Getting Outgunned

The real estate market in Pleasanton continues to sizzle, especially in the lower price ranges. While this is good news for the local economy and home sellers, it has created difficult conditions for many buyers who have smaller down payments. Indeed, buyers who are looking to put 3.5% down (typical FHA down payment), or even 10% down are often getting passed over when making offers when there are competing offers, especially on newer homes.

While everyone supports the idea of making home ownership accessible to first time buyers and buyers who need low down payment financing, the reality is that they are getting out gunned during multiple offer presentations... sometimes badly. Often, they feel like they are bringing a squirt gun to a knife fight.

For sellers, the dynamics are different. In most cases, they want certainty. Sellers usually are looking for the best price

with the least amount of hassle. The general consensus (fair or not) is that buyers with higher down payments, or all cash buyers in the extreme, are a much surer bet in terms of certainty.

So, what if you are an FHA buyer, and you want to buy a house? Here are some things you can do:

1. Get FULLY PRE-APPROVED with a local, reputable lender who has the ability to get the appraisal ordered rapidly. This would allow you to shorten the time for the loan and appraisal contingency. The shorter the time you keep the seller waiting to see if the loan is going to go through, the better the chance you will get the house
2. Be smart about the houses you pursue. Right now, unless things change (and they often do), you are not likely to be able to purchase a newer house. There is just too much competition for prime newer homes in good neighborhoods. Instead, focus >>Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.



Doug Buenz

Office
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 Direct
 925.463.2000
 680Homes.com



DRE #00843458

Expert real estate services

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



OPEN SUN 1-4

Newer luxury 5 BR, 4 BTH single story home on prime .31 Acre cul-de-sac lot with hardwood floors, granite/cherry/stainless kit, and more!
\$1,399,900
 1075 Shadow Hills Ct



JUST LISTED

Fabulous luxury home featuring 6 BR plus bonus room & office, 5 1/2 BTHS, granite & stainless kitchen, dramatic living areas, and private .41 Acre lot with sparkling pool!
\$1,699,000



COMING SOON

Spacious upgraded home in West Pleasanton on cul-de-sac. 4 BR, 3 BTH with upgraded granite kitchen, new carpeting, and a prime location backing to greenbelt with views of the ridge
\$838,800



JUST LISTED

Luxury 2 BR, 2 1/2 BTH townhouse with hardwood floors, upgraded designer kitchen, vaulted ceiling, dramatic living room with fireplace, private yard with patio, and 2 car garage.
\$429,500



JUST SOLD

Ruby Hill 4 BR, 3 BTH home with hardwood floors on prime 1/3 Acre cul-de-sac lot with pool!
\$880,000



PENDING SALE

Spacious 1 BR condo in luxury complex shows like a model! Granite kitchen, designer paint and carpeting, spacious living room with cozy fireplace, and private patio backs to creek with no rear neighbors! **\$215,000**



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BRIDLE CREEK



806 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY, 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, 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. **OFFERED AT \$1,549,000**

THE PRESERVE

PENDING



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

PENDING



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**

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**

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**

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*. **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**

