

Pleasanton Weekly

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will benefit women's shelters **PAGE 10**

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Special Olympics' Ken Mano just keeps on giving

Ken Mano just keeps on giving. Fresh off the gymnasium floor of Amador Valley High School where he coordinated the eighth annual Special Olympics basketball tournament, he's already seeking volunteers to help with the group's track and volleyball meet on May 7. At 72, with awards and widespread recognition for at least three decades of leading volunteer efforts for youth in the Tri-Valley, at his church and for the disabled, Mano can count in the thousands the number of those in need he's been able to help.

Last month, despite heavy rains, Special Olympics brought 83 teams, 850 athletes and the largest number of volunteers ever to a weekend of basketball at Amador and to the gyms at Harvest Park and Pleasanton Middle School as well. Those of us who were there to watch these players, some as young as 8 and a few even in their 60s, shared Mano's enthusiasm and pride over the success of these games. We cheered as a player would make a basket, then race back down the court gleaming with pride to the loud applause over his or her accomplishment. Mano gleams, too, as those with special needs gain experience at competitive athletics at their purist and most inspiring level.

The Pleasanton games, a part of Special Olympics now conducted around the country after the first games were held in 1968 with funds provided by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, are a product of the Amador High Athletic Boosters Club. Mano is a business analyst with Kaiser Permanente's IT department in Pleasanton. His wife Carolyn works in the children's book section at the Pleasanton Library. With their six children — Natalie, Gary, Janelle, Brian, Melissa and Trent — attending Amador, they became active in the Boosters. Carolyn works the snack bar at Boosters events (and at the Special Olympics track meet), and Ken was the Boosters' treasurer for eight years. Looking for ways for the Boosters to extend its community reach beyond the Amador campus, parents with special needs children suggested the Special Olympics. Mano talked the school district into

providing school facilities without charge for a one-time event. That was eight years ago, and the two 2011 programs now attract hundreds of participants from as far as Half Moon Bay and the Napa Valley.

Mano said the goal is to give all persons with developmental disabilities a chance to become useful and productive, and accepted and respected in their communities. Parents and guardians tell him that their child or home-cared adult had been reclusive and without many friends. Coming to the Special Olympics and being in contact with others of similar ages and disabilities spurred them to become more proactive back at home, where they often found similar programs on a smaller but still beneficial scale. Their disabilities range from mental handicaps to autism to Down syndrome to adults who have suffered brain injuries or damaging diseases. Mano works with them all on a personal basis and also tutors volunteers on how to help meet each individual's needs, lessons that go a long way toward encouraging the volunteers to reach out on their own in special needs programs in their community.

Volunteers are impressed, even amazed by Mano's volunteer work ethic. My own daughter, Kerry Nally, who worked at the Special Olympics events at both Amador and Pleasanton Middle School, said she would read emails about the schedule that Mano would send at all hours of the day, even at 3 and 4 a.m. The man never sleeps, she said, pointing out that his day job at Kaiser was just as demanding. But then Mano has been at this for quite a while. He served as a missionary in Japan with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has also been heavily involved in Boy Scouts for the past 35 years. At Amador Boosters, he helped raise more than \$1 million for the high school with eScrip, leading other schools to start the program. He was also instrumental in saving Emeryville High School's athletic program and persuaded his church on Paseo Santa Cruz to start a similar special needs program on a weekly basis that is open to all.

He wants high school students and adults who want to help with the Special Olympics East Bay regional track meet and volleyball tournament to be held May 7 at Amador Valley High to register by sending an email to avboosters@comcast.net. ■

About the Cover

Ernest Scherer III stands with his sister, wife and family friends at a funeral for his parents. Scherer was convicted this week on two counts of murder and other charges in the 2008 death of his mother and father at their home on Castlewood Drive. Photo by Harry Arruda. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XII, Number 12

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Do you know someone who deserves a nomination?



Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award announced

April 15 deadline for submissions; winners to be named May 11

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 11, 2011 at the Community of Character Collaborative Luncheon Celebration at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 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), Dr. Pushpa Dalal (2010), Bob Athenour (2010), and the GASIT Volunteers (2010).

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.

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What are your plans for Spring Break, which begins Monday?



Robby Potter

Martial Arts America student

Over Spring Break I'll be at Amador, practicing for our competitive civics We The People team. We're going to Washington, D.C., on April 28, so we're working around the clock to prepare for our competition.

Megan Maher

Student

I'm going to participate in "Spring Broke" at my church, which is a really fun, affordable week of different activities like outdoor movies, scavenger hunts and volleyball. I'm also planning a trip to Six Flags with my friends.



Meelam Chand

Receptionist

I'm actually taking my State Board exam for my cosmetology license. I graduated on Christmas Eve of 2010, and I'll be taking my exams on April 13. I'm a little nervous because it's a pretty intense testing process, so I'll be studying over Spring Break.

Lucy Ly

Making people beautiful

I'm working during the day, but I'm planning to meet up with some friends in San Francisco to party a little at night. We're going to have a great time, drink a few cocktails, and just talk.



Raymond Tran

Hair stylist

I'm going to Heavenly in Lake Tahoe for a few days to snowboard. I've been doing it for about three years now, and I absolutely love it.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally



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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2011 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

DIGEST

Have a pretty garden?

The Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour given by the Valley Humane Society is celebrating its sixth year as one of the most successful fundraisers for homeless pets. Organizers are looking for private gardens within Pleasanton city limits to include on the tour this year, which will be held May 15.

If you have a beautiful garden that you want to show off (or you know someone who does), contact Garden Tour Chairwoman Charli Hyden at 918-0799. Those whose homes are on the tour will receive private access to all of the gardens just for participating, plus discounts at local garden centers.

Sunrise service seeks 'gentle' horse

The traditional Easter Sunrise Service at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, which will take place on April 24, this year is reenacting a special drama from Gen. Alfred Pleasanton's era in the 1800s. To establish authenticity, the general (portrayed by the Rev. Jim Meek of Trinity Baptist Church) would like to be mounted on a "gentle" horse that would not be spooked by the group singing.

If anyone can provide such a horse for the short drama, call Harry Briley at 455-6089 or email briley1@lnl.gov.

This year's service will start at 6 a.m. with free parking, coffee and donuts, sponsored by the Pleasanton Centerpointe Presbyterian Church.

Safeway cited for good works

Safeway Inc. has been recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for its financial support and encouragement to important causes.

Each year Safeway raises and donates more than \$200 million in monetary and product support to various causes, including cancer research, education, hunger relief and organizations helping people with disabilities. Safeway is one of the largest corporate funders of cancer research, supporting leading-edge breast cancer research at some of North America's top cancer centers.

Free band concerts

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will present its Spring Concert, Voices of Spring, at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The concert is free but donations are appreciated. The band will also perform at the Pleasanton Farmers Market on April 30, at Main and West Angela streets.

Pleasanton soldier killed in Afghanistan

Army Specialist Jameson Lindskog was due home later this month

By JEB BING

A Pleasanton soldier was killed in an apparent roadside bomb explosion Tuesday near Kabul, Afghanistan.

Army Specialist Jameson Lynn Lindskog, 23, was en route to a military airport. Details of the explosion, exactly where it occurred and if others were killed or injured in the blast, were not available at press time.

He was the son of Donna Walker of Pleasanton and Curtis Lindskog of Livermore. Donna Walker and her husband Matt were at home on Tioga Court when an Army chaplain and staff sergeant rang the doorbell to convey the tragic news.

"Jameson was an outstanding adult who had a bright future ahead of him," his father Curtis

said. "He was home right after the Christmas holidays and I drove him back to the Oakland Airport on Jan. 14. That's where I said my last goodbye."

Specialist Lindskog attended Pleasanton Middle School and his freshman year at Amador Valley High School. In 2003, he transferred to Orion Academy near Moraga, where he graduated in 2005. From there, he enrolled in the National Holistic Institute in Emeryville where he became a licensed massage therapist.

He enlisted in the Army and was a medical technician assigned to the 101st Airborne unit out of Fort Campbell, Ky., at the time of his death. He was due to be discharged next year, and his deployment to Afghanistan was expected to end

within the next few weeks.

He was born May 25, 1987, and was the only child of Donna and Curtis Lindskog. Besides his parents, he leaves a half-brother Kenny Mekatani and a half-sister Candace Khattab.

Curtis Lindskog said the Army will fly his son's body to the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to determine the exact cause of death, and then home to Pleasanton, where funeral arrangements are pending.

Both the local Veterans of Foreign War post and the Pleasanton Military Families are working with the family on preparing a final tribute.

Specialist Lindskog's death marks the first wartime fatality for a Pleasanton family since the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts began. ■



FAMILY PHOTO
Army Specialist Jameson Lindskog, who was killed in Afghanistan Tuesday.



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

This 100-year-old home on St. Mary Street is one of many in the Pleasanton downtown area that give the city its charm.

Planners talk about historic homes

Commission decides preservation ordinance not needed

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The preservation of old homes in Pleasanton was discussed in a public hearing at the Planning Commission's March 8 meeting. The informal workshop began with Brian Dolan, director of Community Development, going over existing policies, including parts of the Pleasanton General Plan, the Downtown Specific Plan and the Downtown Design Guidelines.

"You're going to find a thread of strong policy support of downtown historic preservation," Dolan said.

"We have tools that could be updated pretty easily," he also noted.

The Downtown Specific Plan, dated March 5, 2002, states as

historic objectives to complete an inventory of resources; to prevent demolition of resources that can be reasonably reserved; to ensure that new buildings and modifications are compatible with the tradition character; and to implement incentives to help preserve the area's history.

"Relocation is a theme you'll find but it is not a viable solution," Dolan said. "There are not a lot of lots to take them."

He also warned that policies may not be as simple as they first appear, for instance, the idea that a building can be torn down if the cost to rehabilitate exceeds 50 percent of its value.

"It's a good attempt but very

imperfect system," Dolan said. "It needs an assessor, a contractor to determine the cost."

Also planning staff has to be able to evaluate whether the cost is valid.

"That isn't something that we do," Dolan added. "I'm a little uncomfortable using it."

Similarly, he said there is no law defining "demolition."

"A demolition plan can show 50 percent staying, then they look at the studs, they're full of dry rot," he gave as an example.

The Downtown Specific Plan also directs that modification to exteriors of buildings more than 50 years old must match the origi-

See HISTORY on Page 8

City to PUSD: Prepare for more students

Potential project at Hacienda Business Park may require new school

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Pleasanton's new housing guidelines may set the stage for more than 800 new students in coming years, according to a discussion between the City Council and school board at a joint meeting Monday night.

One developer is eyeing a project for two of three recently rezoned parcels at the Hacienda Business Park near BART, city officials told school board members. Low- and middle-income housing on those two sites in coming years could send up to 654 new students to Donlon Elementary, Hart Middle School and Foothill High School, although Brian Dolan, the city's director of Community Development, said the number is likely to be closer to 500.

"I think these will come in at the low end of the density," Dolan told the combined group of school board and City Council members. "I think the vast majority will be two-bedroom or one-bedroom (units)."

That could ultimately mean the district would have to build a new elementary school, since many of the students at a new apartment complex would be young and would max out Donlon's capacity.

"We want to have students near their schools," said Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi. "I think we need to be very careful about students, where they'll be housed."

That's in addition to whatever growth or loss to student numbers other parts of Pleasanton may experience.

Other state-mandated rezonings

See STUDENTS on Page 8

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Down Argentine way: Jerry Tusan reads his Weekly while visiting Buenos Aires, Argentina, last year.

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Medical help for Afghanistan

North Rotary takes on project to update hospital

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Imagine a hospital with no equipment to monitor patients. This was the case at the Public Hospital of Jalalabad in Afghanistan, which prompted Pleasanton North Rotary to launch its project to purchase and install cardiac monitors, neonatal incubators and other equipment.

The 500-bed Public Hospital of Jalalabad treats 45,000 outpatients and 4,200 inpatient cases monthly, but it lacked even rudimentary diagnostic and therapeutic equipment, said Susan DuPree, a clinical psychologist in Pleasanton who headed the project. She noted that hospitals in war zones have different plans of action because established infrastructures are impacted.

"The Ministry of Health is working more on emergency and survival status," DuPree said, adding, "The American military also has hospitals where Afghans are treated."

DuPree lived in Afghanistan in 1969-70, working with USAID to teach English to engineering students with fellowships to study in the United States.

"I was looking for a project there because I have strong feelings for the country and the countrymen," she recalled.

First the club had to determine that a need existed and that the hospital's infrastructure could support new equipment, explained DuPree.

"They were absent of anything — doctors had a stethoscope and a pressure cuff," DuPree said. "The recommendations for the equipment came from the doctors in Jalalabad."

Once North Rotary determined that the project was feasible, its members raised \$32,500, which was matched by the Rotary International Foundation. This gained the backing of Assist International, a nonprofit group in Scott's Valley that specializes in placing medical equipment in developing countries.

Assist contributed financially plus was able to negotiate discounts from Philips Medical Systems and



COURTESY PLEASANTON NORTH ROTARY

A nurse at the Jalalabad Public Hospital uses ultrasound equipment made possible by Pleasanton North Rotary.

GE Healthcare for new equipment worth \$300,000. Assist also guaranteed the equipment for five years and has physicians available to help the medical staff, Dupree said.

The U.S. Air Force flew the equipment to Jalalabad in October:

- 10 cardiac intensive care unit monitoring systems
- Two neonatal monitors
- Two surgical suite monitors
- An electrocardiogram system
- Defibrillators
- Neonatal incubator
- Infant warmer
- Diagnostic ultrasound scanner
- Bassinets
- Phototherapy light

Five project representatives flew to Afghanistan for 10 days in December to visit see the newly installed equipment, including DuPree. At the airport in Kabul she was surprised not to see taxis jockeying for their business, which she recalled from 40 years ago.

"The quiet was dispiriting," she said. "Kabul to me had gone backwards. I was amazed by the lack of care, just looking at the buildings and the homes. I could absolutely tell they'd been in the war."

Her group flew to Jalalabad, courtesy of USAID, rather than ride several hours south on the Khyber Pass Road.

"Jalalabad was more vibrant," DuPree said. "There were more children and women out and more a sense of commerce."

American soldiers were also a presence, she said.

"People were very attuned to what's going on there," she said. "It's not a Taliban region but it is a terrorist area."

The Jalalabad Rotary Club was the corresponding club for Pleasanton North Rotary to help with the project. They and the medical staff were pleased to see the new contributions to the hospital.

"They are educated primarily in Pakistan, Japan and the United States, and some in India, and are used to using fairly upgraded equipment," DuPree said.

The installation of the medical care equipment was completed in December, and a woman from the Ministry of Health made an inspection.

"She was hands-on to find out what is this, is it working, is there accountability," DuPree said.

North Rotary celebrated the accomplishment at a reception Monday at Washington Hospital in Fremont, whose medical staff along with the Afghan communities of Fremont and Hayward spearheaded additional fundraising efforts. ■

Alameda County counsel Richard Winnie dies

Former Oakland city attorney headed counsel staff since 1998

By JEB BING

Flags at county facilities were flying at half staff this week following the death Monday of Alameda County Counsel Richard Winnie.

The county Board of Supervisors held a moment of silence in honor of Winnie at its meeting Tuesday and ordered that county flags be lowered in his memory.

Until his death after a long illness, Winnie served as the county counsel since 1998 and headed a staff of about 35 attorneys.

Prior to that, he served as Oakland's city attorney for many years and later was a partner with Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean, a law

firm in Oakland.

According to Alameda County officials, Winnie was active in the local community and served on many boards, including the Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Retirement Board.

Board of Supervisors President Nate Miley said in a statement, "Richard was a trusted legal advisor to the board and department heads. We relied on Richard for his advice and counsel on a daily basis. He will be sorely missed."

Supervisor Keith Carson said, "Richard epitomized what it is to be a true public servant. He served

county residents and his clients up to his very last day."

County Administrator Susan Muranishi said, "Not only was Richard our trusted legal advisor and confidante, he was a colleague and friend who was passionate about his work and cared deeply about the communities we serve."

Chief Assistant County Counsel Donna Ziegler will head the County Counsel's office until the Board of Supervisors appoints an interim county counsel.

A public memorial service for Winnie will be held sometime in April.

—Jeff Shuttleworth, Bay City News, contributed to this report.



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Computer lab dedication becomes memorial

Foothill High School gets 35 new iMacs, thanks to Boosters Club

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The opening of Foothill High School's computer center recently turned out to be less of a dedication and more of a remembrance of a much-loved staff member.

A new computer lab filled with 35 Apple iMac computers was dedicated to Jill Brierley, who passed away in September after a four-year battle with cancer. Brierley was remembered as a positive and upbeat person who helped both staff and students, someone who never complained despite the pain she was in.

History teacher Zach Lipman, who was in a teachers' prayer group with Brierley, said he and the others in the group drew inspiration from her.

"I don't remember a single time that Jill let life get ahold of her or pull her down," Lipman said, adding, to the family, "Thank you for sharing Jill with us."

One of her sisters, Lorette Harnsberger, said Brierley's faith never wavered, despite her illness.

"She knew, had absolute conviction where she was going," she said. "Her faith gave her the strength to go on."

Another sister, Nicky Suard, noted that Brierley went to school to become an IT manager after leaving the workforce to raise her family, then running a day care for years.



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Casey Brierley talks about his late wife, Jill, in a dedication ceremony at Foothill High School's new computer lab. The lab was named in honor of Jill Brierley, the school IT manager, who died after a four-year battle with cancer.

Brierley would take a class, then use her good grades as motivation to continue. Because of that, she was able to encourage students to persevere in their own academic careers.

Suard pointed out that she wrote her remarks for the dedication on an iPhone, and Gillian Holmes of

the Activities and Academics Booster Club (AABC) read hers from an Apple PowerBook, something Jill's husband Casey said Jill would have liked.

The AABC raised more than \$50,000 to buy the new iMacs to replace old and broken equipment. ■



CHUCK DECKERT

Ragin' fundraiser earns \$45,000

Sandra Wing addresses the crowd at Ragin' Cajun, the East Bay's Mardi Gras event of the year with music, dancing, dinner, beads, live auctions and more, which was held at the Palm Event Center to raise money for the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation. This year's ragin' raised more than \$45,000 toward healing therapy grants for cancer patients in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville who are undergoing chemo or radiation therapy. To find out more about the Foundation for someone with cancer, to provide a financial donation, or to learn about volunteer opportunities visit www.healingtherapies-foundation.org or call (866) 862-7270.

Mom goes to prison for sex with underage boys

Must register as sex offender after completing 5-year sentence

By JEB BING

A 42-year-old Livermore woman was sentenced Friday to five years in state prison for four felony counts for having sex with two underage boys.

Christine Shreeve Hubbs pleaded no contest last month to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor under 16 and three counts of committing lewd acts on a child.

In exchange for her plea, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office dropped 63 other felony sex charges against her.

Prosecutors also dropped an unrelated case in which she faced five misdemeanor charges for allegedly driving recklessly while a group of boy passengers shot a plastic pellet gun from the window of her black 2006 Hummer H2.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Kevin Murphy ordered that after Hubbs is released from prison, she will have to be on probation for three to 10 years and must register as a sex offender for the rest of her life.

Hubbs, who has a husband and three children, was arrested on Aug. 5, a little more than a week after the mother of one of the victims reported possible illicit activity between her son and Hubbs.

According to Livermore police, both boys were 14 years old when Hubbs began having sexual relationships with them.

One of the boys spoke at Hubbs' sentencing Friday. The mothers of both victims also spoke, according to prosecutor Teresa Ortega.

—*Bay City News contributed to this report.*

TV30 offers camp in video production

Training open to middle, high school students

Tri-Valley TV Community Television is offering a summer camp for middle and high school students who are considering a career in video production.

The 20-hour TV day camp includes: an introduction to studio production, field production, writing, producing and digital video editing. Participants will work within a group to produce a TV program.

Two sessions will be offered to campers with the first taking place from June 13-17 and the second from Aug. 8-12. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily in each session. The fee is \$495 and registration is limited. The camp sessions were sold out well in advance in the last two years they have been held.

For the past two years, students have produced one-hour specials that aired on TV30 titled "Tri-Valley Youth View."

"Students not only had the opportunity to work with our staff at a real television station, but interviewed two mayors, an up-and-coming rock band, the editor of the Pleasanton Weekly and others," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, executive director of Tri-Valley TV.

"We were fielding calls all year long from the positive buzz created by last year's camp, and this year's camp will be just as exciting," she added. "Our staff enjoys working with the students, and some of the students have gone on to working with us at the station. It is a win-win for all."

In addition to providing valuable



COURTESY TV30

Kelly Vander Werf, 12, operates a camera during a session of Tri-Valley TV Summer Camp.

hands-on experience in television production, Tri-Valley TV Camp will give students an overall picture of the production process, help prepare them for related courses in video, and provide an edge for their future in the television industry.

Experienced media instructor Mitch Eason will be returning as camp director.

The camp is located at the Tri-Valley Community Television Studios of TV28, TV29 and TV30 on the grounds of the Pleasanton Unified School District, 4663 Bernal Ave., Suite B, in Pleasanton. For more information and to register, visit the Tri-Valley TV website at www.trivalleytv.org or phone the station at 462-3030. ■

Cranes for Japanese relief



COURTESY STEPHANIE SETO

A thousand of these cranes were to be on display today at Foothill High.

Among the many fundraisers that are taking place throughout the city and the schools, Foothill High School alumni and students are holding an origami crane fundraiser to benefit the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

They have created 1,000 origami cranes to be displayed at the school's multicultural assembly today, and are asking for crane sponsors to raise money.

"We are asking for a minimum of \$1 donation," said Stephanie Seto, one of the organizers. "The donor would have their name

written on an origami crane."

"We also would like the community to help us out," Seto added.

It's not too late to make a donation; telephone Seto at 858-0400 or email steph.seto91@yahoo.com.

In Japan, the crane is held in special regard and is said to live for a thousand years. Folding 1,000 origami cranes is supposed to make a person's wish come true.

—*Dolores Fox Ciardelli*

STUDENTS

Continued from Page 5

could bump the total to 820 students in coming years, but Dolan said the city only has to rezone the property, not build the housing.

The city has identified a list of other properties that could be rezoned to meet state guidelines. A new report is due by Aug. 16; although any rezonings would not necessarily bring construction, Dolan said some communities are already upset at the possibility.

The district will update its enrollment projects based on a new demographic survey this fall, and will include the potential new development in its plan.

Board and council members also had the opportunity to commiserate over their budgets. Both agreed that the district, which relies heavily on state funding, is in far worse shape than the city, which receives its money from real estate, sales and hotel taxes.

The district has put together a budget that includes layoffs and cuts in every area and potential new expenses with no guarantees of promised state funding or income from a parcel tax.

"This has been going on for years," said City Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, who also served on the school board.

"The whole problem is you have this wonderful school district ... and

yet you can never get above this," she continued, referring to the district's reliance on state funding.

Both bodies also heard from students who participated in last week's Youth in Government Day. City officials and district employees took part in the event along with elected officials from both.

The event was a success, everyone agreed.

"Youth in Government Day opens eyes and opens ears," said Rahael Borchers, a senior at Amador Valley High School.

Borchers noted that shadowing one of the city's attorneys on her first Youth in Government Day had landed her a summer job as a clerk. ■



DINO VOURNAS

Rahael Borchers, serving as a panel leader, directs her group at this year's Pleasanton Youth in Government Day.

New CEO for northern California Red Cross

Organization collects nearly 95,000 blood donations a year

By JEB BING

Jeff Meyer has been named the new chief executive officer of the American Red Cross services region that covers Pleasanton, the Tri-Valley and much of Northern California.

Meyer has been with the Red Cross in key management positions since 2001, most recently serving as the senior director of finance and planning for the Western division, which comprises blood regions in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

"I look forward to working with

the community and with the hundreds of dedicated American Red Cross volunteers and employees who help to ensure an adequate blood supply in Northern California every day," Meyer said.

One of Meyer's key accomplishments with the Red Cross was overseeing a \$41.6 million project, which included the

construction of a 201,000-square-foot facility in Southern California.

"Jeff Meyer brings outstanding leadership skills, coupled with a deep commitment to volunteerism," said Dr. Patricia Austin, chairwoman of the Red Cross board of directors. "With a passion for our mission and the people we serve, Jeff will ensure excellence in Red Cross service."

As CEO of the Northern California Region, Meyer will oversee the collection of nearly 95,000 blood donations for patients in 29 Bay Area hospitals. ■



Jeff Meyer



GLENN WOHLTMMANN

Last week's heavy rain took its toll on a tree — and a car — on Gapwall Court in Pleasanton. The tree, an ornamental pear, toppled onto a Honda Civic belonging to Molly Fourie on Thursday morning, just before she was about to leave.



CAMMIE CLARK

Kilkare Road in Sunol was closed for three hours Friday morning while sediment was cleared.

Landslide damages water main, stops water service

Pleasanton Ridge, Sunol residents affected

A major water main damaged last Friday on the Pleasanton Ridge as a result of a landslide halted water service to 160 customers. It was repaired by Monday.

The outage affected residents in upper Kilkare Canyon, which runs from the Pleasanton Ridge to Sunol. Several homes on upper Longview Drive were also affected as well as a number of homes at the end of Santos Ranch Road to the north and south.

Although crews put a tempo-

rary bypass in place overnight, warnings of possible contamination caused users to both reduce the amount of water they used over the weekend and to avoid drinking it.

Tests conducted Monday showed that the tap water was safe to drink.

Storm damage also included felled trees, including several oaks on Kilkare Road in Sunol that caused the street to be closed while crews removed the trees.

—Staff reports

HISTORY

Continued from Page 5

nal building.

"People have misinterpreted this," Dolan said. "I think it's OK to make it dramatically different. ... In most cases we can help a client find a solution."

Members of the public spoke to say they've had problems and conflicting requirements to make renovations. Others who live in historic homes asked to not make regulations more onerous.

"I've owned two historic homes in Pleasanton, I've lived here 28 years," said Linda Garbarino, president of the Pleasanton Heritage Association. "I feel I don't own my home — it belongs to the people of Pleasanton."

She noted that improving and maintaining a home, like painting the Golden Gate Bridge, is a never-ending process. She said guidelines should help people make decisions about what goes into their homes.

"Is it important to distinguish between 'old historic homes' and 'old homes?'" Commissioner Arne Olson asked Garbarino.

"It's a disclosure issue," she answered. "How do you draw the line? Some homes, nobody important lived there."

She added that if an older home is torn down, the house built on the lot should be a "reasonable home," not a "Disneyland home."

"An ordinance to me is punitive," she said. "We need guidelines that are clearer and have transparency."

Realtor Lou Rivara said he'd never heard of any type of disclosure when people buy homes in downtown historic neighborhoods.

"What makes it a beautiful place

to be isn't just history," he said. "The Firehouse Arts Center design is very good but it's not history, but it's a place we share. Don't be locked into history."

He said the city needs to look for ways to enhance downtown that will improve the experience of people living here or visiting.

"I've been involved in design for years and years and I'm deeply, deeply, deeply concerned about the direction we're going," said Realtor Margene Rivara, who lives in a historic home on St. Mary Street that has a large addition.

She said she believes in the right of the property owners and that the city should not add layer after layer to regulations for designs. She added that new ideas are important to keep the city interesting and exciting.

"The first rule of public policy is, 'Don't make things worse,'" said downtown land use lawyer Peter MacDonald.

"There is no significant historical issue not already addressed," he said, adding that it would be impossible to come up with black and white rules. "There is no way to get around having to exercise judgment."

He also said it is important to look at all the issues downtown, including economic vitality, rather than narrowly focusing on history.

Architect/historian Charles Huff spoke in favor of redefining existing guidelines rather than writing a new historic preservation ordinance. He questioned what an ordinance might mean in terms of creativity and how to keep rules clear to follow.

"How do we define landmark houses and what kind of restrictions do we put on them?" he asked.

He noted that the more restrictions, the harder renovations are to do, plus he questioned what new rules would mean in terms of staff time.

"It's our intent not to handcuff anyone but to clear up bureaucracy," said Commissioner Phil Blank.

Resident Scott Colson identified himself as an architect who moved to Pleasanton from San Francisco a year ago.

"It's important that we preserve the significant fabric that is here ... then allow for new things to occur," he said. "Some old things are in the way of something fresh and new."

"Do we fossilize or create vitality?" he asked, adding that preservation means dealing with a lot of subjectivity.

Commissioner Jerry Pentin said it doesn't look like the system is broken, but that the policies just need updating. Olson agreed that enough guidelines have been written and perhaps it needs to be more defined.

But Commissioner Blank referred to one speaker who said it had taken up to two years to get projects approved.

"I think the system is broken, we heard it tonight," Blank said. "Perhaps we broke it by creating so much vagueness."

Commissioner Jennifer Pearce said historic preservation is critical to the town as is talking about what is important to Pleasanton as a community.

"I'm excited we're starting this conversation," she said.

"I don't support an ordinance at this point," said Commission President Kathy Narum, noting that actions in the Downtown Specific Plan were never taken. ■

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Managing Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli, Ext. 111

Online/Community Editor

Jessica Lipsky, Ext. 229

Reporter

Glenn Wohltmann, Ext. 121

Editorial Assistant

Amory Gutierrez, Ext. 221

Contributors

Don Colman

Deborah Grossman

Jerri Pantages Long

Kerry Nally

Joe Ramirez

ART & PRODUCTION

Lead Designer

Katrina Cannon, Ext. 130

Designers

Lili Cao, Ext. 120

Kristin Herman, Ext. 114

ADVERTISING

Account Executives

Carol Cano, Ext. 226

Paul Crawford, Ext. 113

Lorraine Flotte-Guiramares, Ext. 234

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Real Estate Sales

Andrea Heggelund, Ext. 110

Ad Services

Cammie Clark, Ext. 116

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Kathy Martin, Ext. 124

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail: circulation@

PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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LETTERS

Water not at 100%

Dear Editor,

California is experiencing a near-record water year with the snow pack at 148 percent of normal. Yet Zone 7 Water Agency, a state water contractor that relies heavily on Delta-conveyed water to serve the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and part of San Ramon, expects to receive only 70% to 80% of its contracted water amount this year. Central Valley Project contractors serving primarily agricultural lands anticipate just 65 percent.

One might ask why the full contract amount is not available in this year of plenty. Contributing to the shortfall are court-imposed pumping restrictions aimed at protecting endangered fish species in the Delta, along with operational limitations of the state's aging infrastructure.

Following three very dry hydrologic years, the State Project's limitations hurt Zone 7's ability to store surplus water for long-term drought recovery and protection.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan, being developed cooperatively by water agencies, environmental groups and fish agencies, offers the best holistic solution to achieve the state's co-equal goals of restoring water-supply reliability and protecting the Delta's ecosystem.

Moving ahead with the BDCP, which is intended to become part of the larger Delta Stewardship Plan, is necessary to help ensure that we can take advantage of nature's bounty when it's again available.

**G.F. Duerig,
General Manager, Zone 7**

No on Measure E

Dear Editor,

Even though I have a grandchild attending school in Pleasanton I am going to vote No on Measure E, the Pleasanton parcel tax. Call me cynical, but I do not believe that another tax will do much, if anything, to improve the quality of education provided by the Pleasanton Unified School District. History has shown that tax increases rarely do what they are intended to do, and the additional funds just seem to mysteriously disappear into the black hole of bureaucracy.

As to the advertised "senior exemption," I hope that all seniors clearly understand that this is not an "automatic" exemption. It must be reapplied for every year. Miss

the deadline, or forget to apply, and you pay the tax. I am sure that the authors of this measure are counting on many seniors forgetting to reapply. That is why the exemption is not automatic. You can get the facts and more information at www.pleasantonparceltaxinfo.com.

Please join me in rejecting this tax increase. Vote No on Measure E.

Patrick Carroll

Yes on Measure E

Dear Editor,

The time has come for voters in Pleasanton to make a decision. We have lost many good teachers as well as staff and administrators. We have increased class sizes and eliminated classes. State funding has been greatly reduced and there will be no raises for teachers and staff for the next year. Join with the League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley to support our wonderful students and our excellent schools. Vote Yes on measure E.

**Chuck Hazen, coordinator
Julice Winter, coordinator
Vivian Thorson, director,
League of Women Voters-LAV**

Castlewood lockout needs mediation

Dear Editor,

I am part of a group of clergy and lay leaders in Pleasanton who have been working for over a year to end the lockout of 61 Castlewood Country Club workers and to help bring about a just settlement between workers and management. Thank you for your fine article on this matter in February.

In the past year, we fear we have seen a "hardening of hearts" and no authentic movement at the bargaining table. This stalemate cannot continue. Basic and real livelihoods of workers are at stake, as is the reputation and viability of the club, which has lost business because of a community boycott over the lockout.

Thus, in the interest of ending the impasse and bringing about reconciliation, our group would like to advocate that the Castlewood management and the union agree to mediation and binding arbitration. This seems sensible in a situation which has gone on for so long. It is time to end the lockout and to settle the dispute with some new ideas. These steps we advocate have been taken before in our community with positive results. Why not try them again in this situation?

Patricia Belding

YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Vote Yes on Measure E

The sample ballot and voter information pamphlet on Measure E, the school district's proposed \$98 a year parcel tax, has been sent to all registered voters in the Pleasanton Unified School District. The actual ballot will be mailed Monday and will include a postage-paid return envelope, with the ballot due back at the Alameda County Registrar's office by close of business Tuesday, May 3. Postmarks will not count, so voters are urged to vote early to ensure their ballot is received by the registrar by 8 p.m. May 3.

If approved by two-thirds of the votes cast in this special mail-in ballot election, each parcel of taxable real property in the school district will be assessed \$98 a year for a total of four years. For purposes of this special tax, "parcel" means any parcel of land that receives a separate tax bill from the Alameda County tax collector, large or small.

This will be the second time that the Pleasanton school district has asked voters to approve a parcel tax. Measure G, which sought approval of a

\$233 a year parcel tax, was defeated in June 2009, with just 61.7% of the total number of votes cast, or less than two-thirds, supporting it.

This time, the school board hired a consulting firm to conduct a public survey, which showed that more than two-thirds of those queried would support a parcel tax of under \$100, but not a higher amount. The board chose to set the proposed tax at \$98 and also to limit it to four years at the most.

Faced with a budget deficit of \$7.7 million, the school district needs this parcel tax to continue quality education in Pleasanton. Frankly, we wished the district would have asked for more because this tax will bring in only about \$2 million annually for the next four years. The school district has already made tentative cuts in personnel, with 67 teachers, 25 school staff and 17 administrators and other services on the chopping block for a total of \$3.5 million unless more funds come in. Measure E will not prevent all of the cuts, but it could prevent the most devastating by providing stable and predictable funding.

With Gov. Jerry Brown's decision last Tuesday to call off negotiations for legislative approval of his much-touted special election in June to extend higher taxes on income, vehicles and sales, hopes are dimming for school districts around the state, including Pleasanton's, to see an uptick in state education funds our schools so desperately need. The Pleasanton district, skeptical anyhow that the Brown plan would succeed, has moved forward on preparing a fiscal 2011-12 budget without any of the increases his tax measure might have produced.

Still, with millions of dollars in new state cuts looming, we cannot allow Pleasanton's high-performing schools to decline. As parents, students and property owners in Pleasanton, it is in our collective interest to continue having schools that are among the best in the state, that attract and retain highly qualified teachers, that stress continued improvement in math, science and reading skills, that keep school libraries open and class sizes as low as the district can afford. Measure E mandates that no funds from the parcel tax can be used to increase teacher or administrator salaries or benefits, and establishes an independent oversight committee to review the use of the funds and report its finding publicly.

When your Measure E ballot arrives next week, vote Yes and mail the ballot back promptly. ■



Visit Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com to comment on the editorial.





COURTESY PRIYA SHAMKAR
Priya Shankar made friends with the women at Seva Mandir's domestic violence shelter in Rajasthan and is producing a dance performance in Pleasanton to benefit them.

Dancing for Manju International performance will benefit women's shelters

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Manju didn't talk when Pleasanton resident Priya Shankar met her at the shelter for domestic violence victims in Rajasthan. Manju, 28, had left her abusive husband — for the second time — bringing her four children with her.

"Her husband came to the shelter and stole the children from her," Shankar said. "She tries to go by the house once in awhile to see if the children are OK. When I left the shelter, she was still dejected and downtrodden."

Shankar, 23, a 2005 graduate of Foothill High, was in India last year as a Fulbright Scholar when she began to help at the shelter, one of hundreds run by the nonprofit Seva Mandir Inc. A dancer since age 5, Shankar used this creative form to help the women.

"I found that dance could serve as a tremendously positive tool in bringing women out of their most difficult moments in life," Shankar said.

"At first Manju was completely silent so I didn't approach her initially but in time through dancing and talking I saw a lot of enthusiasm coming out of her," Shankar recalled.

Now that Shankar is back in the States, she is producing a dance performance to benefit Seva Mandir's shelter. "The Way She Moves: A Celebration of Womanhood" will take the stage April 17 at the Amador Theater, with dancing from India and Zimbabwe as well as Spanish Flamenco.

"The proceeds of the show will be used to provide basic amenities, security guards, vocational training and counseling to these women who live in an area where 61.4% of women experience abuse on a day-to-day basis," Shankar said.

She also got to know a woman named Raj whose husband had tried to light her on fire.

"She ran and was OK. She got to the shelter with her two children," Shankar remembered. "They were talking to the husband about her situation, and even though her husband



Raj and her children were tortured by her spouse, but nonetheless after only one month at the shelter, she moved back to live with him. Why? She felt she deserved the abuse, and that there was no alternative.

had abused her in that way, she went back to her husband. I think for her there's a lot of feeling that she deserved it. That's also something that needs to change. She said, 'I'm destined to have this as my fate, there's no way out.' That's one of the sadder stories. Also, a lot of it is alcoholism."

One-fifth of the proceeds from the dance performance will go to Tri-Valley Haven since domestic violence is also a problem in the United States, Shankar said.

"But the degree and severity of violence is different in India. It is kind of the norm," she explained. "A lot of women are pretty attached to their husband even after things like that happen — sometimes they come back even though they know it might not be the best situation for them or the children.

"There it's so harsh, the things women are subjected to, because there is family pressure," she added. "The women's parents will be mad if they run away. They don't have support on either

side. At the shelter, at least they have a support network."

Seva Mandir's shelter has some vocational programs, she said, to help women become self-supporting.

"But they are underfunded, understaffed — under everything," she noted.

Shankar graduated in 2009 from the University of Pennsylvania and applied for the Fulbright Scholarship.

"It was a one-year scholarship to work in India and do research," Shankar said. "I was living in Rajasthan for six months.

"My project was related to maternal and child health and nutrition, and some of programs around the country to alleviate the hunger issues women and child face," she continued. "Right now 33% of the children in India are underweight; 55% of the women are anemic.

"It's a pretty serious situation and I was studying that issue and what is the government doing to alleviate that."

Once she began to work at Seva Mandir's shelter, she got to know many of the women, speaking in Hindi, and then through teaching them dance.

"I got to hear a lot of the women's stories," Shankar said. "I got pretty close to them. When I first met them I found them morose and dejected. There was not a lot of happiness in their lives. But as a result of dancing with them on a day-to-day basis, I got to see them come out of their shells, come out of themselves."

When she returned home, she wanted to help the women in the shelter and felt producing a dance program was symbolic since she'd seen how powerful it was to raise their spirits.

"One of the pieces is a Rajasthani folksong that the women themselves taught me," she said. "It's kind of symbolic, the whole thing."

Shankar will attend Bryn Mawr College next for post-baccalaureate pre-medicine and plans to become an obstetrician/gynecologist.

And she said she will continue to dance.

"It's something that gives me a lot of peace and happiness," she said. ■

Friends of Seva Mandir

WHAT

"The Way She Moves: A Celebration of Womanhood"

WHO

Benefits Seva Mandir domestic violence shelter in Rajasthan, India, and Tri-Valley Haven

WHERE

Amador Theater
1155 Santa Rita Rd.

WHEN

4-7 p.m.
Sunday, April 17

TICKETS

Call 417-1897 or visit
friendsofsevamandir.com

COST

\$10, \$25,
\$50, \$100

POLICE BULLETIN

Cars stolen from fairgrounds

Two cars were stolen in separate incidents at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, according to police reports.

In one incident, a 1970 Plymouth Duster was stolen between 6:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. March 26 while the owner attended the Goodguys car show, one report said. A 1987 Toyota Four-runner was taken between 10 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. March 27, according to a separate report.

In another incident, a flat screen TV valued at

\$600, checks worth \$1,200, \$125 in cash and a signed John Madden football were stolen from a business in the 5000 block of Pleasanton Avenue, a police report said. The theft occurred between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. March 27, according to the report, which said a front door was unlocked.

Jewelry worth an estimated \$125 was stolen in another burglary, at an apartment in the 3300 block of Norton Way on March 28, a police report said. The theft took place between 4:45 and 7:25 p.m., according to the report, which said a front door had been left unlocked. A \$40 rope necklace, two beaded bracelets worth \$20 and \$25, \$40 hoop earrings and a clipboard with court documents were taken in the theft.

POLICE REPORT

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

March 21

Theft

- 4:19 p.m. in the 2400 block of Pomino Way; grand theft
- 4:44 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft, vandalism
- 7:32 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Vehicle break in

- 5:52 p.m. in the 7300 block of Elmwood Circle

Battery

- 7:16 p.m. in the 1000 block of Reising Drive

Illegal weapon possession

- 1:19 p.m. in the 500 block of Case Avenue

Vandalism

- 2:44 p.m. in the 6900 block of Valley Trails Drive
- 2:47 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Reflections Drive
- 2:47 p.m. in the 3400 block of Nevada Court
- 6:03 p.m. in the 400 block of Amaral Circle

Drug/alcohol violations

- 3:34 p.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession

March 22

Theft

- 9:57 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 12:12 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Counterfeiting

- 1:10 p.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road

Battery

- 11:03 a.m. in the 9400 block of Blessing Drive
- 6:53 p.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street

Auto burglary

- 11:34 a.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road
- 9:01 p.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive
- 10:04 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

- 2:15 a.m. in the 2300 block of Gloria Court
- 12:45 p.m. in the 5100 block of Golden Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:24 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Koll Center Drive; DUI
- 3:35 a.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 8:46 p.m. in the 2900 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

March 23

Theft

- 9:18 a.m. in the 5900 block of Via del Cielo; petty theft
- 1:08 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; petty theft
- 2:19 p.m. in the 600 block of Main Street; identity theft

Battery

- 5:29 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; felony battery

Threats

- 9:40 a.m. in the 3200 block of Marilyn Court

Auto burglary

- 10:13 a.m. in the 2100 block of Rheem Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:33 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stonecliff Vista Lane; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance; marijuana possession, under the influence of a controlled substance
- 7:16 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Trevor Parkway; marijuana possession; possession of tobacco by a minor

March 24

Theft

- 10:56 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; identity theft
- 4:08 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, conspiracy

Burglary

- 8:26 p.m. in the 7600 block of Cottonwood Drive

Prank calls

- 10:49 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

Auto burglary

- 10:05 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:52 p.m. in the 7800 block of Olive Court; public drunkenness

March 25

Theft

- 8:36 a.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; identity theft

Burglary

- 10:05 a.m. in the 4400 block of Andrews Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:19 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- 5:59 a.m. at the intersection of Neal Street and Entrada Drive; paraphernalia possession, under the influence of a controlled substance
- 11:17 a.m. in the 1400 block of Kolln Street; under the influence of a controlled substance, battery
- 11:19 p.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and Rose Avenue; DUI
- 11:39 p.m. in the 3600 block of Annis Circle; DUI

March 26

Theft

- 12:41 a.m. in the 800 block of Main

Street; grand theft

- 11:17 a.m. in the 7800 block of Cypress Creek Court; identity theft
- 8:07 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vandalism

- 12:49 p.m. in the 700 block of Main Street

Drug/alcohol violations

- 11:06 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance

March 27

Theft

- 10:25 a.m. in the 1200 block of W. Lagoon Road; theft
- 12:54 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; auto theft

Burglary

- 1:21 p.m. in the 5000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Vandalism

- 12:35 a.m. in the 200 block of Rose Avenue

- 10:26 a.m. in the 3500 block of Pimlico Drive

- 5:24 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:12 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; public drunkenness
- 1:06 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 1:35 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 3:41 a.m. in the 8100 block of Regency Drive; DUI, hit and run
- 6:52 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue, public drunkenness, battery

March 28

Theft

- 5:28 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

Burglary

- 10:59 a.m. in the 900 block of Main Street

- 7:56 p.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

- 10:25 p.m. in the 3300 block of Norton Way

Vandalism

- 10:56 a.m. in the 900 block of Sycamore Creek Way
- 11:22 a.m. in the 1000 block of Valley Avenue
- 11:27 a.m. at the intersection of Iron Horse Trail and Mohr Avenue
- 3:26 p.m. in the 3700 block of Stanley Boulevard

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:08 p.m. in the 7300 block of Stonedale Drive; public drunkenness
- 2:41 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 11:55 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; public drunkenness

OBITUARIES

Leo Ortiz

Leo Ortiz, 75, a longtime resident of Pleasanton, died peacefully at home March 15 with his two daughters at his side.

He was born Feb. 15, 1936, in Colorado and moved to San Francisco as a boy. After returning home from the Army, he lived in Newark and Fremont before moving to Pleasanton in 1976. He spent more than 40 years working in the auto industry for General Motors then New United Motors before retiring in 2006. Upon his retire-

ment from NUMMI he spent his mornings helping his son-in-law at Richert Lumber. Any day of the week you could find him spending time with his grandchildren.

Mr. Ortiz is survived by his daughter Amanda Richert and her husband Matt of Pleasanton; daughter Tami Spradlin and her husband Dana of Ruidoso, N.M.; and son Daniel Ortiz and his wife Christina of Patterson; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Donations can be made to Hope Hospice.



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of FY 2011/12 Housing and Human Services Grant Program and Evaluation Process
- Review of Commission Meeting Schedule for May, June, July, August, and September 2011

The April 4, 2011 meeting of the Civic Arts Commission has been rescheduled to April 11, 2011

The April 5, 2011 City Council meeting has been cancelled. The next regular council meeting will be held on April 19, 2011.

The City of Pleasanton Commission and

Committee Recruitment

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

- Housing Commission – 1 Alternate
- Human Services Commission – 1 Member, 1 Alternate
- Library Commission – 1 Alternate
- Youth Commission – 7 Youth Members
- Economic Vitality Committee -- 1 representative from each of the following categories:
 - Commercial Services
 - Infrastructure
 - Medical Technology

Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails – 1 At-Large Youth Member

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA)
Citizens Advisory Committee
1 Pleasanton representative

Altamont Landfill Committee Education Advisory Board
1 Pleasanton representative - Member should be a science, environmental education or vocational education teacher from the Pleasanton Public Schools and a resident of Alameda County.

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

Applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 1, 2011. 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

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

Three years later:
Tragic tale of greed
and murder ends
with son's conviction

GUILL

By GLENN WOHLTMANN



It took three years, start to finish, from the time the bodies of Ernest Scherer Jr. and Charlene Abendroth were found in their Castlewood County Club home until their son, Ernest Scherer III, was convicted earlier this week in the brutal double murder.

The case has all the elements of a made-for-TV movie: greed, lust, brutality and a man whose lack of emotion made him the target of the police investigation from the start. A call in March 2008 from the victims' daughter, concerned that she hadn't heard from them, led to the discovery of the bodies of the elder Scherer and Abendroth who were bludgeoned, slashed and stabbed repeatedly in their home on Castlewood Drive.

It took a year for Scherer III to be arrested and nearly another year for him to be brought to trial. It took three months for the case to be laid out to jurors, but it took less than 11 hours for that jury to convict him on all counts: two charges of murder for financial gain, one count of committing multiple murders, and a use-of-a-deadly weapon charge for using a sharp instrument to kill his parents.

a meal from McDonald's with a credit card. Bloody sneaker prints that matched the style purchased and a label from a matching bat were found at the scene.

It didn't take long for the investigation to zero in on Scherer. The day his parents were laid to rest, police executed a search warrant at his home in Brea, Calif., where he lived with his wife, Robyn, and their young son, Ernest IV. That house was described by prosecutor Michael Nieto as the "accelerant" that led to the crime, claiming Scherer was in debt and unable to keep up the payments on a home purchased at the peak of the real estate market.

Police also seized his car, a Camaro convertible that matched a car in a black-and-white surveillance tape from the country club.

In 2008, while Scherer was still just "a person of interest," Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott Dudek sent out emails to Castlewood residents asking whether anyone had spotted a red Camaro in the area. Investigators also started looking into Scherer's finances.

"We're asking anyone who is owed money by Ernie Scherer III to call us," Dudek said at the time.

Before long, Scherer's actions led his own family members to doubt his innocence. Scherer went into hiding after being interviewed several times by police.

Robyn, who was working with investigators, filed for divorce following a long, secretly taped conversation the two had in which he mentioned several times that a wife can't be forced to testify against her husband. His aunt, Carolyn Scherer Oesterle, who originally promised to pay for his defense, backed out when Scherer disappeared, and Ernest Scherer Sr. refused to have any contact with his grandson.

Investigators believe the murders took place on March 7, 2008, although the bodies weren't discovered until March 14. While mail was piling up at his parents' home and calls to them were going unanswered, Scherer went on a series of dates with a woman he had met at a trapeze class not far from his home in Southern California while his wife was away.

That's just part of what the prosecution portrayed as Scherer's freewheeling, philandering lifestyle, often leaving his wife and infant son at home while he gambled and dated women he met through Craigslist in Las Vegas.

That pattern continued as police slowly compiled evidence against him. While investigators were tracing his actions on the day in question, Scherer began placing ads on Craigslist seeking women and possible places to live in other areas of the country.

Scherer and his defense attorney Richard Foxall claim the investigation never looked at other possible suspects. Police accounts prove that to be true, largely because Scherer's lack of emotion going back to his parents' funeral made him their prime suspect from the start.

He was caught in lies during interviews, claiming that he wasn't in financial trouble but demanding to be let into his parents' house to see their will. That will would have put him in line to receive half of his parents' estate, which totaled well over \$2 million, and the inheritance was the driving force behind the killings, according to the prosecution.

In closing arguments, prosecutor Michael Nieto showed



HARRY ARRUDA

Clockwise from top: A mug shot of Ernest Scherer III taken when he was booked in Las Vegas; Scherer stands with his wife and sister at the funeral of his parents; victims Ernest Scherer Jr. and Charlene Abendroth; Scherer comforts his grandfather and aunt at his parents' funeral; Scherer as pallbearer at the funeral.



"There's no single piece of the puzzle that points to Mr. Scherer's guilt," said Alameda County Deputy District Attorney David Stein in a 2009 preliminary hearing, adding that when all the pieces of the case were put together, "It's very clear that he beat and stabbed his parents for money."

While Scherer claimed his innocence right from the start, police carefully built a case against him, tracing his movements to the weeks before the killings. He tried to have a friend buy him a gun in Nevada, driving more than an hour away from Las Vegas, where he was a professional poker player whose winnings had plummeted in the year before the murders.

That friend refused (and later testified against him), but police tracked the purchase of a bat, sneakers and a pair of soccer gloves, paid for in cash, to Primm, a small town in Nevada, at the same time Scherer was there, buying gas and

TTY

the jury a chart of lies that Scherer had told and forced him to admit that he lied often in instances in which he had extramarital affairs or had to borrow money.

"A liar stands alone," Nieto told the jury.

The trial dredged up some squabbles, both inside and outside the family; Abendroth, who was a lecturer at Cal State East Bay and a devout Mormon, clearly objected to both her husband's gambling and her son's decision to become a professional gambler. Ernest Scherer Jr., active in the Republican Party, had been recalled from the San Ramon Valley school board and "had enemies," in the words of a friend who testified.

In the end, Scherer's own statements both at the trial and to police were what convicted him, according to one juror who asked not to be named.

"Inconsistencies, unknown whereabouts, you could go down the list," that juror said. "He has a hard time keeping a story straight."

While Scherer's accounts of his time before and after the murders were detailed, his recall of the day his parents were killed, when he claimed he was driving home from Las Vegas, seemed sketchy. He testified he was at home in Brea asleep on his couch when the murders occurred, which didn't sit well with the jury.

"All of a sudden, there's a blank area," the juror said, adding that Scherer's actions after the killings were suspect as well.

"In a case where you're innocent, why don't you show your innocence? How could you not?" the juror said. "Did he love his son? Did he love his father? Money makes you do crazy things."

Closing arguments ended March 24, and jury deliberations began. They lasted a little over four hours that day, and nearly four-and-a-half hours on Friday, concluding Monday after about two hours.

The juror said they were all convinced of Scherer's guilt from the start of deliberations. The time was spent "just going over everything, making sure."

The conviction brought out mixed emotions from the family. Oesterle and Robyn held hands in the courtroom; as the jury announced its decisions, Oesterle gave a thumbs-up for each guilty sentence from the jury foreman, but Robyn, who'd been in a relationship with Scherer for most of her adult life, cried as the verdict was read. Both had testified against Scherer.

He sat staring down at the table before him as the jury filed in, but shook his head as the verdicts against him were read out.

Sentencing is set for May 20. Early on, the prosecution decided not to pursue a death penalty in the case; instead, Scherer faces a potential sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. ■

"In a case where you're innocent, why don't you show your innocence? How could you not? Did he love his son? Did he love his father? Money makes you do crazy things."

Juror, on Scherer murder case



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

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Author Visits

TAHOE BENEATH THE SURFACE

"Tahoe Beneath the Surface: The Hidden Stories of America's Largest Mountain Lake" brings hidden history to life through the stories of its celebrated residents and visitors over the last 10,000 years, mixing Washoe Indian legends with tales of murderous Mafia dons, and Rat Pack tunes with Steinbeck novels. Author Scott Lankford will speak at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 10, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Towne Center Books will sell "Tahoe Beneath the Surface" at the event. Call 931-3405.

Civic Meetings

PLEASANTON RIDGE WORKSHOP

The East Bay Regional Park District invites residents to a presentation on the Draft Public Access and Trails Concept Plan Map, a component of the Pleasanton Ridge Park Land Use Plan. The workshop is from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, at Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Call 510-544-2323 or visit www.ebparks.org. An open house follows with opportunities for discussion.

Classes

FROM IDEA TO ENTREPRENEUR

Attorney Gerald Prettyman will present "How to Launch and Run a Business" from 6:45-8:30 p.m., Monday, April 4, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. He will discuss what to consider when selecting your form of business, the registrations needed to document and open a business, company marketing and more. This event is free. Call 600-7342 or visit www.GotABrightIdea.com.

NATURAL ARTS Explore the art of the natural world and then create some of your own with such items as shells, leaves, seeds and feathers just a few of the items nature has provided. Class is from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 9, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. Cost \$9 for residents and \$12 for non-residents. Call 931-3483.

STAR PARTY Bring the family to a night under the stars to hear great stories, some old and some new, told by naturalist Eric Nichols, from 8-9:30 p.m., Saturday, April 9, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. Cost is \$9 for residents; \$12, non-residents. Call 931-3483.

Events

ANNUAL CFA ALLBREED CAT SHOW

Over 200 cats and kittens of 41 breeds will be on display and competing for best in show from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 2-3 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Rescue groups will have loving cats for adoption. Shop for cat-oriented arts and crafts, gifts and gadgets. Prize drawings. Proceeds go to Northern California animal rescue and health research. Cost \$8 for adults, \$5 seniors and children under 10 years of age, and \$20 for a family. Call 827-2722 or visit www.keencat.com/catshow/cc-2011-flyer.pdf.

HAWAIIAN AND TROPICAL

EXTRAVAGANZA Shop for tropical clothing, jewelry, sandals for men, women and children, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, April 8; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 9; and noon-5 p.m., Sunday, April 10, at American Cancer Society Discovery Shop Furniture Store, 1987 A Santa Rita Rd. Home accessories with pictures and dishes featuring palm trees and shells. Call 462-7374.

SPRING WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

Enjoy flowery fun for the whole family! Event is from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 2, at Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness Park, 1895 Geary Rd., Sunol. Festivities include short, long and kid-friendly guided hikes; music; crafts to take home; information booths; and nature slideshows. Bring a picnic lunch! Call 510-544-3249 or visit www.ebparks.org.

Fundraisers

'SHE IS SAFE' - SIXTH ANNUAL INDIAN

DINNER Enjoy music, fellowship, dinner and an inspiring report on rescuing women and girls in some of the hardest parts of the world, from 5:30-8 p.m., Saturday, April 16, at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. Special guest speaker is Michele Rickett, founder of She is Safe. Cost \$15 for adults; \$5 for children. Free childcare with reservations; email maryhootman@comcast.net or call 998-3785.

5TH ANNUAL TRI-VALLEY ARTHRITIS

WALK The Arthritis Foundation Northern California Chapter will have its fifth annual Tri-Valley Arthritis Walk from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 30, at Lifestyle RX, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The Arthritis Walk raises awareness for arthritic diseases and research. The arthritis walk is a family and dog friendly event. One- or three-mile course, and a day of fun! Call 415-356-1230 or visit www.aw2011trivally.kintera.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

'STEPPING STONES ON YOUR GRIEF

JOURNEY' The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Explore the stepping stones that are part of each grief journey in an eight-week series of workshops, at 7:30 p.m.,

Thursdays, April 7 through June 2, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Preregistration is requested and a one-time donation of \$15. Sessions open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Call Mary Hagerty at 846-5377.

Live Music

AMERICAN JAZZ HALL OF FAME

Pianist and nine-time Grammy nominee Kenny Barron will be performing at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 7, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Barron, a musician, composer, arranger and educator who began playing professionally as a teenager, was influenced by Dizzy Gillespie's band and Latin and Caribbean rhythms. Tickets \$30-\$45. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

PORTUGUESE WORLD MUSIC

Ramana Viera pulls traditional Portuguese "fado" music into the 21st century, juxtaposing unconventional instrumental layers over fado's haunting melodies and melancholy stories of heartache and disappointment. She will perform at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 2, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets \$16-\$24 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Miscellaneous

GARDEN, PATIO DONATIONS

NEEDED The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop Furniture Store will be hosting its annual Home and Garden Event, "Thyme in the Garden," on Friday-Saturday, May 13-14. It really needs donations of garden and patio related items. For pickup, call Monda at 462-7374 or e-mail Monda.wiseman@cancer.org.

VETERANS FOR PEACE The next monthly meeting of the new East Bay Chapter, No. 162, of Veterans for Peace will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 9, at 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. All veterans are welcome. Monthly meetings are held the second Saturday of each month. Call Fred at 462-7495.

On Stage

'NIGHT OUT - A MINI-OPERA IN A DINER' Livermore Valley Opera is taking a short break from fully

staged traditional operas to create a fun-loving show starring nationally recognized principal singers and a waitress with an attitude. Kids matinee will take place at 2 p.m. followed by an 8 p.m. evening performance on Saturday, April 16,

at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets for the matinee are \$15-\$18 for adults, \$9-\$12 for children and seniors; evening performance is \$17-\$32 for adults, and \$7-\$22 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.



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PET OF THE WEEK

Honey of a dog

If you want a sweet little dog that loves a nice walk or to cuddle on your lap, you have found one in this cute little Chihuahua mix named "Honey." She is 2 years old, already spayed, and will be microchipped at adoption. Honey was surrendered to the East County Animal Shelter by her owners when they could not keep her any longer. She has shown a great spirit while living at the shelter but would adore having her own family again. You can meet this sweet little girl by coming to the East County Animal Shelter at 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, which is open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. seven days a week.



TERRI DUNCAN

Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Tax time less taxing for homeowners

Plans to cut mortgage interest deductions could have 'disastrous consequence,' Realtor says

By JEB BING

Owning a home offers myriad benefits throughout the year, but some of the financial advantages of home ownership are most apparent at tax time.

"As many of today's hard-working American families are feeling a financial squeeze, the tax benefits that can come from owning a home can be a welcome relief," said Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I., and president of the National Association of Realtors.

A number of tax deductions and credits are still available for home owners. These include deductions, with specific limits, for mortgage interest and capital gains on home sales, and credits for certain energy-efficient home improvements. Even with these benefits, homeowners pay 80-90 percent of all U.S. federal income taxes.

"It's been suggested that many of today's tax incentives for home ownership primarily benefit wealthy individuals, but that's simply not true," Phipps said. "As today's public debate continues about what home ownership means for families, communities, and the nation's economy, there's no question that for

many, owning a home is still the best way to begin building wealth."

An estimated 91 percent of home owners who claim the mortgage interest deduction earn less than \$200,000 a year, and the ability to deduct the interest paid on a mortgage can mean significant savings at tax time, according to the NAR. For example, the organization calculated that a family who bought a home in 2010 with a \$200,000, 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage, assuming an interest rate of 4.5 percent, could save nearly \$3,500 in federal taxes when they file this year.

"Realtors see the very real positive impact of home ownership every day with our clients," Phipps said.

"Recent proposals to reduce or eliminate the mortgage interest deduction and remove government support of the housing finance market could have disastrous consequences for the economy, not to mention making it harder or nearly impossible for millions of families to own their own homes," Phipps said. "We believe America must continue to invest in home ownership, for the future of our families and our nation." ■

Home sales hit highest percentage of absentee, cash buyers in 20 years

Bay Area home sales this February hit its highest percentage of absentee and cash buyers in more than 20 years, a real estate information service reported.

With many would-be buyers afraid to step up to the plate, more absentee and cash buyers entered the playing field and purchased about 54 percent of all Bay Area homes combined last month, according to DataQuick Information Systems.

These absentee buyers, mainly investors, purchased 23.4 percent of all Bay Area homes in February, the highest for any month since absentee figures were first recorded in January 2000, DataQuick reported.

This is a slight increase from 22.8 percent in January, but the figure is almost 10 percentage points greater than the monthly average of absentee buyers, DataQuick reported.

Buyers who paid all cash, meaning no corresponding purchase loan was found in public record, accounted for 30.9 percent of sales in February, the service reported.

This is a gain in cash sales from January's 28.7 percent, and a noticeable increase from the monthly average of 11.6 percent, according to DataQuick.

Overall, February's Bay Area home sales were sluggish, with just under 5,000 new and resale houses and condos sold, according to the service.

This is a gain of 0.5 percent from January, but a 0.9 percent decrease from February 2010, DataQuick reported.

A record low of only 243 newly built homes accounted for the 5,000 Bay Area homes sold in February, DataQuick reported.

This figure is just slightly greater than the previous all-time low recorded in January, the service reported.

Low sales in newly built homes reflect the

difficulties builders face when trying to compete with prices on resale homes, especially distressed properties, DataQuick reported.

Distressed sales accounted for just over half of the Bay Area's resale market in February, according to DataQuick.

These sales are the combination of sales of foreclosed homes and short sales, which are transactions where the sale price fell short of what was owed on the property, DataQuick reported.

"Sales over the past two months certainly underscore the market's reliance on investor and cash purchases at a time many potential buyers hesitated to act," DataQuick President John Walsh said in a news release.

Walsh said using the past two months alone to form predictions wouldn't cover all the bases, though.

"It's not clear that the January-February figures say much, if anything, about where the market is headed," Walsh said. "Historically, those two months have been weak indicators of what happens next."

Indicators of market distress continue to move in different directions, according to DataQuick.

Foreclosure activity remains high by historical standards but below peak levels reached over the past two years, DataQuick reported.

Financing with multiple mortgages is low and down payment sizes are stable, the service reported.

DataQuick monitors real-estate activity nationwide and provides information to consumers, educational institutions, public agencies, lending institutions, title companies and industry analysts.

Because of limited data availability, sales were estimated in Alameda and San Mateo counties.

— Rachel Purdy, Bay City News



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KRISTY & COMPANY (925) 251.2536 4 Bd 3 Ba • 3,027+/- sq.ft., 16.01+/- Acres Magnificent Location, This home is only 2 years new w/ views, Single story, all located next to Pleasanton Ridge Park, Great Castle Brook Horse Barn.	WEINER / MCDOWELL (925) 251.2550 \$1,298,000 • 3,675+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Acres Carriage Gardens, single level! Great floorplan w/ oversized rooms, 3 fireplaces, master w/retreat. Salt solar pool, spa & cabana w/bath, tree house.	UWE MAERCZ (925) 360.8758 \$3,649,000 • 6 Bd • 6(1) Ba • 9,821+/- sq.ft. This Italian Villa is all about architectural details & refined craftsmanship. Located on cul-de-sac, views, private patios & balconies.	LISA DOYLE (925) 855.4000 \$539,000 • 2 Bd • 2 Ba • 1,156+/- sq.ft. Court/ Prime location. Open, light & bright floor plan, vaulted ceilings, hrdwd flrs & more! Close to freeways, trails, walk to BART & shops.	KELLY PATTERSON (925) 200.2525 \$739,950 • 4 Bd • 3 Ba • 2,059+/- sq.ft. Tassajara Ranch! Loaded w/upgrades. 4th br is a den., gourmet kitchen, crown molding, tile flooring. Spectacular rear yard w/in ground spa.

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DAVID AZIMI (925) 251.2580 \$380,500 • 3 Bd • 2 Ba • 1,246+/- sq.ft. Spacious 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Updated throughout, granite counters, cherry cabinets, beautiful laminate floors, pride of ownership.	JOE FRAZZANO (925) 735.7653 \$799,900 • 5 Bd • 4.5 Ba • 3,148+/- sq.ft. Grand entry w/ volume ceilings & marble floors, large formal dining room, full bd & ba downstairs, gourmet kitchen, 3 car garage & MORE!	SARA LOVETT (925) 518.8177 \$375,950 • 3 Bd • 2 Ba • 1,136+/- sq.ft. Features Open Spacious Kitchen with Maple Cabinets, Master Suite w/ Walk-In Closet, Carpet & Wood Laminate Flooring and much more!	DIANE SASS (925) 462.2068 \$755,888 • 3 Bd • 2 Ba • 1,384+/- sq.ft. Mission San Jose home! Kitchen and flooring updated, new back yard landscaping, views of the hills! Great curb appeal.	UWE MAERCZ (925) 360.8758 \$2,749,000 • 5 Bd • 5(2) Ba • 7,340+/- sq.ft. Cul-de-sac w/ unobstructed views. Impressive dual entry staircase, Oversized & temp. cont. walk-in wine cellar, large Koi pond, built in BBQ.

6000 MOUNT OLYMPUS CASTRO VALLEY OPEN SUN 1-4 	523 JOYCE ST LIVERMORE 	820 SATURN WAY LIVERMORE 	1228 HIBISCUS WAY LIVERMORE 	1711 COTTSWALD ST DANVILLE
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Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 200-2525

Fremont

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890 Pebblewood Court \$2,299,000
Sun 1-4 Sherri Stoneberger 510-504-7177
4298 Othello Drive \$748,000
Sat/Sun 11-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Livermore

2 BEDROOMS
6630 Forget Me Not \$235,000
Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

3 BEDROOMS
307 Bernal Avenue \$269,950
Sat 1-4 Connie Cox 766-3198

5 BEDROOMS
3063 Rodeo Lane \$852,600
Sat/Sun 1-4 Gene & Cindy Williams 918-2045

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3 BEDROOMS
7860-G Canyon Meadows \$319,500
Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

3621 Mason Street \$519,500
Sun 2-5 Katie Moe 216-9083

1835 Harms Drive \$538,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
3788 Rocky Mountain Court \$549,950
Sun 1-4 Connie Cox 766-3198

1921 Fiorio Circle \$565,000
Sun 2-4 Keller Williams 998-7747
6535 Singletree Way \$588,000
Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 519-8226

7509 Rosedale Court \$459,950
Sun 1-4 Maureen Nokes 251-1111

4 BEDROOMS
2381 Romano Circle \$1,210,000
Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 202-6898
23 Silver Oaks Court \$1,480,000
Sat/Sun 12-5 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 290-8399

2438 Silver Oaks Lane \$1,384,000
Sat/Sun 12-5 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 290-8399

1724 Zenato Place \$1,689,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Tom Fox 872-1275
4558 Mohr Avenue \$550,000
Sat 12-3/Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 437-5830

1654 Holly Circle \$624,900
Sun 1-4 Claudia Colwell 323-5031

3349 Hadsell Court \$659,000
Sun 1-4 Better Homes & Gardens 510-305-3913

4159 Crisfield Lane \$669,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Steve Mohseni 580-8011

7505 Trotter Way \$739,999
Sat 1-4/Sun 1:30-4:30 Keller Williams 858-5400

3471 Kamp Drive \$939,000
Sun 1-4 Andrea Rozran 858-4198

1541 Whispering Oak Way \$974,950
Sun 1-4 Tom Ivarson 200-3600

4355 Campinia Place \$1,479,000
Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

3372 Sagewood Court \$1,610,000
Sun 1:30-4 Daniel Alpher 251-1111

6 BEDROOMS
933 Laguna Creek Lane \$1,475,000
Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

7 BEDROOMS
862 Gray Fox Circle \$2,395,000
Sat 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 788-7788

San Ramon
2 BEDROOMS
235 Copper Ridge \$299,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 BEDROOMS
2536 Craneford Way \$974,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Tom Ivarson 200-3600

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3 BEDROOMS
9877 Foothill Road \$1,890,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

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5353 Sheridan Road \$1,888,888
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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during February 2011

Dublin

4072 Coquille Place N. Gaddam to V. Gupta for \$635,000

8332 Creekside Drive A. & M. Win to K. & H. Abidi for \$768,000

5683 Creekside Drive Leong Trust to R. & T. Uey for \$659,000

3967 Derryfield Court J. & R. Castro to M. & N. Baig for \$545,000

4234 Fitzwilliam Street J. Ussery to P. & H. Shah for \$330,000

4414 Fitzwilliam Street E. Lai to K. & E. Lai for \$348,000

7314 Las Palmas Way L. & L. Basurto to R. & L. Groenveld for \$670,000

3290 Maguire Way #102 C. Croly to M. Sousou for \$345,000

3349 Monaghan Street D. & T. Falls to J. Hull for \$317,000

6186 Moore Place J. Palin to M. Venigalla for \$406,000

4512 Peacock Court J. & Z. Arghandial to J. Aileni for \$592,000

6989 Penn Drive Irish Trust to T. & M. Rowell for \$390,000

4622 Rimini Court Teitworth Trust to D. Shon for \$569,000
5835 Signal Hill Drive JP Morgan Chase Bank to K. King for \$1,000,000

Pleasanton

3547 Capella Court M. Nelson to S. Asplund for \$550,000

6038 Corte Encinas Wells Fargo Bank to A. Ivanov for \$450,000

1587 East Gate Way D. & E. Lea to K. Hsieh for \$965,000

2062 Eilene Drive B. Lee to X. Wu for \$555,000

2818 Garden Creek Circle Bank of America to M. Vanmanthai for \$570,000

2824 Gray Fox Court Pappas Trust to R. & M. Currie for \$1,500,000

3902 Kral Place C. Field to L. & L. Franklin for \$705,000

4007 Peregrine Way V. Marini to E. Binboga for \$470,000

4119 Veneto Court Wells Fargo Bank to G. Bidarkundi for \$475,000

3270 West Las Positas Boulevard S. Behnam to R. Yedavilli for \$475,000

Source: California REsource



DUBLIN
 Open SUN 1 - 4
HIGHLY UPGRADED!!
 2416 CANTALISE DRIVE
 CALL FOR PRICING!!
 4 BR 3 BA Plus Library, Positano Home. Granite Kit, crown molding, cherry wood cabinets, 3 Car garage. 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
 Open SUN 2 - 4
IMMACULATE CONDITION!!
 6630 FORGET ME NOT
 \$235,000
 2 BR 2.5 BA Granite Kit, 1 car garage, Upstairs Laundry, Close to Highway, shops and dining 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
 150 AVALON CT
GORGEOUS HOME!
 \$950,000
 5 BR 5 BA Like a Model Home! Gourmet Kit, granite w/SS, Hardwood flring in Kit & Fam. rm, built in BBQ. 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
 Open SAT/SUN 12 - 4
145 COPPER RIDGE RD.
CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES AVAIL PRICING START'S IN HIGH \$200'S
 1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses, vaulted ceilings avail, w/garages, gated, renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

BRENTWOOD

Open SUN 1-4
CUSTOM RANCHER!
 221 EAGLE LANE
 \$599,950
 4 BR 2.5 BA Private Road. Vaulted beam ceilings. Open Flr plan. Knotty pine + Tile flrs. Granite Kit. & Island 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

Open SAT 1-4
DUBLIN RANCH HOME!
 5200 N. FORESTDALE CIRCLE
 CALL FOR PRICING!
 5 BR 3 BA This home has gorgeous granite countertops w/maple cabinets. Main level bonus/hobby rm. 925.847.2200

Open SUN 1 - 4
SPECTACULAR VIEW!!
 2440 FORINO DRIVE
 CALL FOR PRICING!
 5 BR 3 BA Approx 2584 Sq.Ft. Built in 2010. Eat-In Kit/Fam Rm. Granite Slab in kit. w/Island. 925.847.2200

FREMONT

43346 BANDA TER
STUNNING REMODEL!
 \$769,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA Gorgeous kit w/custom cabinetry, lighting, granite counters, Mstr ste. w/ remodel bath. 925.847.2200

Open SAT/SUN 11 - 5
COMPLETE REMODEL!
 4298 OHELLO DR
 \$748,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Ardenwood Beauty! 2052 Sq.ft. Dual Pane Windows, new roof, and new carpet. 925.847.2200

34319 EUCALYPTUS TER.
ARDENWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD!
 \$665,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA 1646 Sq.Ft. Laminate Wood flooring in Kitchen Large Master Ste. 2 car garage. 925.847.2200

5815 COMMERCE
ARDENWOOD KB HOME!
 \$605,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA Lrge Mstr Bedrm, Fireplace in Living

rm, Upgraded Kit w/Granite, Custom Paint, New Carpet 925.847.2200

ALAMEDA COUNTY

117 LICHEN CT
CHARMING COURT LOCATION
 \$428,888
 3 BR 2 BA Hardwood flrs, new carpet, dual pane windows, Updated Kitchen w/granite 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

14 CASTLEDOWN ROAD
SPANISH HACIENDA HOME
 \$1,259,950
 4 BR 2.5 BA Large 1/2 acre parcel! Beautiful 40 ft pool! Large remodeled kitchen & so much more! 925.847.2200

4465 CLOVEWOOD LN
COSMETIC FIXER!
 \$620,000
 5 BR 2.5 BA Well Kept. Hrdwd flrs, kit w/New GE

Range & Dishwasher. Breakfast bar & spacious dining area. 925.847.2200

Open SUN 1 - 4
GREAT HOME!!
 1835 HARMS DRIVE
 \$538,000

3 BR 2.5 BA This home features new paint and carpeting. Beautiful Backyard. Close to neighborhood park. 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

Open SUN 1 - 4
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED!!
 235 COPPER RIDGE
 \$299,000
 2 BR 2 BA Lovely moldings, hardwood floors, beautiful stained cement counters, one of a kind find! 925.847.2200

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



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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OPEN SUN 1-4

1541 WHISPERING OAK WAY, PLEASANTON

- Elegant "Walnut Hills" Home
- Main House and Separate Carriage House
- Main House: 4 Bedrooms and 2.5 Bathrooms, Oversized Tile Flooring, Slab Granite
- Carriage House Has Full Bath, Kitchenette and Huge Open Room
- Over 3500 sq ft Total (approx.)
- Great Commute Location, Close to Downtown, Schools and Shopping

Offered at \$974,950



OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4

JUST LISTED 2536 CRANEFORD WAY, SAN RAMON

- One of Windemere's Best Neighborhoods
- Over 4000 sq ft, 4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, plus Bonus Room
- Upgraded w/ Maple Cabinets, Granite Counters, SS Appliances
- Rear Yard w/ Stamped Conc Patio and Spa
- Close to Top Award Winning Schools and Shopping

Offered at \$974,950

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SOLD WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS



4050 Silver St. – Jensen Tract, Pleasanton
Cute and contemporary 3bd/2ba home, 1,442+/-sq.ft. Hardwood floors, updated kitchen, newer windows, roof, HVAC system, stunning backyard with fruit trees, hot tub and gazebo. Walk to downtown Pleasanton and K-12 schools.
SOLD for \$620,000

COMING SOON



2375 Fairfield Court, Pleasanton
4bd/2.5ba, “Monterey” model 2,101+/-sq.ft. Granite kitchen, newer appliances, newer windows, hardwood floors, remodeled bath, inside laundry, pool, side yard access .
Offered at \$819,000

COMING SOON



2689 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek
Single story home, 1,690+/-sq.ft., 2bd/2.5ba. Hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, dual vanity baths, inside laundry, 1/4 acre lot with workshop and side yard access. Offered at \$459,000

BUYERS NEEDS

“Holiday” model wanted in Birdland/Pleasanton Valley with side yard access, up to \$850,000

Young Pleasanton family seeks 2,800+ sq. ft. home with a large yard, preferably no pool, up to \$1.4M

Family of four seeks 2,000+ sq. ft., 4bd house, with large yard, quiet street, up to \$975,000



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1226 SHADY POND LN. PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN PHEASANT RIDGE



Amazing backyard! 6 BD 6 BA 5,096sf. on 15,712sf. lot. Top of the line upgrades throughout. Private location, BD, office & full bath on main level.
\$1,599,000

3768 NICOLE AVENUE, PLEASANTON
FOREVER MOHR ESTATES



4 BD 2.5 BA Single Story. Pool/spa, side yard access and a detached casita with full bath AND a full wine cellar under the casita. Private 1/2 acre lot, three car garage.
\$1,550,000

3123 MONTPELIER CT. PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN PLEASANTON MEADOWS



4 BD 2 BA 1,701sf. single level home. Near greenbelt. Dual panel windows. Living room, family room and dining room.
\$635,000

4190 PEREGRINE WY. PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN HERITAGE VALLEY



2 BD 2 BA 1,280sf. on a 3,486sf. lot. SINGLE LEVEL, updated flooring and bathrooms. Private backyard.
\$465,000

4025 CHADWICK PLACE, DUBLIN
LOCATED IN TASSAJARA CREEK



4 BD 2.5 BA 1,972sf. on a 3,613sf. lot. Nice open floor plan, great location! Two story, built in 2003. Modern style. Call for more information.

COMING SOON

LOCATED IN PLEASANTON
MOHR PARK
3 BD 2.5 BA 1,490sf. on a 2,730sf. lot. Open floor plan, vaulted ceilings. Walking distance to Mohr Elementary!
Low \$400,000s

LOCATED IN SAN RAMON
ROYAL VISTA
4 BD + Office & Finished Attic, 3 BA, 3,145sf. on a 9,450sf. lot. Rebuilt from ground up in 2010.
High \$800,000s

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PHEASANT RIDGE

JUST LISTED — OPEN SUN 1-4



933 LAGUNA CREEK LANE, PLEASANTON
 Beautiful Pheasant Ridge home on professionally landscaped .30 acre lot. Panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge. This semi-custom built by Greenbriar in 2007 has a total square footage of 5,096. Six bedrooms plus bonus (media prepped) (7th), six bathrooms. Upgraded gourmet kitchen with granite and stainless appliances, three car garage, beautiful grounds include built-in BBQ, outdoor fountain, large lawn area & slate meditation area. Walk to neighborhood park, convenient to downtown and award winning Pleasanton schools. **OFFERED AT \$1,475,000**

CANYON MEADOWS

JUST LISTED — OPEN SUN 1-4



7860 - G CANYON MEADOWS CIRCLE, PLEASANTON
 Beautiful Pleasanton single level condo, spacious floorplan with three bedrooms, two remodeled bathrooms, 1,257 square feet. Excellent condition, completely remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, tile & laminate flooring, updated light fixtures. Patio with storage. Walk to community clubhouse, pool/spa, gym/exercise facility & tennis court(s). Close to award winning schools and Stoneridge Mall. **OFFERED AT \$319,500**

RUBY HILL

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



4355 CAMPINIA PLACE, PLEASANTON
 Gorgeous upgraded single level home on .60 acre premium lot. Located in the desirable Ruby Hill private gated community. Four bedrooms, plus private office, three bathrooms, custom gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Extensive crown molding & built-ins, Brazilian cherry flooring, expansive master suite. Professional landscaping includes: built-in BBQ, viewing/sitting area, views of surrounding hills & vineyards, covered patio and extensive lawn area. 3-car garage. Ruby Hill community amenities: *clubhouse, golf course, swimming pool, *tennis courts, large park and greenbelts (*discounted memberships now available). Close to several wineries. **OFFERED AT \$1,479,000**

STONERIDGE PARK



2812 GARDEN CREEK CIR, PLEASANTON
 Beautiful Pleasanton single level close to great neighborhood parks & award winning schools. Open floor plan with three bedrooms, two updated bathrooms, 1,720 square feet. Excellent condition remodeled master bathroom, spacious family room/kitchen area. Hardwood flooring, updated fixtures, vaulted ceilings, completely finished garage. Large private rear yard with mature trees and landscaping. 6,264 square foot lot. Convenient to downtown. **OFFERED AT \$599,500**

GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATES LOT



8019 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY, PLEASANTON
 Beautiful large premium 1.08 acre lot in desirable Golden Eagle Estates gated community. Panoramic views! One of a couple of remaining lots. Build your own dream home or plans are approved and ready to start for a 6,300 sq ft. 5 bedroom, 6 bathroom home with 4 car garage, plans available for custom rock sculpted pool with waterslide and waterfall, pool cabana and custom outdoor kitchen with pizza oven, outdoor shower. Community amenities include: pool, tennis courts and access to Augustin Bernal Park. Located adjacent to Castlewood Country Club. Five minutes from charming downtown Pleasanton. **OFFERED AT \$1,000,000**

PONDEROSA

PENDING



6914 CORTE MADRID, PLEASANTON
 Beautiful single level, extensively remodeled home in Ponderosa. Three bedroom, two completely remodeled bathrooms. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertop, expansive center island/breakfast bar and stainless appliances. Hardwood flooring, crown molding and upgraded fixtures. 1,612 square feet. Newer roof. Professional landscaping with brick trimmed aggregate patio and lawn area. Across from Del Prado Park. Close to Pleasanton's Sports Park and minutes from downtown. Award winning schools. **OFFERED AT \$649,500**

KOTTINGER RANCH

SOLD



1327 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON
 Great location! Beautiful semi-custom home on .40 acre lot. Expansive deck with panoramic views! Private rear grounds. Five bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, 4,026 square feet. Upgraded gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, newer paint & carpeting, extensive hardwood floors. Expansive master suite. Community pool, park, tennis courts and open space. Walk to Main Street and award winning schools! **SOLD FOR \$1,163,500**

DANVILLE RANCHER

SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER



752 TURRINI DRIVE, DANVILLE
 Large beautifully updated ranch style home on over 1/3 acre premium lot in Danville! Three bedrooms, private office (4th), three bathrooms. Gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops and stainless appliances. Large master suite and bath, professionally landscaped with outdoor kitchen, in-ground pool, boat/RV parking, and side yard access. **SOLD FOR \$900,600**

GREY EAGLE ESTATES

SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER



27 GREY EAGLE ESTATE, PLEASANTON
 Secluded 5,904 sq ft. custom home on premium 5.3 acre estate in desirable, gated Grey Eagle Estates. Panoramic Views of the valley and Mt. Diablo. Five bedrooms, plus bonus room, office, 2nd office/hobby room, 3.5 bathrooms. Four car garage. Beautiful grounds include private vineyard, in-ground pool and spa. **SOLD FOR \$1,900,000**

PLEASANTON SEMI-CUSTOM

SOLD



4150 CREEKWOOD COURT, PLEASANTON
 Don't miss this private, Pleasanton home on premium 1/2 acre lot. Large multi media/game room, upgraded kitchen and bathrooms with granite. Five bedrooms, three full bathrooms, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, three car garage, 4,002 square feet. Large secluded park-like rear yard includes expansive Trex deck, in-ground pool, Hot Springs grande covered spa, waterfall/pond, playhouse, zip line, large lawn area, mature redwood trees and large cemented side yard area. Walk to great schools & neighborhood parks. **SOLD FOR \$1,120,000**

NEW CUSTOM SINGLE LEVEL

SOLD



1588 FOOTHILL ROAD, PLEASANTON
 New custom single level home on private country lane off of Foothill Road. This private half acre lot is located adjacent to Golden Eagle with ridge views. Four bedrooms, bonus room/guest quarters, home theater room, private office, lockable 400 bottle wine cellar, 4.5 bathrooms, 4,762 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops, top of the line appliances. Oversized three car garage (4th car option). In-ground pool, detached permitted room (office/workout room) seller to credit buyer for brand new landscaping. Near Castlewood Country Club. **SOLD FOR \$1,625,000**

VENTANA HILLS

SOLD! REPRESENTED BUYER & SELLER



998 HOPKINS WAY, PLEASANTON
 Beautiful, highly upgraded home on premium lot in Ventana Hills. Four bedrooms, formal office (4th), 2 1/2 bathrooms, 2,550 square feet. Completely remodeled kitchen and master bath. New hardwood flooring, newer carpet, three car garage. Private rear yard with panoramic views, built-in BBQ island, backs to open space on 9,216 square foot lot. Walk to Main Street downtown & great neighborhood park. **SOLD FOR \$1,065,000 "AS IS"**





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PRESENTING THE PROPERTIES OF OUR *Pleasanton & Livermore* OFFICES...

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,999,000
Exquisite Mediterranean estate! 6BD + loft + detached office/rec room, 5BA, 4 car garage, private 1.1 acre lot w/pool, waterfall. 7966 FOOTHILL KNOLLS DR

JO ANN LUISI BY APPT



DANVILLE \$1,999,999
Rare opportunity for a sports enthusiast! Estate features a spacious custom home, large multi-purpose out building, and lighted baseball field. 8115 CAMINOTASSAJARA

DANIEL G ALPHER SUN 1:30-4:00



PLEASANTON \$1,610,000
Warm & inviting 4391 sf estate with over 334k in upgrades. 4BD, 4.5BA luxury home with designer touches! www.3372SagewoodCt.com 3372 SAGEWOOD CT

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,599,000
Amazing backyard! 6BD, 6BA 5,096sf on 15,712sf. lot. Top of the line upgrades throughout. Private location, BD, office & full bath on main level. 1226 SHADY POND

BLAISE LOFLAND SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$1,479,000
Upgraded single level, .60 acre premium lot in Ruby Hill. Gourmet kitchen w/ granite, 4BD, 3BA, office(5th). Professional landscaping. 4355 CAMPINIA PL

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,450,000
Gorgeous 4BD+office/den. Over \$400K in improvements & designer upgrades! Private, mature .42+-acre creek side cul-de-sac lot, custom pool, spa. 7909 DORAL CT

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,000,000
Premium 1.08 acre lot. Golden Eagle Estates gated community. Panoramic views! Plans approved for 6300sq ft, 5BD, 6BA home! 8019 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$599,500
Open floor plan with 3BD, 2 updated BA, 1720 sq ft. Remodeled master BA, hardwood flooring, updated fixtures, vaulted ceilings, new windows. 2812 GARDEN CREEK CIR

MAUREEN M NOKES SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$459,950
Spacious 1900+- 3BD/2.5BA townhome. 3 pools, tennis, clubhouse. Large patio, formal dining, master bdrm w/retreat, 2 f/p, 2-car attached garage. 7509 ROSEDALE CT

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$465,000
Charming single story garden style 2 BD/2 full BA home. Open FR and LR, breakfast bar in kitchen, wood flooring, master opens to brick patio. 4190 PEREGRINE WAY



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Don Faught
Vice President
Managing Broker
Pleasanton and Livermore
dfaught@apr.com

