

Pleasanton Weekly

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Campaign starts today
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Walking for MS:
Team Danielle to walk 5K to raise awareness
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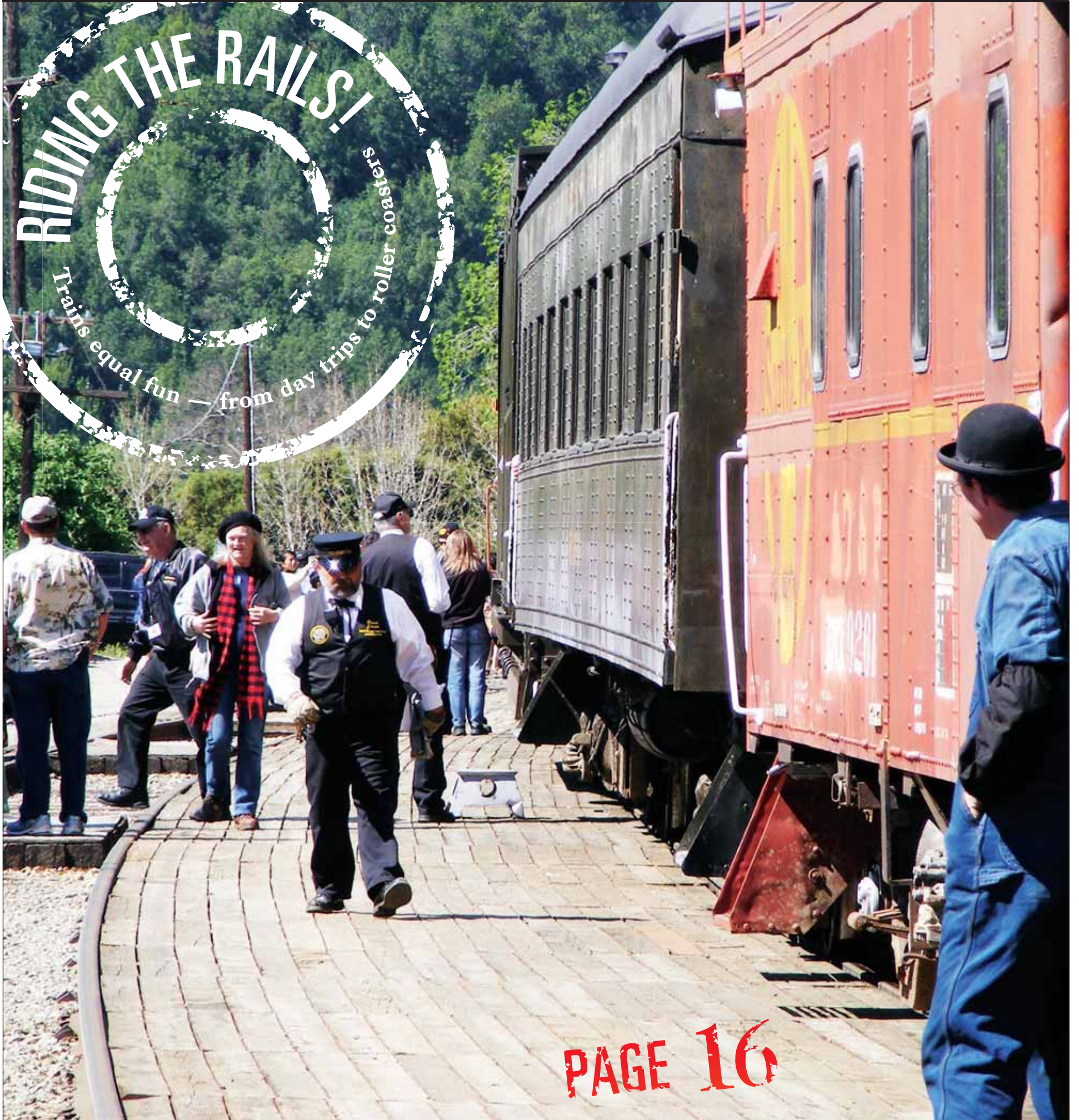
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VOL. XII, NUMBER 16 • APRIL 29, 2011

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HAVING A BABY IN 2011

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Presented by:

Nicole Jeffrey-Starr, MD
ValleyCare Medical Foundation OB/GYN
Yatin Shah, MD
ValleyCare Medical Foundation Pediatrician

Date: May 5, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd
2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton
two blocks west of hospital

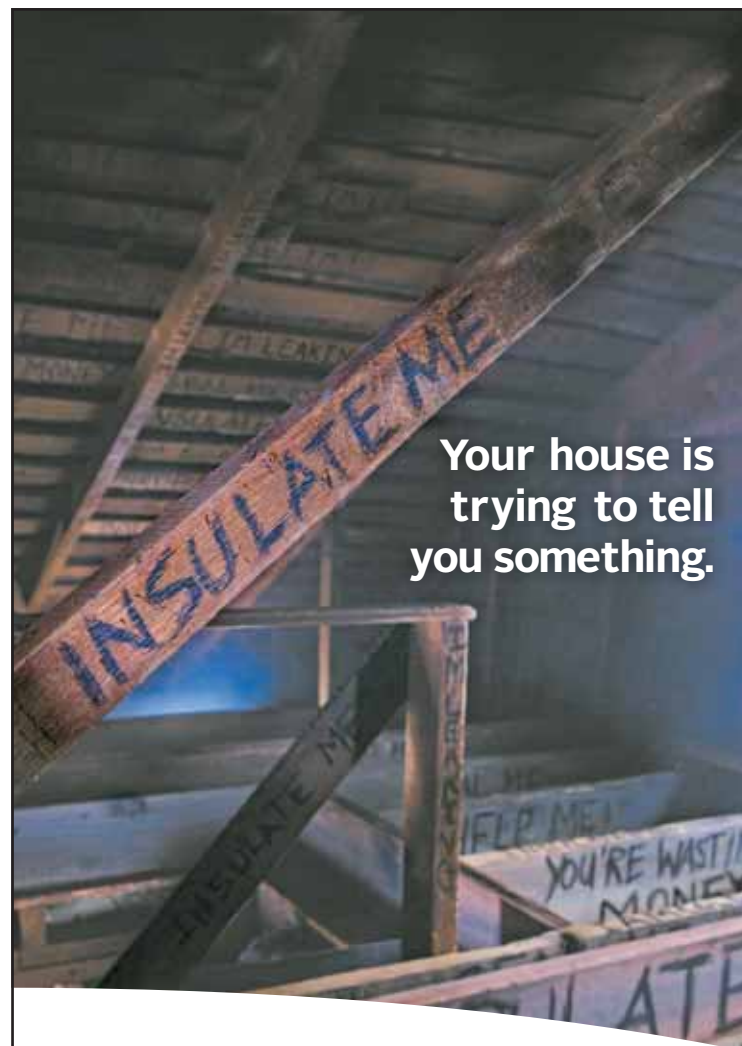
Please join us for a free education seminar where ValleyCare physicians will discuss important issues regarding having a baby in 2011. Learn more about fetal monitoring, labor anesthesia, and role of the labor coach. Your questions about your baby's needs and what you can expect in his/her first few days of life will also be discussed.

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in Alameda County

AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Pleasanton's running chiropractor

Most of us probably do not appreciate being called "fat boy" — or "fat girl" for that matter — especially if we're avid runners. But longtime Pleasanton chiropractor Wayne Coleman and the Fat Boys team he started 12 years ago consider it a badge of honor. As part of their annual charity work, the 12 members of the team will begin their 199-mile run tomorrow from Calistoga to Santa Cruz as part of the Organs R Us Relay (ORU), with Coleman stepping off first at 7 a.m. "The Relay," as it's listed on its Website, is the largest event in the world promoting organ donations. Coleman, who started the Huffers & Puffers running group 20 years ago in Pleasanton, formed the Fat Boys to raise contributions for ORU, an organization that supports the more than 100,000 Americans, including 2,500 children, who are waiting for organs. Among Coleman's group running tomorrow is one teammate whose mother is awaiting a kidney transplant.



Wayne Coleman

300 teams rendezvous. The San Francisco end of the Golden Gate Bridge is one, where Coleman's wife Peggy is on The Relay's volunteer staff. Another, at Cañada College on the Peninsula, has offered runners accommodations to relax. Some groups, including the Fat Boys, also rent out a couple of motel rooms along the way for more comfortable breaks, which is probably why it takes Coleman's team longer to reach Santa Cruz.

The Fat Boys team is also known as the rowdiest, carrying noisemakers and stickers to tag other teams they see on the run. Some of these "no fun" teams that put their running shoes to the pavement and never stop include Applied Biosystem's Yaks, The North Star's Better Than Naked, Shell Oil's Outta Gas and the Woodland Police Department's Pigs in Pursuit.

At 57, Coleman's not really fat, more on the stocky side, weighing 200 pounds. When his father died of heart problems in his 60s, Coleman decided early on to ward off high blood pressure and cholesterol problems by running. The Huffers & Puffers he started has become one of Pleasanton's best known runners' clubs. Meeting every Saturday at Fleet Feet on Main Street to begin their runs, many in the group also meet at Coleman's practice, Hands on Chiropractic, at Hopyard and Valley Avenue on Wednesday nights to run another 2 to 10 miles. Then, 12 years ago, Coleman and his friend Dave Christian, started the Fat Boys to participate in ORU's The Relay. The Relay also has walking teams for reduced runs of 125 miles, an option the "aging" Fat Boys team may consider in another year or two. But only after finishing off a few more Guinnesses on the Calistoga-Santa Cruz run. ■

This is no casual run. Coleman's team is one of 300 from around the country that will make the challenging trip, which must be completed in roughly 30 hours. All have pledged thousands of dollars through entry fees and other contributions, with runners, transplant recipients, donor family members and others having generated \$25 million in their promotion of organ donation needs. The Fat Boys, which includes six men and six women from 24 to 62 years old, are shelling out \$300 each to join the event. Although the event is not competitive, the serious runners keep tabs on the results, with a Google team covering the 199 miles in 21 hours, 9 minutes last year. The Fat Boys, who admit to having fun along the way, including stopping during each leg of the run to down a Guinness beer, clocked in at 31 hours.

Here's how it works. The Fat Boys runners have leased two 15-passenger vans that they are loading today with sleeping bags and food. The first six runners in Van No. 1, starting with Coleman, will each run from 3 to 7 miles in relays. Van No 2 with the other six runners will meet up with the first group and then take its turn while the first group eats and rests. There are several major meeting points where all

About the Cover

The platform at the Sunol Depot is abuzz with folks about to board the historic Niles Canyon Railway, run entirely by volunteer members of the Pacific Locomotive Association who dress in vintage railroad garb to lend authenticity to the experience. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli. Design by Lili Cao.

Photo Gallery

Share your photos of sports, events, travel and fun stuff at



PleasantonWeekly.com



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Know Your Farmers

PLEASANTON 2011 1ST WEDNESDAY STREET PARTIES

EVENT **Cinco De Mayo** **May 4th** **Ruckatan** **Main Stage** **BAND**
Georgi & the Roughweek **North Stage**

EVENT **Jump into Summer** **June 1st** **Finding Stella** **Main Stage** **BAND**
Roosters Teeth **North Stage**

EVENT **Red, White & Blues** **July 6th** **House Rockers** **Main Stage** **BAND**
Dave Crimmen Band **North Stage**

EVENT **Dog Days of Summer** **August 3rd** **Public Eye** **Main Stage** **BAND**
The Crisis **North Stage**

EVENT **Celebrate Pleasanton** **SEPT seventh** **Night Fever** **Main Stage** **BAND**
Hot Rods Band **North Stage**



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Bloggers and freelance writers wanted.

Email writing samples and a short bio to editor@pleasantonweekly.com.



Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What advice would you give the royal couple as they embark on married life?



Megan Franklin

Student

Don't have a public divorce.

Robin Getty

Physical therapist

Stay out of the spotlight as much as you can, and enjoy the time you have with each other.



Camden Mattos

Preschooler/flower girl

They should eat cake and dance a lot. They should have one baby.

Shelby Fischer

Student and athlete

Stay together even when times are bad. Even when things don't look good, they should remember that tomorrow's always better.



Russ Slater

CPA

Two magic words: Yes, Dear. They've been together for a while, so if they are able to stay out of the limelight as much as possible, that would really help.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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ValleyCare Celebrates

WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY

In conjunction with Congressman Jerry McNerney

May 7, 2011 11am – 2pm

In honor of National Women's Health Week, ValleyCare Health System is holding a Women's Health Day on May 7th. National Women's Health Week empowers women to make their health a top priority. It also encourages them to take steps to improve their physical and mental health and lower their risks of certain diseases.

As a local hospital, ValleyCare supports the important women in our community by providing resources and services to help them take steps for longer, healthier and happier lives. Please join us for this special health event and help make women's health a top priority.

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DIGEST

Vote! in the Mom-Daughter contest

Photos of the eight finalists in the Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest have been posted at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Voting will end at 8 a.m., Tuesday, May 3. The first- and second-place winners will be announced and featured in the May 6 issue of the Pleasanton Weekly.

The first-place winners will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Strizzi's restaurant; the second-place prize is two tickets to the Vine Cinema.

Hike for Hope

A non-competitive, memorial Hike for Hope will take place from 8:30 a.m.-noon tomorrow along the trails at Sunol Regional Wilderness, 1895 Geary Rd., Sunol. Participants walk in memory or honor of a loved one and in support of Hope Hospice, which provides families with comfort, dignity and excellence in their time of need.

Each hiker is encouraged to bring a photo of the individual for whom they will be hiking to place in a lanyard (provided by Hope Hospice) and wear around the neck. Hikers can choose from the 2-mile round-trip Little Yosemite trek or combine it with the Canyon View Trail for a 3-mile loop. Proceeds support the valuable services of Hope Hospice to local families. Open to all. Cost \$25. Call 829-8770 or visit www.thehikeforhope.com.

Drug drop-off tomorrow

The Pleasanton Police Department is partnering with the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to host a free prescription drug drop-off from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow. Residents are encouraged to drop off unused and expired prescription drugs at the Pleasanton Police Station lobby, 4833 Bernal Ave.

Each day, approximately 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time, according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America, and studies show that a majority of the drugs come from family and friends, including the medicine cabinet.

To address these alarming statistics, the DEA and local police departments are hosting safe and responsible drug drops for a safe and environmentally friendly way to dispose of unused pharmaceutical drugs. For more information, call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.

Weekly launches community membership campaign

Join now to continue award-winning local news coverage in Pleasanton

The Pleasanton Weekly has launched a campaign to secure a healthy future by asking readers to begin paying for a portion of the costs of operating the Weekly and its popular website, PleasantonWeekly.com.

Through a letter to all residents and a print and online advertising campaign, the Weekly aims to replace the recession-driven decline in print advertising with membership subscriptions from people who value local journalism, regardless of whether viewed in print or online.

"As more residents turn online to stay informed about the community, and businesses rocked by the recession suspend their advertising or turn to inexpensive marketing alternatives, the traditional business model that allowed local



journalism to be primarily supported through advertising is quickly evaporating," said Weekly publisher Gina Channell-Allen.

"These changes threaten the viability of quality local journalism everywhere, including in our community."

Readers are being asked to sign up for a monthly payment program of at least \$5 per month (17 cents a day) by going to www.SupportLocalJournalism.org/Pleasanton; by returning the form mailed to residents this week; or by calling the office at 600-0840. Annual payments are also welcomed.

Subscribing members will be sent a Support Local Journalism bumper sticker and a choice of a coffee mug, T-shirt or shopping bag, plus receive special offers and invitations to member events.

"Recent surveys show that our print and online readership is greater than ever," Channell-Allen said. "But rather than requiring a newspaper subscription fee or restricting our website to subscribers, we are hoping that Pleasanton residents will step up and do their part to fund the quality local journalism that we create day in and day out." ■

Service tomorrow for Pleasanton GI killed in Afghanistan

Army officers to lead public service for Specialist Lindskog

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton Veterans of Foreign Affairs post will host a memorial service at 4 p.m. tomorrow for Army Specialist Jameson Lynn Lindskog, an Army medic who was killed March 29 in Afghanistan's Konar Province.

He was the son of Donna Walker of Pleasanton and Curtis Lindskog of Livermore.

The service will include a VFW Color Guard posting colors, comments by Lindskog's family, a memorial address by Major General Lloyd Miles, deputy commanding General of the Army's I Corp, and a slide show in remembrance of Specialist Lindskog.

Born in 1987, Specialist Lindskog would have turned 24 years old on May 24. He was scheduled to be deployed back to the U.S. next month and due to be discharged next year.

He was one of six "Screaming Eagle" soldiers killed by small arms fire, all of whom were assigned to 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Patrick Leary, public affairs officer for VFW post 6298, said the Veterans building will open at 9 a.m. tomorrow for those who want to sign a guest register, express written condolences and remembrances and view displays. At 3 p.m. the family and invited



COURTESY OF SPECIALIST LINDSKOG'S FAMILY

Army Specialist Jameson Lynn Lindskog

guests will begin arriving. Then at 4 p.m., the service will begin.

The section of Main Street from Abbie Street to Old Bernal Avenue near the Veterans building will be closed to traffic beginning at 2:30 p.m. until about 6 p.m., according to Sgt. Pat Walsh of the Pleasanton Police Department. ■

First Wednesday to begin

Cinco de Mayo Celebration kicks off the season

Summer is right around the corner and that means the First Wednesday Street Parties put on by the Pleasanton Downtown Association are about to begin.

Main Street will bustle from 6-9 p.m. on the first Wednesday evening of every month through September with booths set up by a wide variety of businesses to market and sell their products and services. It's a chance to learn more about the community and nonprofit groups.

First Wednesdays are also a good time to visit the many shops, businesses and restaurants downtown and discover what's new.

The street parties have live music on two stages, food and drink, and lots for the kiddies to do.

This year's schedule is as follows:

■ May 4: Cinco de Mayo Celebration Ruckatan — Beer and Wine Garden Stage

See WEDNESDAY on Page 8

Downtown's Little Valley Winery closes

Owners plan to continue sales at special events, Firehouse Arts Center

Sandi Bohner has closed her Little Valley Winery store at 739 Main St.

Bohner and her husband Bill Webster opened the downtown sales and tasting store during the Pleasanton Downtown Association's "Spring Fling" in May 2009, and it immediately became a favorite among north Main Street retailers. Active in the PDA, Bohner has hosted many special events at the store.

"Regretfully I am closing our large downtown store for personal reasons," Bohner said. "We are looking at a small location downtown, and we're still pouring wine for events at the Firehouse Arts Center."

The winery continues to be active and Little Valley wines will be available at a booth Bohner will have at the north end of Main Street at the First Wednesday street party May 4.

The shop on Main Street was known not only for its wines but for its lavender products and other gift items. Bohner also is a specialist in arranging private tastings, catering, wedding and anniversary parties and more, which she said she will continue to handle.

Bohner and Webster have been involved in small businesses for many years. Before opening the Pleasanton store, she was an outside sales manager for an espresso roasting firm, had started several small cafes in the area, and had been an events and wedding coordinator for a winery in Livermore Valley.

Webster has been the vice president of business development and engineering for a number of Bay Area technology firms.

They got into the winemaking business in 2003 when they opened the Little Valley Vineyard Espresso Bar and Tasting Room across the street from the Sunol station, where Jazz Sandwich Shop now sits.

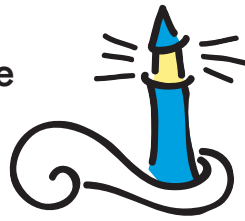
In addition to winemaking, they own Rancho Alegre Lavender, a 3-acre farm is that is home to over 4,000 English lavenders and popular hybrids.

For more information or to order wines, Bohner can be reached at 862-9006.

—Jeb Bing

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GLENN WOHLTMANN

Wine event raises thousands for Measure E campaign

Sandy Piderit (left) and Beth Limesand collect donations for an event to support Measure E on Tuesday at the Wine Steward on Main Street. Tanya Luddes, chairwoman of Support Pleasanton Schools, the pro-Measure E group, said 208 people attended, and the event raised \$7,000 with additional revenues expected from wine sales that night.

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Parcel tax opponents blast board decisions

Lack of trust cited as key

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Opponents of the Measure E parcel tax were out in force again at the Pleasanton school board meeting Tuesday night, questioning, among other things, the district's recent revision requiring seniors to register only once to be exempt from the tax.

Last week, the district changed the requirement, which originally required seniors to register each year for the exemption. The change brought out a number of people who were upset over the idea of school officials changing language on the ballot measure.

That was not the case, though, according to Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services. She and Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi explained that nothing was changed on the ballot measure; the requirement will remain in place, but the district will do the work to exempt seniors after they register the first year.

That did little to assuage Measure E opponents, such as David Miller, who said the change was confusing.

"Now you're changing in mid-stream," Miller told the board. "This is unacceptable. Shame on you."

Other opponents said the dis-

trict had lost their trust. Anne Fox brought an email sent from the principal at one of the district's schools, supporting Measure E. Fox said the email was a violation of both the state education code and the district's email policy.

"I'm really disappointed the district would do this," Fox said.

Raquel Vargas read off a list of the district's highest-paid employees from a recent publication. Three of the top four are assistant superintendents Luz Casares, Cindy Galbo and Bill Faraghan, all of whom make more than \$200,000, including pension contributions by the district and miscellaneous expenses. Ahmadi, who was not listed by Vargas, makes \$220,000.

Julie Testa repeated her claim that a refunding done by the district was illegal; Cazares said, however, that what the district did was standard practice across the state until an opinion from then-Attorney General Jerry Brown said it wasn't. Cazares noted that no district was ever prosecuted for breaking the law.

Doug Miller said it's not only Measure E opponents who don't trust the district.

"Neither side trusts the board. If they trusted the board ... there would be no restrictions," he said, referring to the measure's wording that requires the board to spend the money on specific items.

He, like some of the other opponents, criticized Cazares for the way she explained step and column increases that will add up to \$15 million in the four years while Measure E, if passed, will raise about \$8 million.

Two pro-Measure E supporters spoke, with Bill Clatworthy noting that each generation is responsible for the education of the next, and Andrea Stokoe, who said quality education helps keep property values high.

In her report to the board, Ahmadi steered the conversation away from budget cuts and Measure E and pointed toward some positives in the district. She noted, for example, that many graduating students have been accepted to several colleges, giving them their pick of colleges. She also noted that Pleasanton students excel in everything from science fairs to the arts and have won state level competitions across the board.

In her briefing about the fiscal outlook for the district and the state's budget, Cazares said there was good news: California state revenues were up \$1 billion in March, more than originally projected. State officials also realized one of the assumption made last year — projected profits from the sale of buildings — was a bad as-

See **SCHOOLS** on Page 8

Download Mount Diablo

Free audio tours, GPS map available for visitors

In case your sinuses haven't already told you, it's wildflower season on Mount Diablo.

Before heading up the mountain, check out some new tools for outdoor exploration, modeled on museum audio guides. Audible Mount Diablo is a free series of electronic field guides downloadable to an iPhone, iPod or mp3 player.

Audible Mount Diablo combines interviews, music and local sounds, like the rush of wind and wildlife. Some segments are meant for the car ride up, and others are for stops along the trail. The iPod and iPhone versions of the tour have photographs that pop up to help identify plants and animals.

Narrators include ranger Carl Nielson along with local naturalists Seth Adams, Gary Bogue, Ken Lavin, Mike Moran and Beverly Ortiz. Actor Carl Magruder provides a historical perspective, reading excerpts from "Up and Down California" by 19th century botanist William Brewer and former Sierra editor Joan Hamilton hosts the programs.

The tours include:

■ **Introducing Mount Diablo**, with an hour's worth of short takes on the mountain's heritage and history, with topics that include tarantulas, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, the Whitney Geo-

logical Survey, coal mining, early tourism, and native peoples.

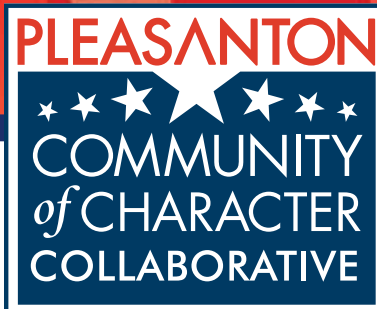
■ **The Grand Loop Tour**, including 12 stops on a tough 6.8-mile-long hike near the top, with topics covering views, history, birds, flowers, and conservation.

■ **The Mary Bowerman Tour**, with nine stops on a gentle mile-long hike with great views. The audio tour focuses on geology and history.

By the end of 2011, a fourth option should be available — Curry Point: Gateway to Diablo's Southside, exploring the ecological riches of the mountain's wild southside ridges and canyons.

"These tours are great aids to exploring Mount Diablo," said Save Mount Diablo's Julie Seelen. "Hikers can take them on the trail, but anyone taking a Sunday drive to the summit can listen to 'Introducing Mount Diablo' and learn more about the flora and fauna of the mountain while enjoying the incredible views."

The audio tours are free at www.savemountdiablo.org, where they can be sampled. A GPS-enabled version of the Grand Loop tour can be downloaded at www.everytrail.com. They were created by the nonprofit organizations Save Mount Diablo, Mount Diablo Interpretive Association, and California State Parks Foundation. ■



The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative invites you to the 5th Annual Community of Character Luncheon to celebrate Juanita Haugen Civic Engagement Winners

Cost is \$35 per person (this includes a \$5 donation to the Community of Character Juanita Haugen Civic Engagement Scholarship Fund)

Complete the information below and fax to: 925.846.9697 or mail check to: Payable to Community of Character PO Box 516 Pleasanton, CA 94566

Please reserve _____ seats for the luncheon.

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I can not attend, but here is my donation to support the Community of Character Collaborative.

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Payment is required at the time of your reservation. A 24-hour cancellation notice is required for a refund or credit. (925) 846-5853 ext. 203

DEADLINE MAY 5

2011 Winners

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Keynote:

What RESPECT means to our Community

Presented by:

Elaine Taylor

Founder of Taylor Family Foundation

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TAKE US ALONG



Hammock holiday: Pleasanton teacher Ann Kyle catches up on hometown news while visiting Costa Rica with her husband Mike last year.

13th Annual

Artists' Flea Market

Saturday, April 30

8:00 am to 2:00 pm

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PUSD: Seniors only need register once for parcel tax exemption

District will continue it every year automatically

By **GLENN WOHLTSMANN**

Pleasanton Unified School District's administration has addressed one of the objections to its \$98 parcel tax measure, known as Measure E.

Opponents of the measure, which is being voted on by mail-in ballot only, have said seniors would have to register every year

to receive an exemption; the school administration confirmed that this is no longer the case.

Seniors and disability recipients will not be required to re-file for an exemption, provided the property was exempt in the immediately previous tax year and they continue to live in Pleasanton, according to

the district's website.

"On an annual basis, the District will verify and renew existing exemptions and, if necessary, confirm with the original applicant that they continue to own and occupy the property," the website says.

Ballots for Measure E are due May 3. ■

Pleasanton's teen improv troupe headed to Chicago

Creatures of Impulse invited to perform as Teen Comedy Festival

Pleasanton's highly acclaimed Teen Improv troupe, Creatures of Impulse, has been invited to perform in the Teen Comedy Festival in Chicago in May.

Nine members of the 17-member troupe will attend the festival, which takes place on Saturday, May 7, at the Chicago Cultural Center.

In addition to performing their long-form improv format, "Tri-Valley High," an improvised teen soap opera, Creatures of Impulse will attend performance workshops by Second City, the improv and sketch comedy school that spawned the talents of Tina Fey, Bill Murray, Steven Colbert and others.

The troupe planned to raise the \$15,000 in funds needed for the trip through a number of shows, donations, and an improv workshop for teens and adults during the last



couple of weeks. All of the money raised is going toward festival fees, lodging, airfare and various administrative costs associated with the trip.

Those interested in donating to the troupe can send checks

payable to the City of Pleasanton (put COI to Chicago 2011 on the memo line). Send to: Creatures of Impulse, Firehouse Arts Center, P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ■

WEDNESDAY

Continued from Page 5

Georgi & the Roughweek — North Stage

■ June 1: Jump Into Summer Finding Stella — Beer and Wine Garden Stage

Rooster's Teeth — North Stage

■ July 6: Red, White and Blues

Houserockers — Beer and Wine Garden Stage

Dave Crimmen Band — North Stage

■ Aug. 3: Dog Days of Summer

Public Eye — Beer and Wine Garden Stage

The Crisis — North Stage

■ Sept. 7: Celebrate Pleasanton

Night Fever — Beer and Wine Garden Stage

Hot Rods Band — North Stage

This year's First Wednesday sponsors include the Pleasanton Weekly, Anheuser-Busch, Trumer Pils, and the city of Pleasanton.

Main Street will be closed from Del Valle Parkway to Bernal Avenue from 4:30-10 p.m., and Peters Avenue and Ray Street will be closed to through traffic. Parking will be allowed for the patrons of businesses on these streets. ■

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 7

sumption, and removed that from budget calculations. Although that wound up with a net loss for the state in March, Cazares said that, too, was good news, because it made budget projections more realistic.

Cazares also said if Gov. Brown goes to an all-cut budget as he's threatened to do, the district could have to cut its budget \$3 million to \$5.4 million for the 2011-12 school year. In addition, she said the district could be looking at \$7 million in cuts for 2012-13.

With no budget passed, plans to put a tax extension on the ballot on hold, and Proposition 98, which guarantees a minimum payment from the state — with annual increases — likely to be suspended by the Legislature, school officials

are waiting for the governor's revised budget, the May revise, to find out where they stand.

The board also heard a report on a proposed new homework policy that would set standards for the amount of time each grade should spend on assignments and require more coordination between teachers when assigning homework. The policy is set to go before the board for a vote in May.

The district is also considering a seal of bi-literacy for students who are proficient in a language in addition to English. That seal would appear on transcripts and diplomas; if approved, Pleasanton would be the first district in Alameda County to have such a program.

Trevor Knaggs, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers (APT), said in his regular address to the board that teachers, parents

and students from across the state plan to hold a sit-in at the state capital next month to pressure legislators to pass the tax extensions bogged down in the Legislature.

"We've given everything and we can't give more," Knaggs told the board. He said the week of May 9-13 will be "action week," with each day focusing on one of the letters in L-E-A-R-N. May 9, for example, will focus on Legislative activities.

The board also approved an agreement that will let special education students continue to receive services from Alameda County through the end of the school year, with the district picking up the tab for any new students who are added. The district will be required to pay for services in the future, and has budgeted \$1.7 for that in the upcoming school year. ■

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LETTERS

Vote Yes on E

Dear Editor,

Please vote Yes on E. All the money will go directly to our local schools. Pleasanton Unified School District has done a good job over the years of managing the school budget within the circumstances it has been given. Sacramento has caused the problems we now face in our schools and Measure E money will not go to Sacramento. It will stay here.

Education is necessary for a democracy to thrive. We can cut other places but we must fund education for our children. Our children need and deserve the best education we can give them.

In addition, good schools in Pleasanton help maintain our housing values. It is a win-win situation for everybody. Please join me in voting Yes on E today.

Jan Batcheller

What I like about E

Dear Editor,

As a Realtor who meets with prospective Pleasanton homeowners daily, I know firsthand that the caliber of our schools is what makes families want to move here. I can also tell you that Measure E will make a difference in maintaining our school district's reputation as it shows that we are a community that stands behind and supports our children. And more importantly, Measure E will make a difference helping to maintain the education that our children will receive.

What I like about Measure E is this:

- Measure E has focus, on core academic programs that improve reading, math and science skills.
- Measure E has promise; it will generate funds that by law cannot be taken away by the state or go to other school districts.
- Measure E has accountability: An independent citizens' oversight committee will ensure funds are spent as promised, and annual audits would be mandatory.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure E.

Donna Garrison

Promises ignored

Dear Editor,

PUSD has not earned the right to ask Pleasanton taxpayers to trust the same promises again.

In Measure E, the Pleasanton Unified School District promises that "Strict accountability is mandated," and "an independent citizens oversight committee will provide oversight and accountability." Taxpayers of this community

should have the facts on how those same promises were ignored on previous tax measures.

Pleasanton homeowners will continue to pay an average of \$866 per parcel to PUSD until 2024 for the 1997 Measure B Bond. A Citizens Oversight Committee was promised for Measure B also but the committee only met twice. Requests to reinstate the oversight committee were refused, while at the same time the district was engaging in the practice of refunding and illegally cashing out more than \$7 million from Measure B. That is exactly the type of practice that the disbanded oversight committee was intended to prevent.

The California Attorney General confirmed that "cash-out refunding bonds" violate the state constitution; school bond refinancing is permitted for the purpose of reducing taxpayer debt only. However PUSD used "cash-out" refinancing to generate at least \$7 million to pay for non-voter approved purposes. The repayments of those proceeds, which have never been approved in an election, will result in an additional \$16.1 million in taxes charged to Pleasanton taxpayers during the term of Measure E, 2011-14.

PUSD took over \$7 million of tax money without the required voter approval. This time we have the choice to say No.

Julie Testa

Stable funds

Dear Editor,

We encourage all Pleasanton residents to vote yes on Measure E, which will bring approximately \$2 million per year directly into school classrooms for the next four years and costs less than 27 cents a day.

We are fortunate to have outstanding schools here in Pleasanton. We have two daughters that have thrived in elementary school because of the 20 to 1 student/teacher ratio they experienced in K-third grade. The individual attention received from their teachers contributed to their confidence and love of learning. Students will lose that benefit as class size increases.

PUSD has already cut \$19.4 million from the budget in the last two years. The next cuts will affect classroom instructional programs (i.e., math, reading and science) that will negatively impact student learning. Measure E ensures that sections for these subjects are available to students with minimal class size increases.

Measure E will not solve all of the problems the school district is cur-

See **LETTERS** on Page 10

Code of ethics

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

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

As noted in our news story on page 5, we our launching our "Support Local Journalism" membership campaign today to give our readers an opportunity to support the Pleasanton Weekly and our work to provide this community with ongoing, up-to-date stories, photos and features both online on a daily basis and with our Friday print edition delivered by mail and to newsstands. Through a letter to all Pleasanton residents and a print and online advertising campaign, the Weekly is aiming to replace the recession-driven decline in print advertising with membership subscriptions from the people who value local journalism — you, our loyal readers.

As the public increasingly turns to online sites to stay informed about the community, and as businesses rocked by the recession suspend their advertising or turn to inexpensive marketing alternatives, the traditional business model that has allowed local journalism to be primarily supported through advertising is quickly evaporating. These changes threaten the viability of quality local journalism everywhere, including in our community.

Recent surveys show that our print and online readership is greater than ever, that Pleasanton residents increasingly turn to Friday's Pleasanton Weekly, our online edition and especially to "Pleasanton Express," an email report that is sent free of charge at 8 a.m. Monday through Friday to anyone who signs up for this service. But rather than requiring a newspaper subscription fee or restricting our website to paid subscribers, we are hoping that Pleasanton residents will step up to fund the quality local journalism that we create day in and day out. To sign up for a monthly payment program of at least \$5 per month (17 cents a day), return the form being mailed to residents this week, or call our office at 600-0840 or go to www.SupportLocalJournalism.org/Pleasanton. Subscribing members will be sent a Support Local Journalism bumper sticker and a choice of a coffee mug, T-shirt or shopping bag, plus receive special offers and invitations to member events.

Vote Yes on Measure E

Ballots on Measure E, the school district's proposed \$98 a year parcel tax, must be mailed in time to be received at the Alameda County Registrar's office by close of business Tuesday, May 3. Postmarks will not count, so those who have yet to vote should make sure their ballots get in the mail today, or tomorrow at the latest and before the post office closes. 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. Debi Covello of the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation reminds us that Pleasanton schools are ranked among the best in the state. Most are California Distinguished Schools, National Blue Ribbon Schools and National Schools of Character. More than 90% of our students go on to college.

Faced with a budget deficit of \$7.7 million, the school district needs this parcel tax to continue quality education in Pleasanton. 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 findings publicly. If you've been waiting to decide how you'll vote, we urge you to vote Yes on Measure E and to mail your completed ballot now. ■



Visit [Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com](http://TownSquare.atPleasantonWeekly.com) to comment on the editorial.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 9

rently facing. That is not its purpose. It does, for a minimal cost, offer a means to provide stable funds to maintain the important programs we have right now. Vote Yes on E.

Tina and John LaDue

Just say Yes

Dear Editor,

For those still uncertain about or unfamiliar with Measure E, the local school funding measure, here are the basic facts:

1. Measure E is a \$98/year funding measure that will help protect Pleasanton schools from state budget cuts.
2. Any money raised by Measure E, by law, must stay here in Pleasanton. It cannot be taken by the state.
3. Measure E dollars will support core academic instruction, emphasizing math, science and reading skills.
4. No Measure E funds will be used to increase salaries or benefits.
5. Measure E includes provisions for an independent advisory board

that will monitor how the funds are spent.

Measure E is needed to safeguard our high quality schools. In recent years, Pleasanton schools have lost \$19.4 million in state funding and eliminated 67 teachers, 25 school staff members and 17 administrators. Just last week, due to the suspension of budget talks in Sacramento, Pleasanton learned of potential additional cuts of more than \$5 million.

Measure E won't prevent all the cuts, but it will provide stable funding that our schools need to ensure our children receive the highest quality education we can provide.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure E.

Jodie Vashistha

Shameless tax grab

Dear Editor,

Senior citizens who vote Yes on Measure E with the idea of filing an exemption so they aren't taxed are demonstrating hypocrisy and intellectual dishonesty. They are saying that they are in favor of yet another shameless governmental tax grab

so long as someone else pays for it. What a wonderful message for "the children."

Oh, by the way, I'm a senior citizen who has always supported education, but who strongly urges a No vote.

*Bill Eastman,
Retired Police Chief, Pleasanton*

Ongoing value

Dear Editor,

When we moved to Pleasanton 40 years ago, schools were primarily locally funded. Today, school funding comes primarily from the state. As the state's funding goes, so goes the fate of the public schools.

Property values in Pleasanton have not declined recently to the extent they have in other communities because people who appreciate a quality education for their children want to buy a home here. Vote Yes on Measure E to help maintain the quality of education and the value of our homes for 27 cents a day.

Looking over the annual family budget, how many cups of Starbucks coffee, or bottles of wine, or cartons of cigarettes would \$98 buy? The value of these expenditures is transient, but the value of Measure E is ongoing. While older and disabled residents for whom the parcel tax would be a financial burden may request an exemption, there are many others of us who are willing and able to continue to support our schools.

It is in the interest of us all to support an educational system that is among the best in the state. And how often do we have a citizens' oversight committee to review the use of taxes we pay and report back to us?

*Barbara Hempill, Past President,
Livermore Amador Valley
League of Women Voters*

Grim imaginings

Dear Editor,

Imagine — they cut music programs and library hours.

Reading specialists, P.E. staff and high school counselor positions were eliminated.

Class sizes grew and the number of teachers shrunk. The school year was shortened.

Then college recruiters sought bright, educated leaders of tomorrow...and there were no qualified applicants.

Don't let this be the future of Pleasanton schools. Vote Yes on Measure E to establish stable funding for our schools.

Antonia Hume

If E doesn't pass

Dear Editor,

What happens to Pleasanton schools if we don't pass Measure E? Let's take a look:

- Fewer Teachers — Pleasanton school board braces for reduced funding from the state — which has a \$26 billion deficit — and cuts 62 full-time teachers, counselors, specialists and staff.
- Bigger Classes — K-3 classrooms reach 30 or more kids. Just two years ago, there were only 20 children in these early years of formative learning.

• Shorter School Days — Once a week, the school day for elementary school age children is 45 minutes shorter

• Marginalized Course Offerings and Counseling — High school students have access to fewer courses and counselors.

Measure E won't prevent all these scenarios from becoming a reality, but it will provide stable local funding that our schools desperately need. With your help, we can help preserve the quality of Pleasanton schools.

Please mark your mail-in Measure E ballot with a Yes.

Matt Evans

Reform needed

Dear Editor,

Change and reform is necessary for Pleasanton schools to continue performing. Over 40% of the state general funds go to schools. This does not include the funds from the government and the lottery. Where does it go? Not to the schools. Over 80% goes to the salaries, healthcare and pensions of the teachers and other school workers. The starting salary for a teacher for only 180 days of work is over \$58,000. That is almost \$120,000 for a full year. Most taxpayers do not even get \$58,000 for a full year's work. A number of Pleasanton teachers will be retiring at over \$100,000 a year pensions this year. A majority of the taxpayers will be retiring at less than \$24,000 pension a year. Then there is Step and Column that increases the base salary by another 3.5%. We have to stop this lunacy and vote No on Measure E. We want reform and not continuation of the status quo.

Rajinder Ghatoaura

Reverse downward slide

Dear Editor,

In recent years, Pleasanton schools have lost \$19.4 million in state funding. At first, the cuts were away from the classroom: 25 school staff members and 17 administrators (almost 30 percent of management positions in the district office). But as cuts grew more severe, students could not be protected entirely. Class sizes grew larger and the school year was shortened. Sixty-seven teaching positions were eliminated. The seven-period day was suspended for high school students.

For next year, the board has already approved the elimination of 62 more positions. But the cuts made in February will not be enough. Last week, Pleasanton learned that Sacramento is considering even more cuts to education. These could translate into a loss of an additional \$5 million for our schools.

When will this end? Not any time soon. But passing Measure E can help reverse the downward slide. Vote Yes on Measure E.

Mark Torres-Gil

Senior supports E

Dear Editor,

I'm a retiree and a 30-year Pleasanton resident without children who plans to vote Yes on Measure

E, the parcel tax to support our schools. I want all seniors to know they can file for an exemption from the parcel tax and still vote in favor of the measure. And you only have to file the exemption once. As long as you don't move, the exemption is automatically renewed for four years — the entire life of the parcel tax.

Measure E will provide a stable source of revenue for our schools, which have weathered \$19.4 million in cuts in recent years. What I especially like about Measure E is that it includes provisions to make sure taxpayer funds reach the classroom. For example, no Measure E moneys may be used for administrator salaries or benefits, and the state cannot usurp the money. In addition, an independent oversight committee monitors how the funds are used, reporting their findings to the public.

With all this oversight, I feel confident that Measure E will help our kids.

Nancy Snover

Children stand to lose

Dear Editor,

Those opposed to Measure E believe defeating it will resolve their issues with the public school system. It won't. Here's what a No vote on Measure E will do for Pleasanton schools:

- A No vote will increase class sizes for the children in grades K-1 and ninth-grade English.
- A No vote will decrease instruction time for children in grades 1-5.
- A No vote will eliminate the elementary student's opportunity to learn P.E. from specialists.
- A No vote will ensure that high school students can't take some of the classes they need to get into the college they'd like to attend.
- A No vote will reduce the availability of counselors to middle and high school students.
- A No vote will lessen the time available for our children to utilize libraries on campus.
- A No vote will decrease the quality of education for Pleasanton students.

Who the real losers are behind a No vote? The children of Pleasanton. Measure E will help maintain our children's education in Pleasanton. Please join me in voting Yes on E.

Teri Banholzer

Facts for seniors

Dear Editor,

As a senior and a retired teacher from the Pleasanton school district, I want to share a few facts regarding Measure E, the local school funding measure. These will be of special interest to seniors and recipients of SSI disability benefits.

1. Filing for an exemption only needs to be done once. So long as you don't move, the exemption will be automatically renewed.
2. It is possible to file for the exemption and still vote Yes on Measure E.
3. The deadline for filing for an exemption is June 30. You can file the exemption via mail or drop it off at the school district office on

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4. If you have difficulty completing the form, contact the district's parcel tax administrator toll free at (800) 273-5167.

Measure E is necessary to protect our high-quality schools. We need a stable, local source of funding for our schools to offset the significantly reduced funding our schools receive from the state.

Please vote Yes on Measure E. Remember, ballots must be received by May 3 so mail it soon.

Marilyn Foreman

Small change, big effect

Dear Editor,

Twenty-seven cents a day. That amount of small change won't buy much in a store, but if each Pleasanton household pools that amount, it can mean a big change in the impact the California budget has on students in our schools.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure E, the \$98-per-year parcel tax that would help offset some of the deep cuts the local school board is forced to make (again) due to the budget situation in Sacramento. Teachers, support staff and administrators all have made sacrifices and continue to do so in order to protect the high quality of education that Pleasanton is known for.

We have no family members currently in the local schools. We would be eligible to take the senior waiver for this parcel tax. However, we value the education our son received, and we choose to do our part to help current students have similar benefits.

Young students cannot vote, but you can. Don't lose that ballot in your stack of mail. This is a vote-by-mail only election. Vote Yes on Measure E and mail your ballot back by April 29 to be counted (May 3) on students' behalf.

Jerri Pantigas Long

Schools in jeopardy

Dear Editor,

Did you know that the majority of Pleasanton school funding is supposed to come from the state of California? But it's increasingly apparent that we can't rely on the state to provide consistent funding to our schools. It seems we can count on Sacramento to cut school funding, and then, a few months later, it cuts our budget again.

In the last two years, the state decreased its funding level of Pleasanton schools by \$19.4 million. Just last week, they announced plans to potentially cut another \$5 million from the current school year's budget.

This dramatic funding drop resulted in many cuts to our academic programs. We lost 67 teachers, critical math and reading support, and seventh period in high school. We gained larger class sizes.

We moved here because of the great Pleasanton schools. Now they are in jeopardy. The district is challenged to give our students the strong foundation they need to thrive and excel in college, or to secure a stable, well-paying position in the working world.

Measure E will give us a source of revenue that the state can't take away from Pleasanton, so please vote Yes on Measure E. We know we will.

Holly and Mike Sanders

Endorsements for E

Dear Editor,

Measure E, the local school funding measure, deserves your support. Don't take my word for it, consider the prestigious organizations who have endorsed the measure: Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley and the Bay East Association of Realtors. Further, the Pleasanton Weekly, the Independent and the Oakland Tribune have all written editorials of support, urging their readers to vote Yes on E.

It says something when such a diverse group of organizations all come together to support an issue. Each of these groups took a close look at Measure E and they all came to the same conclusion: It deserves our support.

Join me and these prestigious organizations and Vote Yes on Measure E.

Paul DeJarnett

Safeguard education

Dear Editor,

The clock is running out on Measure E, the local funding measure to protect Pleasanton schools.

Our schools lost \$19.4 million in state funding over the past two years, and the state is threatening another \$5 million budget cut this year. Measure E won't eliminate all cuts, but it will protect core academic programs like math, reading and science. We need Measure E to safeguard the quality education available in Pleasanton schools, and to help keep our property values high.

Children can't vote to protect their education. We must do it for them.

Please, mark your ballot Yes and mail it now.

Linda Trombadore

Can't do more with less

Dear Editor,

I'm not the type of person to write a Letter to the Editor about anything, but the debate over Measure E, the local school funding measure, compels me to share my perspective.

As the parent of a mainstreamed special needs child I am concerned how an increased class size will affect his education. I understand that money allocated for special education is considered protected, but he no longer requires special education classes. A class with a ratio of more than 25:1 would make it very difficult for him to get the help he needs to succeed in a typical environment.

I understand people have different opinions about Measure E and that it is about more than just class sizes. What I can't understand is how a No vote on Measure E will help any child get the education he deserves. The district can't do

their job better with less financial resources. Teachers won't be more qualified if we reduce their salary and provide no incentive to further their education.

All a No vote will do is ensure our schools are less capable of doing their job: educating our kids. That's why I'm voting Yes on Measure E.

Laura Leavens

Uneasy over pay attack

Dear Editor,

The group opposed to "Vote Yes on Measure E" would be better served to focus its efforts on change at the state level and help achieve real education reform. Attacking our teachers step and column pay scale as a better alternative to save money is not only humiliating to our teachers but embarrassing for our community. If Measure E does not pass we will not only be the only community in the East Bay corridor without a parcel tax but also one that is considering removing one of the few incentives our wonderful teachers have to continue teaching our children. We will lose our teachers to other communities that are willing to take a stand with them.

I am disappointed in the divisiveness of our community on this issue. Pleasanton should be rallying right now to do the little we can to help preserve the quality of education and maintain our home values we have enjoyed over the years, and should not be taken for granted. I hope you will/have joined me in voting Yes on Measure E for our kids and community.

Kristen Stedman

Responsible for schools

Dear Editor,

After reading multiple articles and letters about Measure E, I'd like your readers to know three facts.

1. Seniors only need to file an application for exemption once.

2. A No vote on Measure E won't change "step and column." Voting against Measure E won't change how teachers are paid.

3. Figures associated with previous school funding measures are overstated. I'm not paying anything near what I've read has been associated with the previous school bond measure. Voting No on Measure E because you already pay for the bond measure is an apples to oranges comparison. The bond measure addressed school buildings and repair. Measure E addresses the quality of education students will receive.

As you decide how to vote, I hope that logic and concern for the welfare of our children's education — and not sour grapes against Sacramento or school management — guide your decision.

I moved here 37 years ago. My daughter graduated from Foothill and my grandson attends Hart Middle School. It is the responsibility of older generations to pay for good schools; people before us paid for our public schools.

John Clatworthy

Time to do our share

Dear Editor,

It's not too late to vote Yes on Measure E, the school funding measure designed to shield our high quality schools from Sacramento's fiscal crises.

It's not too late to recognize the concessions teachers have already made — eight furlough days, bigger middle and high school classes, loss of staff development hours and training for new teachers — and decide, as a community, that it's time for us to do our share.

It's not too late to agree that \$98/year is a small price to pay to ensure Pleasanton children have access to high quality education from seasoned, dedicated teachers.

It's not too late for you to help safeguard the education of Pleasanton kids. Mark Yes and mail your ballot now to ensure it arrives in time.

Alan Finke

Children pay the price

Dear Editor,

I have elementary and middle school age children and it pains me to know that my younger children may not receive the same quality of education that my elder child did.

In grades K-3, my elder child had only 19 classmates. She attended school 180 days/year. From first grade on, she had music, took science from a science specialist, and could have ample access to a reading specialist, if she needed it.

My younger children are in first grade. Next year, they will likely be in a class of 30-plus. They could have a shortened school day once a week and also attend school less than 180 days/year. They may not have music, may have limited school library access, and may not have access to a reading specialist, if they need it.

Do my younger children deserve a marginal education simply because they entered school at a time when our economy was suffering?

To those of you who have not yet decided on Measure E, the school parcel tax, I urge you to vote Yes. A No vote may save you \$98/year, but the people who pay the price are the children in Pleasanton schools.

Tina Lim

Quality schools

Dear Editor,

I no longer have children in Pleasanton schools, but I have two who did go through the system and went on to four-year colleges, so I do recognize the value of our quality schools.

Quality schools help make Pleasanton a desirable place to live. Quality schools attract the interest, attention and support of parents and local businesses. Quality schools help build and maintain Pleasanton's strong community spirit. I plan to stay in this city through my senior years.

Pleasanton has reaped the benefits of its high-quality schools for many years. We residents now have the opportunity to return the favor. At this time of fiscal uncertainty at

the state level, Pleasanton residents have the opportunity to protect the quality of education in Pleasanton by voting Yes on Measure E, the local school funding measure.

I plan to support our schools by voting Yes on Measure E.

Gillian McKie

Standards may decline

Dear Editor,

As the chief financial executive at a Bay Area technology company, I spend a lot of time with my business partners trying to create and keep jobs in the Bay Area. Good high paying jobs require a quality education. Jobs migrate when education standards decline. Schools need a stable source of local income to maintain standards in an era of unstable state and federal funding. Our children deserve this support in an increasingly competitive global job market.

Many local esteemed organizations support Measure E, the school funding measure, for these very reasons. Measure E has been endorsed by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, the Bay East Association of Realtors and the League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley. In addition, editors of the Pleasanton Weekly, the Independent and the Oakland Tribune have all written in support of the measure.

Measure E is vital to the success of our schools and our community. These high-profile organizations recognize this fact, and have publicly voiced their support. Measure E deserves your support as well — on the ballot. Please join me and these prestigious organizations and Vote Yes on Measure E.

Tim Lester

PPIE: Yes on E

Dear Editor,

Those of you who have not yet made up your minds about Measure E, the local school funding measure, should remember what's at stake: the education of the 14,500-plus children who attend Pleasanton schools.

Pleasanton schools have been ranked among the best in the state. In addition, most all our schools are California Distinguished Schools, National Blue Ribbon Schools or National Schools of Character. More than 90% of our students go onto college.

Unfortunately, the state's ongoing budget crisis and education funding cuts have had a major impact on our local schools. Our schools have lost approximately \$19.4 million in state funding in two years. And additional cuts of up to \$5 million are pending.

After consecutive years of budget shortfalls, there is nothing left to cut but teachers and classroom instructional programs that directly impact student learning.

Our children deserve every opportunity for success that we, as a community, can afford to bring them. At \$98/year for four years, Measure E is a reasonable request.

Please join me and vote Yes on E.

Debi Covello, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation

Our local news comes at a (very low) price.

The Pleasanton Weekly may seem free, but it's really not.

Supporting a staff of local journalists, publishing a weekly newspaper and operating a website with breaking news is an expensive undertaking ... too expensive in an economy where the local businesses we rely on for advertising are struggling.

So after giving you more than 10 years of free news about our town, and creating a website that has become Pleasanton's most popular local online

destination, we're asking you to share some of the costs of producing this journalism.

For as little as 17¢ a day (\$5 a month) you can become a subscribing member of the Pleasanton Weekly. We'll thank you in ads, invite you to special "members-only" events and send you a "Support Local Journalism" bumper sticker.

But most important, we'll be able to keep providing Pleasanton with the award-winning local reporting that any vibrant community needs.

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or go to SupportLocalJournalism.org/Pleasanton and sign up online.

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Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Sting nets five for selling tobacco to minors

A tobacco sting in Pleasanton on Saturday led to citations against clerks at five locations, Pleasanton police said.

Underage decoys went to 38 of the 40 stores in Pleasanton that sell tobacco, police said, and while 33 of them complied with the law and refused the sale, five clerks sold the youths cigarettes.

The five locations were Vista Bottle Shop in the 6000 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; Bever-

ages and More in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive, Chevron in the 52300 block of Hopyard Road; Union 76 in the 4100 block of First Street; and Shell in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road, according to a police report.

California law prohibits the sale of tobacco to minors. Violators are subject to either a misdemeanor criminal action or civil action, and fines for a first offense begin at \$200, police said.

In other police news, a shoplifting at Abercrombie and Fitch at the Stoneridge Shopping Center netted a dozen bottles of perfume valued at a total of \$1,296.

The theft occurred between noon and 12:30 p.m., according to a report, which said someone walked out the front door of the business with the perfume.

POLICE REPORT

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

April 19

Theft

- 8:47 a.m. in the 400 block of Montori Court; petty theft
- 3:55 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft
- 6:39 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

Burglary

- 10:04 a.m. in the 500 block of Del Sol Avenue

Battery

- 2:39 p.m. in the 3000 block of Ruby Hill Drive

Vandalism

- 8:24 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue

Drug and alcohol violations

- 6:20 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; marijuana possession

April 20

Theft

- 3:28 p.m. in the 6000 block of Sterling Greens Circle; identity theft, theft
- 3:48 p.m. in the 400 block of Montori Court; petty theft

Drug and alcohol violations

- 5:28 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Kottinger Drive; DUI, possession of a hypodermic needle, possession of a controlled substance, under the influence of a controlled substance
- 7:59 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public intoxication on drugs, possession of a prescription in another's name
- 9:32 p.m. in the 1400 block of First Street; possession of a controlled substance, possession of a hypodermic needle, paraphernalia possession
- 9:37 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; public drunkenness

April 21

Rape

- 12:25 a.m. in the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

- 7:19 a.m. in the first block of Foothill Lane; petty theft

- 12:32 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 2:08 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft

Auto burglary

- 11:35 a.m. in the 300 block of Abbie Street

Vandalism

- 7:09 a.m. in the 4800 block of Sutter Gate Road
- 10:22 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:19 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 3:49 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Gate 8; possession of a controlled substance
- 6:45 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; possession of a controlled substance for sale
- 6:53 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Denker Drive; public drunkenness

April 22

Burglary

- 11:36 a.m. in the 3300 block of Prairie Drive

Auto burglary

- 9:23 a.m. in the 4600 block of Whiting Street

Vandalism

- 10:53 p.m. near the intersection of Santa Rita Road and I-580

Drug and alcohol violations

- 1:14 a.m. in the 7400 block of Hillview Court; driving with marijuana
- 2:27 a.m. at the intersection of Trevor Parkway and Dennis Drive; DUI
- 11:31 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Kolln Street; DUI

April 23

Theft

- 3:57 p.m. in the 3700 block of

Reisling Court; grand theft

- 8:11 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Burglary

- 11:56 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Battery

- 5:07 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

Vandalism

- 9:45 a.m. at the intersection of Hacienda Drive and Siena Street
- 10:37 p.m. in the 500 block of Peters Avenue

Drug and alcohol violations

- 5:21 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; marijuana possession

April 24

Auto burglary

- 9:22 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Drug and alcohol violations

- 1:23 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 1:34 p.m. in the 4900 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 1:53 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 5:12 p.m. near the intersection of I-580 and Santa Rita Road; driving with marijuana
- 10:27 a.m. at the intersection of Jensen Street and Santa Rita Road; DUI

April 25

Theft

- 11:59 a.m. in the 3000 block of Chardonnay Drive; theft
- 12:06 p.m. in the 4400 block of Columbine Drive; grand theft
- 5:06 p.m. in the 1300 block of Hopyard Road; auto theft

OBITUARIES

Donald Taylor 'Russ' Gerton

Donald Taylor "Russ" Gerton of Kihei, Maui, Hawaii, formerly of Pleasanton, died March 18 at his residence.

He was born Oct. 26, 1946, in San Francisco. He was a waiter at Spatz Restaurant at the Hyatt Kaanapali.

He was preceded in death by his parents Bernie and Margaret Gerton and is survived by his brothers Ron Smith of Pleasanton and Mark (Kim) Gerton of Milpitas, and his sister Charlene Henshaw of Lodi, and several nieces and nephews. A private gathering for family and close friends will take place in the near future.

Ralph Peter Juhl

Ralph Peter Juhl, a dentist with the varied interests of a Renaissance man, died of leukemia at home April 15 at the age of 78.

He was the only child of Peter Dowd Juhl and Jessica Martha Stangland Juhl and lived his early years on 58th Street in Oakland where he pursued his passions for woodworking, model airplanes and sports. After the family moved to Fremont, he excelled in athletics at Washington High School, earning letters in track, basketball and baseball. He was offered a minor league contract in baseball but instead pursued his interest in dentistry. He started at UC Berkeley in 1951, then transferred directly to the UC San Francisco dentistry school in 1953. At Cal,

he met the love of his life, Claudia Rasmussen, a member of the Tassajara Valley pioneer ranching family, and they married June 19, 1955. After graduation, they moved to El Paso, Texas, to fulfill his Army obligation. As he was finishing his service, his mother-in-law called to inform him that a dentist was retiring in Pleasanton. He set up an office on St. Mary's Street in Pleasanton in 1959 where practiced for 35 years until his retirement in 1994. He took a sabbatical for one year to practice in Denmark with the children attending local schools. The Danish connection was a deep one for Ralph, whose father was a Dane.

Dr. Juhl was a past-president and founding member of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton as well as a member of the Pleasanton Men's Club. An avid golfer, he was a member of the Castlewood Country Club. He had a full woodshop in his home and routinely made furniture. He was also a gardener and skilled at flower arranging, played golf and enjoyed trap shooting.

After retiring, he and Claudia traveled around the world. In 2007, they took a three-week trip around the world.

He is survived by his wife Claudia; daughters Colleen Skewes-Cox (husband Peter) of San Francisco, Carol of Pleasanton, and son David of Walnut Creek; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Services were held Wednesday at the Dublin Pioneer Cemetery. Donations may be made to Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton 94566, or Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin 94568.

THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council
 Tuesday, May 3, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Housing Element Update Status Report and Direction to the Housing Element Update Task Force
- Approve City Council Work Plan for 2011-2012

Housing Task Force
 Wednesday, May 4, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review Housing Element goals, policies, and programs.
- Review input from Housing Commission, Planning Commission and City Council.

General Information

- The May 2, 2011 meeting of the Civic Arts Commission has been canceled. The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting will be held on June 6, 2011.
- The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Services Commission on May 4, 2011 has been rescheduled to May 18, 2011.
- **May 3, 2011 - Pleasanton USD Special Vote by Mail Election**
 Ballots can be returned to the Pleasanton City Clerk's office.
 Office of the City Clerk
 123 Main Street
 Pleasanton, CA 94566
 (925) 931-5027
 Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

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Living with walking for MS

Team Danielle to walk 5K to raise awareness and money for research

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Danielle Wilhite wasn't overly concerned when her hands suddenly went numb. After all, she was a healthy 18-year-old, in her senior year at Foothill High, and had just played in the powder puff football game.

"It was a feeling like when your foot falls asleep," recalled Wilhite, now 24.

When the numbness and tingling continued, however for two weeks, she went to her doctor, who sent her to a neurologist.

"He said maybe it was a pinched nerve," Wilhite said.

For the next few years, as she continued her education at Cal State East Bay to graduate in 2009, she sometimes experienced tingling in her feet and also in her spine. Each time she sought medical help but with no diagnosis — until she was 23.

"I woke up one morning feeling really dizzy. Every time I moved I would vomit," she said. "I had complete vertigo. I went to the doctor, who thought it was food poisoning, but I knew it was more than that.

"The doctor ran a CT scan of my brain and my stomach, and said it showed nothing, that it must be a bad flu," she continued. "They gave me an IV and sent me home."

The next morning a nurse called to say she'd also looked at the CT scan, that it showed "something weird," and she'd made Wilhite an appointment with a neurologist.

"I went to the appointment and he said, 'I think it's an infection of your inner ear, which is throwing off your balance but there are some spots on your CT scan; I want you to get another MRI,'" Wilhite remembered.

He found three scars on her brain and three on her spine. They lined up with when she'd experienced the symptoms.

Wilhite recalled telling him, "You are the fifth doctor I've seen. Are you going to be able to tell me what's wrong?"

"He looked right at me and he said, 'You have multiple sclerosis.'"

He stressed the importance of getting on medication immediately to stop the disease's progress and sent her home with the names of several drugs.

"He said, 'You need to research what works best for you, for your schedule. There are different side effects with every drug — you need to decide which you can live with,'" she said.

He also cautioned her only to read websites that ended with .org, explaining the .com websites might contain misinformation. She chose Rebit and has been on the medication ever since.

"I truly believe you have to be your own advocate," Wilhite said. "Once I started doing my research, I found out that it's mostly diagnosed from ages 20 to 50, and women are twice as likely to get it as men."

Nurses came to the house to teach her and her support team, including family members and her boyfriend, how to give the shots. They eased her onto a full dosage, then adjusted it for her weight. During this period, she had to take a leave of absence from her job in sales.

"All the drugs did have symptoms like flu, you get achy, feverish," she said. "Before every shot I take Tylenol or aspirin. I take shots Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, so Monday, Wednesday and Friday are my most challenging days and I have to take a nap. Tiredness is only thing that affects me a lot."

With MS, she explained, the body's own defense system attacks myelin, the fatty tissue that surrounds the nerve fibers in the central nervous system.

"When it attacks, your body thinks it's like a cold or the flu, and it forms a lesion or scar," she said.

MS is chronic and often disabling, with symptoms that can be mild, such as the numbness, or that can be severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision. Wilhite said she has "relapsing, remitting" MS, which means that any symptom she has will eventually go away.

"Every time I have a symptom they do another MRI; that's how we check the progression," she said. "So far so good."

She walks 30 minutes a day at least five days a week, following her doctor's advice to "move, move, move."

"I've always taken pretty good care of myself," she said. "Now I'm more conscientious about it. I work out a little more, I eat a little better."

"My friends and family had a hard time in the beginning with my diagnosis," she added, but they have all become matter of fact now in helping with her medica-



COURTESY DANIELLE WILHITE

Part of Team Danielle from last year's MS Walk are (back row, l-r) Tyce Wilhite, Tammy Wilhite, Tyler Wilhite, Zachary Wilhite, Scott Gephart, Mitch Bialosky, (front) Danielle Wilhite and Missy Olivares.

tion and keeping her comfortable.

She knows it was awkward for people when they saw her for the first time after hearing about her MS.

"When I was first diagnosed everyone wanted to say something refreshing," she recalled. "My least favorite is when someone says, 'It could be worse.'"

She likes when people simply remark, "You look like you're doing well."

To raise money for research and awareness, Wilhite and her supporters have formed Team Danielle and are walking in the 5K MS Walk tomorrow in San Francisco for the second year. Last year, 18 were on the team; this year it's grown to 33. They've been holding fundraisers around town, including a pizza night, a jewelry party and her hair stylist donating 10% if a patron mentions Team Danielle.

There is no minimum amount needed to walk — the team just raises as much as it can to give the foundation, she noted, and 80% of the money goes to MS research.

Having MS has changed her outlook on life, she said. "I feel like I don't sweat the small stuff quite as much." ■

Have some fun, get 'All Shook Up'

Tri-Valley Rep cast's enthusiasm is contagious

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Nothing is ever the same in one Midwestern burg once the "roust-about" Chad rides his motorcycle into town in 1955, guitar slung over his back. Is he the "Devil in Disguise" or a "Teddy Bear" or a "Hound Dog"? It depends who you ask. But the boring burg definitely gets "All Shook Up."

This is the name of the current offering of the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, a high energy parody that's a great excuse to perform the music made famous by Elvis. In this loose adaptation of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" by Joe Dipietro, the plot twists and turns as multiple romances bloom and meander, and love is discovered in strange places among unassuming people after Chad infects them all with love and life.

"It's great the way they used the songs in unexpected ways," said Christina Lazo, director/choreographer. "And some of the arrange-

ments are so beautiful."

She said the highlight of the show is the talented cast — the vocal talents realized as they sing the challenging and haunting harmonies.

"And the dancing, there's so much of it and it's so energetic," Lazo added. "It's really a goal of ours to keep this energy going."

First "Elvis" talks briefly to the audience, the usual information about turning off cell phones, etc., signing off with his familiarly slurred, "Thank you verrr much." The curtain rises to a stage full of characters clad in stripes, dancing on multi-level sets, for the first rousing number, "Jailhouse Rock."

The beat continues and doesn't let up. Presley's beautiful ballads dominate the second act as all those chasing romance begin to pair up and reflect on how they "Can't Help Falling in Love."

Tri-Valley Rep uses an optional

ending after the curtain calls — a rousing rendition of "Burning Love."

"I wanted to leave them with their toes tapping," Lazo explained.

"I'm so happy with this cast and the effort they put in," she added. "Their enthusiasm comes across, it's contagious. Their talent is extraordinary."

"It's a bigger musical than you think," she explained. "There's so much dancing, so much harmony work. It's a big show — to look for performers was a challenge."

Fans of Tri-Valley Rep will recognize some of the actors. In each production, the audience discovers anew their singing, dancing and comedic talents. Two of the leads, Robert Lopez as the roustabout and Jeff Seaberg as a middle-aged widower, had the lead roles in "The Producers." "All Shook Up" doesn't compare to that Mel Brooks work of genius, but the actors played both their roles to perfection.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Katie Pogue as Miss Sandra, the sultry museum lady, attracts (right) Robert Lopez as Chad while Mike Verzosa as Dennis works his way through the sea of love.

The female leads played by Morgan Breedveld as the lovesick tomboy Natalie and Christina Eskridge as the defiant teenager Lorraine were delightfully perky. Elizabeth

Jones was no-nonsense as Sylvia, the owner of the diner, while Katie Pogue portrayed Miss Sandra, a sultry femme fatale with a fun side. The cast was rounded out by Kevin Hammond as Dean, a teen who refuses to return to the military academy after falling for Lorraine; his mom, Ali Lane playing the uptight mayor; Bob Stratton as Earl, the quiet sheriff with a burning secret in his heart; and Mike Verzosa, Natalie's good friend Dennis who finds love in an unexpected place, as well as a talented ensemble.

This 2004 musical may not be a Broadway masterpiece but it is certainly fun and entertaining as one by one the characters begin to don blue suede shoes. If you like Elvis songs, or just enjoy a little toe-tapping as you watch vivacious singers and dancers, don't miss this latest offering of community theater.

The performances continue this weekend and next at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and at 2 p.m. Sundays, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. For tickets, \$37.50, visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org, or call 373-6800. ■

Destination Imagination

Pleasanton students competing in Global Finals

The Pleasanton Sparks, a team of fourth-graders from Hearst Elementary, came in first in Destination Imagination's structural challenge category of "Verses! foiled again!" at the state finals held recently in Oakhurst, while the Other Team, from Fairlands Elementary, won for "Triple take road show."

A fourth-grade team from Lydiksen Elementary, Who Put the Chickys in the Oven, won the regional tournament and finished second at state.

The three Pleasanton teams now move on to represent California in the Destination Imagination Global Finals Tournament at the end of May in Knoxville, Tenn.

The structural challenge for the Sparks included building the lightest possible structure out of wood, aluminum foil and glue, which would hold the most weight. The challenge was titled "Verses! Foiled Again!," which meant the students had to perform a play where an evil person's plan was being foiled.

The play had to include a prop built only out of wood, foil and glue. Additionally, the kids had to show some extra skills to gain some bonus points. Lastly, each team was given an Instant Challenge, where in less than eight minutes, they had to solve and present their solution to a challenge.

The Pleasanton Sparks had the most efficient structure plus received the most points for being musically skilled, poetic and creative among all 19 teams in their category.

The Pleasanton Sparks team includes Ananth Kumar, Sharanya Kumar, Ashira Monga, Ryan Boyden, Brendan Hwang and Varun Rao.

The Other Team members are Purvaj Reddy Kandula, Trent Pozzi, Kelly Li, Divya Vilekar, Amritha Ramalingam and David Azuma.

Who Put the Chickys in the Oven completed in the scientific challenge, "Spinning a Tale," where they researched a natural energy cycle and developed and presented an original three-act circular story that demonstrated their knowledge of the energy cycle.

The Chickys presented the Cheese Cycle in a creative and entertaining story of dairy cows and farmers, taking viewers on the journey of cheese from milk to cheese to compost and back to the dairy farm.

The Chickys are Alyssa Wu, Conner Iwata, Justin Grigory, Kyra Shah, Mitchell Payne and Tyson Payne. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pleasanton Sparks, a team of fourth-graders from Hearst Elementary.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Other Team, from Fairlands Elementary.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fourth-grade team from Lydiksen Elementary, Who Put the Chickys in the Oven.



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Janna Dean shows the watercolor she painted of Seward Johnson's sculpture, "Coming Home," which was on display last year in front of Gay 90s Pizza and Pasta.

Celebrating Art Made Easy

Public welcome at opening reception

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

When Janna Dean was about to retire after many years of teaching elementary school in Pleasanton, everyone asked what she planned to do.

"I said the first thing I'm going to do is take a watercolor class from Charlotte Severin," Dean recalled.

As a teacher, she'd watched Severin mesmerize a room full of children with her art lessons.

"Charlotte was in a multipurpose room with all ages and you could have heard a pin drop," Dean recalled. "That's how much children love art."

As a retirement present, Dean received a gift certificate for classes as well as painting supplies and now she is one of the students displaying their works at the 17th annual "Celebrating Art Made Easy" student exhibit. It runs May 2-6 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., with a public reception 7-8:30 p.m. Monday.

"The paintings have been done on location or in the studio experimenting with collage and special techniques," Severin said.

The art students focused on the Seward Johnson sculptures that were on display in downtown Pleasanton for three months last year.

Other students in the exhibit are Stephen Bakkarie, Bonnie Bartlett, Jean Bell, Ann Beven-Thomas, Vilma Buhre, Claudia Curran, Cindy Deagen, Kathleen Elm, June Ferreri, Elizabeth Greist, Cindy Juarez, Daniella Karo, Herman Leider, Kathleen Lortz, Bernardino Navanni, Louise McLellan, Toni Purcell, Ana Marie Rodriguez, Maureen Shevlin, Donald Skutca, Kathleen Turner-Meyer and Carole Williams.

The exhibit will be open for viewing from 1-4 p.m. Monday; from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; and from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday, May 6. ■

POETIC PLEASANTON



By DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Questions can inspire poetry

People often ask writers about what inspires them. Al Young, California Poet Laureate Emeritus, gave the keynote address and taught several workshops at the recent Pleasanton Poetry, Prose and the Arts Festival. One of the creative exercises he gave at his workshop centered on writing a poem of questions.

Here's how he inspired me:

What is a Town?

What is a town?
Who built the schools?

Why do we need a stage?
How many went to war?
Where are the gardens?
Why not enough roses for everyone?
Do we improvise or repeat each plan?
Who remembers the original theme?
Who met respect?
Where are the horses, the hard workers?
Have you bumped into peace lately?
Are there enough baseballs to win?
Is compassion around the corner?
Who planted the sycamores?
How do we kick goals at the same time?
Did we learn civil debate in civics?
When did we carry integrity in our back pocket?

Who will finish the puzzle?

Coming soon: Graduation Poetry Blitz

Teen Poets Laureate Noelle Malindzak and Mitch Grimes at Amador Valley High School and Vivian Tsai at Foothill High are planning an end-of-year poetry reading and open mic for Tri-Valley teens and the public from 6:30-9 p.m., Friday, June 3, at Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. Admission is free for students with ID; adults, \$5. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/PleasantonPoetry or www.firehousearts.org/programs/literary-arts.

Deborah Grossman is Pleasanton's Poet Laureate. Email her at pleasantonpoetry@gmail.com.

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riding the rails



All aboard!

Sunol-Niles canyon route makes a beautiful train ride

**PHOTOS AND STORY
BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

The Niles Canyon Railroad is a popular Sunday excursion judging by the crowd at the Sunol station on a recent sunny day. Get there early to park and buy a ticket, and be ready to board as quickly as possible for a good seat.

Tickets are sold in the quaint old train station by a volunteer in vintage railroad attire. Requested donations are \$10 general; \$8 seniors 62 and older; \$5 ages 3-12. When the train pulled in from Niles it was immediately surrounded by folks with cameras on scrambling to board for an outside seat.

The train travels 13 miles round trip between Sunol and Niles meandering near and sometimes crossing Highway 84. It leaves Sunol four times on Sundays — 10:15 a.m., 12:01 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. — a ride that takes about 40 minutes. The train is pulled by a diesel engine to Niles along the old Southern Pacific tracks then chugs back with a steam engine, although there is no return trip for the last train. In Niles an old-time bus is available to shuttle folks between downtown and the station.

The train isn't long. It has old passenger cars and open air cars, converted for passenger use from old flatcars. One enclosed coach has restrooms, a snack bar and free wine tastings from local vineyards.



BART and ACE train:

Not just for commuters

PHOTOS AND STORY BY JESSICA LIPSKY

Folks only need to open their wallets to realize the crunch their cars put on cash flow. New research from AAA finds the cost of owning and operating a vehicle is up nearly \$300 from a year ago.

With summer months on the horizon and no relief from \$4 gallons in sight, hop on BART or ACE Train for a cheap and eco-friendly staycation to some of these destinations.

**BART
First Fridays/Art Murmur**

Take a westbound train to 19th Street in Oakland for an art walk on the first Friday of every month. Galleries in downtown Oakland are open to the public from 6-9 p.m. and streets are closed to traffic. Unique craft, art and food vendors are also on site. Visit oaklandartmurmur.org.

Tech Museum in San Jose

From the Fremont BART station, take the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority Express Bus No. 180 to downtown San Jose and walk two blocks to see "Body Worlds" at the family friendly, interactive museum. The Tech has free admission days on the second Sunday of every month. Visit www.thetech.org.



Ups and downs of a teenager

Remembering rides on eight roller coasters in three days

BY JESSICA LIPSKY

Long ago and not very far away, I was a high school junior in San Ramon and journalist hopeful looking for any excuse to get out of class. As summertime neared, staff at California High School's "The Californian" began preparations for their final issue and I signed up for one of my favorite assignments to date.

Together with my senioritis-ridden friend Leah Yamshon, I took three glorious days off school to visit the Bay Area's theme parks, ride roller coasters till I was blue in the face and rate them all. We returned to class with one near-death experience (watch out for buses on Fairgrounds Drive in Vallejo), wicked sunburns and a new hatred for seagulls — much to the annoyance and envy of all our classmates.

So sit back, relax and enjoy this minorly edited, speedy trip through the tummy tumbling twists and turns of memory lane — I'm happy to report that all of the coasters are still up and running.

Who needs a \$5 bottle of water and an ice cream cone the size of a pinky finger? We do!

For those of you who can handle overpriced food and scantily clad soccer moms at Great America in Santa Clara, Vallejo's Six Flags Discovery Kingdom and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, your summer should be full of wonder and intense fun if this handy guide is followed.

A caboose is available for rent, as is the entire train. Check out the Niles Canyon Railway website for more information: www.ncry.org. The Train of Lights is a favorite in December as it winds through the canyon at night decked out in a colorful display of holiday lights with Santa onboard; tickets sell out quickly when they go on sale in October.



The clunky old cars may not give as smooth a ride as BART or Amtrak, but they take riders back in time — and through beautiful scenery. In the spring, the hillside is lush as the route follows the Alameda Creek, which flows like a river after generous rainfalls.

The ride isn't so smooth, explained railroad aficionado Jess Steven Hughes, who was visiting from the state of Washington, because the converted flatcar wasn't made for comfort.

"They were made for freight," Hughes said. "Plus these are old tracks. This track is from 1905-10."

Parts of the track were replaced after it was damaged during the 1906 earthquake, he said, plus heavier track

was laid when the trains themselves got heavier.

The transcontinental railway, completed in 1869, originally completed its journey to the San Francisco Bay via this stretch until Southern Pacific upgraded its line through Benicia and Martinez and the main line switched to the shorter route in 1879.

Many of the riders on the Niles Canyon Railway seemed to be train enthusiasts as they traded stories of riding the rails and wielded cameras before, during and after the ride. The excursion was also popular with families of small children, who were helped up the steep boarding steps by the volunteers decked out in traditional train garb.

The railway is an entirely volunteer endeavor, run by members of the Pacific Locomotive Association, which was begun in 1961. The association began rebuilding the rail line in 1987 and its volunteers worked for more than a year on the section between Sunol and Brightside maintenance facility, about halfway to Niles.

"On May 21, 1988, almost 122 years after the first Western Pacific excursion, the Pacific Locomotive Association brought railroad passenger operations back to life in Niles Canyon," states the website.

For a traditional, old-fashioned train experience or just a fun outing through the beautiful canyon, gather your family and friends together and say, "All aboard!" ■



The Niles Canyon Railway, pulled by a steam locomotive, rests at the station in Sunol, while folks buy tickets at the old depot. Passengers and volunteer train crew in vintage clothing all get into the spirit of the historic train ride on the old Southern Pacific tracks, which was once the transcontinental gateway to the San Francisco Bay.



Above: Hundreds of spaces make parking a breeze at the new West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. Right: Passengers wait for a Stockton bound ACE train at the Pleasanton station.

walk 15 minutes through UC Berkeley for art and film exhibits. Visit www.bampfa.berkeley.edu for programs.

Pacific Pinball Museum

Take a westbound train to Oakland 12th Street and AC Transit bus #51 to Alameda for unlimited pinball on vintage machines. Visit pacificpinball.org for details.

ACE TRAIN

Great America and San Jose Jazz Festival

From the Pleasanton station, take a special train to the theme park or event on June 11 and Aug. 13; \$50 includes the cost of the ride, full park admission and an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet. Visit www.acerail.com.

Santana Row and Winchester Mystery House

From the Pleasanton station, take the train to San Jose and catch the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) for your spooky and shopping needs.

Livermore

Avoid I-580 traffic and take a Stockton-bound train to the Livermore Transit center. Hop on a Wheels bus to visit Wente and other wineries, play bocce ball at Campo di Bocce or take a stroll downtown. Visit www.wheelsbus.com for schedule and route information. ■



Oakland A's and Raiders games

Take a train to Oakland Coliseum/Airport to skip the traffic on I-880 and \$20 parking. The Oakland A's will have \$2 tickets on Wednesdays for 11 games this summer.

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

Take BART to the downtown Berkeley station and

BEST OF THE BAY

Flight Deck aka Top Gun (Great America)

It is such a classic that you have to ride it twice. Despite the natural headache, Top Gun has the best corkscrew-loop interval and keeps you screaming through the entire ride. It is by far the fastest ride in the park, with portions sinking into a nearby swamp, making it feel like your feet will touch the water.

As with all the best coasters, it has a great drop that will accelerate the hearts of first time riders, and keep veterans' anticipations high. As soon as you get back on land, you'll want to run around and jump back in line.

Medusa (Six Flags Discovery Kingdom)

Probably the best ride in the entire park, this coaster has back-to-back super loops and is the only ride that incorporates corkscrews into its loopage. While it could be faster, it maintains a good speed and covers a large area of the park, maximizing fun potential. It has an amazing, near face-first, initial drop that will have your eyeliner running down your cheeks, making you look like a raccoon. Despite its anti-climactic nature, it seems to be everyone's favorite Marine World ride.

Demon (Great America)

What appears to be a simple coaster is actually a set of crazy loops and turns, climaxing with a descent into a giant skull. The satanic sounds accompanying your journey into the first tunnel are the icing on the cake.

Invertigo (Great America)

This looks daunting at first, but it is actually a very smooth ride. Riders sit face-to-face and are propelled backward and forwards through intricate corkscrews and a loop. It keeps a good speed and will have you shaking even after you get off.

The Giant Dipper (Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk)

Built in 1924, this coaster is a true classic and the best wooden coaster we encountered throughout our trips. Beginning in a pitch-black tunnel, the Giant Dipper puts you through a series of dips rivaling that of many modern coasters. The bumps are enough to make you fly out of your seat, and what more can you expect from an 80-year-old ride?

WORST COASTERS

Kong (Six Flags Discovery Kingdom)

By far, the biggest disappointment of our journey. This ride is deceiving: It looks cool, but lacks in speed and safety and sounds like it is going to fall apart at any minute. But if you enjoy waiting in hour-long lines, this is the ride for you.

Boomerang (Six Flags Discovery Kingdom)

Although the same design as Invertigo, it lacks intensity and speed. Much smaller, it has very abrupt stops that hurt the head and chest and evoke the need for aspirin. The best part of this ride: While waiting in line,



Psycho Mouse (Great America)

This ride has two different stories. Leah, normally a very brave person, cried like a 5-year-old girl. She seemed to think that the car would derail and plunge us both to our deaths. Jessica was delighted at Leah's pain, but maintains that the ride is stupid. Come on, you're riding a pink mouse.

There you have it, our comprehensive roller coaster guide. Please buckle your harness. Keep your hands and arms inside all times. "The Californian" is not responsible for any lost or stolen items while in the park. Thank you and enjoy the ride. ■

The Giant Dipper in Santa Cruz, a wooden classic roller coaster, continues to be thrilling.

ON THE TOWN



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

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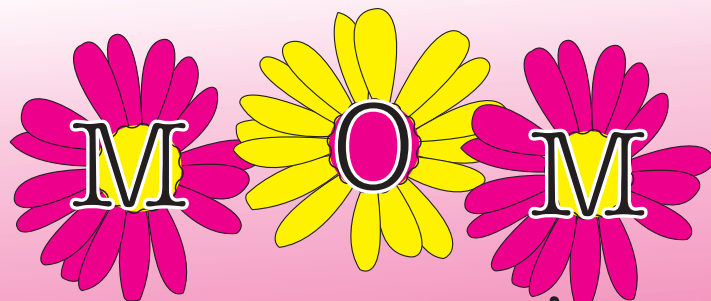
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Class Reunions

AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1991 AVHS Class of 1991 will hold its 20-year reunion from 5-11 p.m., Saturday, July 23, at Callippe Preserve, 8500 Clubhouse Dr. Buffet dinner, dessert, no-host bar, a beautiful view of the ridge and valley at sunset, and dancing under the stars with our own DJ from Amos Productions. Cost is \$57 if paid by April 1; \$60 after. Call 425-9482 or email juliefrey@comcast.net.

Classes

NIGHT HIKES The City Naturalist will have enchanting night hikes as he introduces you to the trails and parks that make Pleasanton such a great place to live and explore. Learn about local wildlife, plants, habitats, tracking from 7:30-9 p.m., Saturday, May 14, at Augustine Bernal Park, 200 Golden Eagle Way. Dress with weather in mind. Children under the age of 15 with an adult. Cost \$6 for residents and \$9 for non-residents. Call 931-3483.

THE SOCIAL MEDIA REVOLUTION The GNON Speaker Series is presenting a two-hour seminar with tips, tricks and a very real approach to the small business or job hunt, from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, May 3, at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Do you Tweet, Hoot, Dig, or Stumble? Instructor Ellen Blair will teach business development outreach through Social Media. Cost \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP to www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted or call 426-4280.

Clubs

JUNIOR FARMERS The naturalist could use a helping hand so get your farm clothes on and pull up your boots cause you are gonna do some work. The group will meet from 11 a.m.-noon every Saturday, March 5 through May 28 at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. Learn what life was like on the farm as you help with the chores. Call 931-3483.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Building bridges through classical music

Violinist Gil Sharon, leader of Amati Ensemble, and violist Pamela Freund-Striplen, leader of the Gold Coast Chamber Players, are among the three musicians from the Amati Ensemble from the Netherlands and three representing the Gold Coast Chamber Players of Lafayette who will perform the Sextet from Capriccio by Richard Strauss, Mozart's Quintet K. 516 and the Brahms Sextet no. 1 op. 18. at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 30, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$16-\$24 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Concerts

PLEASANTON COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND Pleasanton Community Concert Band will perform a concert at the Farmer's Market from 9:15 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 30, at the market in downtown Pleasanton. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

SSA ADVANCED STUDENT RECITAL Enjoy beautiful music performed by the next generation of Bay Area musicians at the Sycamore Strings Academy Advanced Student Recital at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 30, at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Ct. Admission is free and children are welcome. Visit www.sycamorestringsacademy.com.

Events

ADOPTION FAIRE PRESENTED BY TVAR & EAST COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER The shelters are teaming up to help new pet owners be well prepared when adopting a dog or cat. Adopt a dog and you get free dog training classes, dog food, a dog bed, collar and leash. Adopt a cat and you get free cat toys, a blanket and a goodie bag. The Faire is from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, April 30, at East County Animal Shelter, 4549 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Call 337-1779 or visit www.tvvar.org.

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTER'S SHOW The Heart & Hearth Quilt Show is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 30, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, May 1, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, California Building, with 400-plus quilts, dozens of vendors, prize drawings, and vintage quilt turning. Cost \$10 for general admission, \$8 for seniors, children under 12 free. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org/show.

ART, CRITIQUE & COFFEE Art, Critique & Coffee (ACC) meets at 10 a.m. each Friday at Stoneridge Mall, in front of Nordstrom's in the common area. Artists and art lovers are welcome to view latest works as they discuss how to better each piece before it is released to the public. Call 461-5084.

ARTISTS' FLEA MARKET The Pleasanton Art League is sponsoring an Artists' Flea Market, a great place to buy paints, canvas, art books, bargain art, pottery, photography props, inexpensive supplies for kids and more, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, April 30, at DeLucchi Park, First and Neal streets. Booth space is available to sell hobby room or studio supplies, at 10-foot spaces for \$25. Call Gail at 846-8960 or visit www.pal-art.com.

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR Registration for the "Bringing Back the Natives" free garden tour on Sunday, May 1, is now

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C.I.T. TRAINING Calling all former Ridge Runner Campers! Summer will be upon us quickly and you will want to have your game face on for the newest campers. Learn about tracking, emergency preparedness and wilderness travels as you gain experience for possible future summer employment. Training is from 2-5:30 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. Cost is \$26 residents; \$29 for non-residents. Call 931-3483.

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister Association is having a Cinco de Mayo celebration from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at Wayside Park at the corner of First and Neal streets. Bring your own picnic snacks and enjoy an afternoon listening to a professional eight-person Mariachi Band. The Sister-City Association will also introduce its exchange students for this summer's program. Call 462-6723.

DAY AT THE RACES FOR ALL GNON (Girls Night Out Networking) is saying thank you to its members and significant others for their support throughout the year with this one-time event for men and women, from 5-9 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at Pleasanton Satellite Wagering Facility, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Cost \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call 487-4748 or visit www.gnontrivalley.com.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY Participating comic book shops across North America and around the world will give away comic books free to anyone who comes into their stores on this one day, no purchase necessary. The event is from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at Heroes & Villains Comics, 264 Main St. Call 399-5352 or visit www.heroesvillain-comics.com.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL Learn about the rural production of ice cream and about the Meadowlark Dairy from 1-2 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. Then, of course, enjoy a cold treat! Call 931-3483.

MT. DIABLO IRIS SHOW & PLANT SALE If you are fascinated by iris or want to purchase something special for Mother's Day, check out the 50th annual Mt. Diablo Iris Show and Plant Sale, from 1-5 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at the First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek, 2336 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. No admission fee. Call Mary Sindici at 606-0355.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL RUN The third annual California Peace Officers' Association Memorial Run honoring those who have lost their lives in the line of duty is at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, May 7, at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd. The Memorial Run's 10K and 5K walk and run courses have small rolling hill trails throughout the scenic park. The kid's 1-mile fun run is laid out on the lawn area. Entry fee is from \$15-\$35 depending on the race, and includes T-shirt, beverages and a barbecue lunch. Additional lunch tickets can be purchased for \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. Call 209-795-7832 or visit www.active.com.

PEACE VIGIL Pleasantonians 4 Peace is sponsoring a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 11, in front of the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. They will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor the veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Call Cathe at 462-7495 or email Matt at mjs7882@gmail.com.

PRIMAVERA DINNER DANCE Branch #285 of the Italian Catholic Federation is presenting its annual Primavera Dinner Dance at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at St. Michael's

Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Cost \$35 and reservations are required; call by May 2, 846-4227.

SPRING SIP N' SHOP Variety of local artists and vendors will showcase their original art and new products from 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at Ruby Hill Winery, 400 Vineyard Ave. There will be light snacks, shopping and wine. Admission is free. Call 931-9463 or email mgleason@rubyhillwinery.net.

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN'S CANDLELIGHT MARCH This annual march commemorates Sexual Assault Awareness Month, beginning at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 30, in downtown Livermore at the flagpole on the corner of First St. and Livermore Ave. Call 667-2707 or email christine@trivalleyhaven.org.

Exhibits

'HORIZONTAL/VERTICAL' The landscape painting of Mark Bowles and the sculpture of Sam Tubiolo will be on display in an exhibit called "Horizontal/Vertical," from April 9-May 19 at the Harrington Art Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Suggested donation, \$2. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

CELEBRATING STAR WARS UNOFFICIAL HOLIDAY (MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!) Welcome members of the 501st Legion's Golden Gate Garrison and Rebel Legion's Endor Base. Dress in costume for a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate, for ages 18 and older. The event is from 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, May 4, at Alexander's Fine Art Gallery, 608 Main St. Cost \$10. Call 846-6015 or visit www.disneyartonmain.com.

Film

'REVIVING OPHELIA' Concerned about teen dating abuse? Get the facts and find out how to apply the valuable lessons in the "Reviving Ophelia" movie to your life. Movie will be shown free from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Melissa Murphy from Tri-Valley Haven will provide information about local services and resources.

Fundraisers

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.aw2011trivly.kintera.org.

BRAS FOR THE CAUSE CANCER WALK The sixth annual Bras for the Cause breast cancer walk will be held in downtown Pleasanton from 5:30-11 p.m., Saturday, May 7. This 10K walk supports the fight against breast cancer. Walk begins and ends at the



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Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Check in and bra judging at 5:30 p.m. with the walk beginning at 7 p.m. Participant fee \$200. Visit www.trivalleysocks.org.

EWASTE COLLECTION FOR BARTON READING PROGRAM An ewaste collection to benefit the Barton Reading Program will take place one day only, rain or shine, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 30, at Vintage Hills Shopping Center, 3500 Bernal Ave. Free to recycle: televisions, monitors, laptops, flat screens, cell phones, ink jet cartridges, wire; \$5 each to recycle: CPU's, telephones, printers, copiers, DVD players, FAX machines, VCRs, stereos, video games, small appliances. Microwaves are \$15-30; dry batteries are \$3 a pound. Make checks payable to PUSD Barton Reading Program. Call 510-590-7510.

HIDDEN GARDENS OF THE VALLEY TOUR The annual garden tour benefiting Valley Humane Society will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, May 15. It will feature a self-guided tour of 10 outstanding gardens at private homes in town. TV personality Buzz Bertolero will be on hand to answer gardening questions. Cost \$35. For more information, call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

VILLAGE HIGH SCHOOL SILENT AUCTION Village High School is holding a Silent Auction and Pasta Feed from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at the school, 4645 Bernal Ave. Donations from businesses will be advertised online and in print. They are accepting used musical instruments, sports equipment, kayaks, music lessons, outdoor sports and exercise classes, knitted items, etc. Cost is \$5 for seniors and delivered to senior housing areas, and \$7 for adults. Call 484-2048 for information or regarding donations.

Health

ART FOR THE HEART ValleyCare Health System is hosting an art therapy for cancer patients with a local artist offering instruction and assistance to participants to translate their experience into a work of art. The art will be displayed in the lobby of the ValleyCare Regional Cancer Center. The event is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 240. Register by calling 734-3313.

LAUGHTER FOR YOUR HEALTH ValleyCare Health System is hosting a free learn at lunch event with local author Annette Langer speaking about how laughter can promote healing, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, at ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 240. All registered participants will receive a free-boxed lunch. Call 734-3313.

OSTEOPOROSIS SEMINAR Anyone interested in learning about bone health or osteoporosis is invited to attend this free seminar where a panel of experts will discuss osteoporosis prevention, diagnosis and management. The lecture is from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, May 5, at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 West Las Positas Blvd., Second Floor, Conference Room 2. Call to register, 416-6777, or visit www.valleycare.com/programs/osteoporosis.html.

WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR In conjunction with Congressman Jerry McNerney, in honor of National Women's Health Week, ValleyCare Health System is holding a Women's Health Day from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at ValleyCare Medical Center, 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd. As a local hospital, ValleyCare supports the important women in our community by providing resources and services to help them take steps to live longer, healthier and happier lives. Call 373-4560.

Miscellaneous

ADOPT A FURRY FRIEND Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption. Dogs are available from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays at Farmers Market. Cats are available noon-4 p.m. Saturdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays at Pet Smart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd., Dublin; and noon-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at Pet Extreme, 4500 Arroyo Vista, Livermore. Visit www.tvar.org.

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.

On Stage

'REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM' Rebecca, a very creative, willful girl, lives with her kind Aunt Jane and strict Aunt Miranda, alternately charming and horrifying them. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on May 6, 7, 13, 14; and at 2 p.m. on May 7, 8, 14, 15 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets \$10-\$18 for adults, \$6-\$12 for children and seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Seniors

BRAIN MATTERS Enjoy a morning of fun while learning how to keep your brain active and your memory sharp. The class is held from 10-11:30 a.m. the first and third Fridays of every month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Word games, puzzles, challenging activities, reminiscing and more, geared to help you age-proof your mind. Cost \$1.75 for resident and \$2.25 for non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS Pleasanton Public Library hosts Computer Classes for Seniors including Beginning Internet on the first Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Beginning E-mail on the second Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Open Practice on the third Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Advanced E-mail on the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of every month, at the Adult Computer Area in the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Computer classes are designed for mature adults. Registration is required; call 931-3400.

LUNCH PROGRAM The lunch program sponsored by Spectrum Community Services is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Lunch is served at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.25. Reservations

required a day in advance by 1 p.m. Call 931-5385.

PEDDLER SHOPPE SPRING FLING The Senior Center's Peddler Shoppe houses some of the most unique and affordable handmade crafts, clothing and jewelry in town. It will be open for its Spring Fling from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and from 6-9 p.m. Monday, May 2, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Find wooden toys, baby items, sewn aprons, scarves and other quality gifts for everyone on your list. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

Support Groups

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP The American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Support group meets from 7:30-9 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at LifeStyleRx, 1111 East Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Call 833-2784 or visit www.valleycare.com. 7:30-9 p.m. Free

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem-solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month, and from 7-9 p.m. at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.

CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP Overwhelmed by clutter? Learn how to deal with it by attending this support group, which meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday at St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador Dr., Rm. 7. Call 200-1943 or visit www.clutterless.org.

HOPE HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS Hope Hospice offers on-

going grief support services for adults, teens and children including a Transitions Support Group; Tragic Loss Support Group; individualized grief support; caregiver support; on-site support for schools; youth organizations and the workplace; community support services; a resource library; and more. For more information or to register, call 829-8770.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS Tour the center and learn ways to greet, inform and thank the community's blood donors, from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at the Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5556 B-Springdale Ave. Advance sign-up required; call Anne at 510-594-5165 or email blackstonea@usa.redcross.org.

BLOOD DRIVE IN DUBLIN American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday, May 3, at State Compensation Insurance Fund, American Red Cross Bus, 5890 Owens Dr. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org. (Sponsor Code: STATECOMP) to schedule an appointment.

ENGLISH TUTORING TO ADULTS The Pleasanton Public Library needs adult volunteers to provide free English tutoring to adults who want to improve their reading, writing and conversational skills. Tutors have flexible hours and meet with their students once a week. Tutor must be at least 18, have average reading and writing skills, and be interested in helping another adult. No teaching experience needed. Project Read Orientation is from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, May 14, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call to register at 931-3405.

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115 Announcements

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Wear a paperclip on your collar during the Days of Remembrance, may 1-8, to honor Holocaust victims, to oppose racism, prejudice, anti-Semitism, and hate crimes. paperclipcampaign.com (AAN CAN)

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150 Volunteers
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to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 888-902-6851. (Cal-SCAN)

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Alamo, 1401 Danville Blvd., May 21 9:00-4:00

Alamo, 188 Wayne Ave, Sunday May 1 Pleasanton, 1104 Concord Street, April 30th 8AM

Yard Sale! Many high quality, lightly used items including desk, dining set, Burton snow board equipment- all at low prices!

Pleasanton, 3231 Vineyard Ave, Current Pleasanton, 6928 Calle Altamira, May 7th, 8 - 3

San Ramon, 2785 Marsh Drive, April 30, 8-3

San Ramon, 4000 Goldenbay Ave, April 30th, 8am-3pm

235 Wanted to Buy

Want BOX Spring queen
Wanted Digital TV Converter box

240 Furnishings/ Household items

Entertainment Cabinet - 20

245 Miscellaneous

FREE E-Waste Collection
Hilarious ebook by CA author! - \$2.99
Red Jeep for Children to drive - \$180
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TAYLOR TUCKER

Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Castro Valley

3 BEDROOMS
6000 Mt Olympus \$1,375,000
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

Danville

5 BEDROOMS
679 Dunhill Drive \$949,950
 Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2535

Livermore

2 BEDROOMS
6630 Forget Me Not \$235,000
 Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

5 BEDROOMS
2748 Whitehall Court \$980,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2168

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS
4041 San Giorgio Court \$419,950
 Sun 1-4 Weiner McDowell Group 872-1416

3 BEDROOMS

4059 School Street \$620,000
3 BD / 2 BA
 Open Sat/Sun 1-4
 RE/MAX Accord
 Eva Deagen
 699-2133

4476 Rosca Court \$1,335,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 980-0273

5277 Springdale Avenue \$449,950
 Sun 1-4 Delores Gragg 989-6500

343 Christina Court \$495,000
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

3788 Rocky Mountain Court \$549,950
 Sat 1-4 Connie Cox 766-3198

6535 Singletree Way \$575,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 519-8226

2812 Garden Creek Circle \$599,500
 Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

6026 Acadia Court \$600,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 519-8226

1654 Holly Circle \$615,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Claudia Colwell 323-5031

4 BEDROOMS

119 Neal Street \$1,099,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 202-6898

2119 Palmer Drive \$1,150,000
 Sun 1-4 Roy Dronkers 484-5200

2381 Romano Circle \$1,210,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 202-6898

3039 Briggs Court \$1,399,000
 Sun 1-4 Cindy Gee 963-1984

512 Bunker Lane \$1,449,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 202-6898

3533 Mercato Court \$1,575,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 980-0273

1724 Zenato Place \$1,689,000
 Sun 1-4 Tom Fox 872-1275

603 Blossom Court \$1,798,000
 Sun 1-4 Delores Gragg 989-6500

3739 Raboli Street \$1,999,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 202-6898

1528 Honeysuckle Court \$2,850,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Rich Novotny 989-7639

4241 Garibaldi Place \$599,500
 Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

3650 Platt Court S \$599,950
 Sat 1-4 Connie Cox 766-3198

3279 Picadilly Court \$669,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Tim McGuire 895-9950

653 Claret Court \$709,950
 Sun 1-4 Jim Lavey 846-3755

450 Bonita Avenue \$739,000
 Sun 1-4 Joyce Jones 398-6706

5055 Rigatii Circle \$749,500
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 519-8226

2375 Fairfield Court \$779,000
 Sun 1-4 Tim McGuire 895-9950

1683 Loganberry Way \$785,000
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5801 Arthur Court \$789,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Kruger Group 918-0986

4969 Mohr Avenue \$799,900
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Emily Barraclough 621-4097

1159 Mataro Court \$889,000
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2532

3290 Marilyn Court \$889,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Kruger Group 918-0986

1549 Maple Leaf Drive \$939,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

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

1839 Begonia Court \$939,950
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

3128 Paseo Granada \$949,900
 Sun 1-4 Liz Sullivan 426-9094

5 BEDROOMS

2691 Calle Alegre \$1,099,950
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

2416 Via De Los Milagros \$1,248,000
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2550

8045 Oak Creek Drive \$1,349,950
 Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 251-2570

7967 Limewood Court \$750,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties Team 519-8226

2224 Greenwood Road \$829,950
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

4589 Tahoe Court \$845,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Fred Hempy 437-5830

1422 Whispering Oak Way \$988,800
 Sat/Sun 2-5 Emily Barraclough 621-4097

6 BEDROOMS

7966 Foothill Knolls Drive \$1,999,000
 Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 463-2000

San Ramon

4 BEDROOMS

1159 Canyon Hills Road \$774,950
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2550

9632 Broadmoor Drive \$899,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

2536 Craneford Way \$974,950
 Sat 11-3 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

3008 Sorrelwood Drive \$998,000
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SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 17
 Lowest sale reported: \$93,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,019,000
 Average sales reported: \$498,294

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 16
 Lowest sale reported: \$165,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,400,000
 Average sales reported: \$684,062

Source: California REsource

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1528 Honeysuckle Court, Pleasanton

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New Listing

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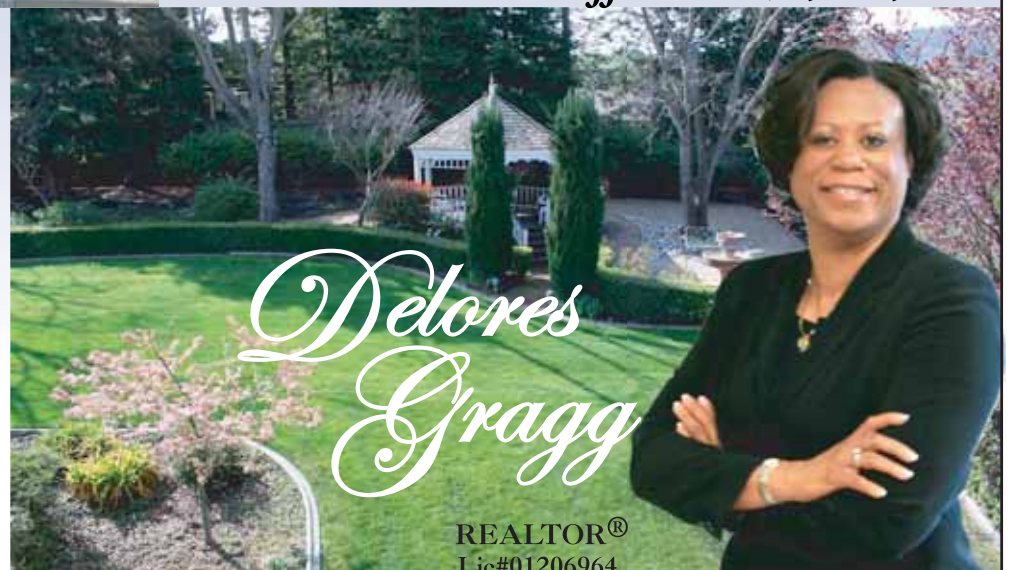
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Existing home sales rose in March

Up 8% in the South; down nearly 1% in West

By JEB BING

Sales of existing-home sales rose in March, continuing an uneven recovery that began after sales bottomed last July, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Existing-home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family, town-homes, condominiums and co-ops, increased 3.7% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.10 million in March from an upwardly revised 4.92 million in February, but are 6.3% below the 5.44 million pace in March 2010. Sales were at elevated levels from March through June of 2010 in response to the home buyer tax credit.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, expects the improving sales pattern to continue. "Existing-home sales have risen in six of the past eight months, so we're clearly on a recovery path," he said. "With rising jobs and excellent affordability conditions, we project moderate improvements into 2012, but not every month will show a gain, primarily because some buyers are finding it too difficult to obtain a mortgage. For those fortunate enough to qualify for financing, monthly mortgage payments as a percent of income have been at record lows."

NAR's housing affordability index shows the typical monthly mortgage principal and interest payment for the purchase of a median-priced existing home is only 13% of gross household income, the lowest since records began in 1970.

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage was 4.84% in March, down from 4.95% in February; the rate was 4.97% in March 2010.

Data from Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae show requirements to obtain conventional mortgages have been tightened, with the average credit score rising to about 760 in the current market from nearly 720 in 2007. For FHA loans, the average credit score is around 700, up from just over 630 in 2007.

"Although home sales are coming back without a federal stimulus, sales would be notably stronger if mortgage lending would return to the normal, safe standards that were in place a decade ago before the loose lend-

ing practices that created the unprecedented boom and bust cycle," Yun explained.

"Given that FHA and VA government-backed loan programs turned a modest profit over to the U.S. Treasury last year, and have never required a taxpayer bailout, we believe low-down payment loans should continue to be available for those consumers who have demonstrated financial responsibility and are willing to stay well within their budget," Yun added. "Raising the down payment requirement would unnecessarily deny credit to many worthy middle-class families and veterans."

A parallel NAR practitioner survey shows first-time buyers purchased 33% of homes in March, compared with 34% of homes in February; they were 44% in March 2010.

All-cash sales were at a record market share of 35% in March, up from 33% in February; they were 27% in March 2010. Investors accounted for 22% of sales activity in March, up from 19% in February; they were 19% in March 2010. The balance of sales were to repeat buyers.

The national median existing-home price for all housing types was \$159,600 in March, down 5.9% from March 2010. Distressed homes — typically sold at discounts in the vicinity of 20% — accounted for a 40% market share in March, up from 39% in February and 35% in March 2010.

NAR President Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I., said some renters are looking to home ownership as a hedge against inflation.

"The typical buyer today plans to stay in a home for 10 years, while rents are projected to rise at faster rates over the next few years," he said. "As buyers gain more financial security, the advantages of home ownership become more obvious," he said. "Rents will continue to trend up, especially in comparison with a fixed-rate loan which provides financial stability and gradual accumulation of equity over time."

Total housing inventory at the end of March rose 1.5% to 3.55 million existing homes available for sale, which represents an 8.4-month supply at the current sales pace, compared with an 8.5-month supply in February.

See SALES on Page 29

Mason-McDuffie plans charity golf tournament

Benefit to aid Huntington's disease research

Registrations and sponsorships are now being accepted for the 5th annual Mason-McDuffie Mortgage Charity golf tournament that will be held June 27 at the Diablo Country Club.

The tournament will benefit the Huntington's Disease Society and the Contra Costa Board of Realtors Scholarship Foundation. Previous Mason-McDuffie golf events have raised more than \$40,000 for charities.

"This tournament allows our company to give back to charitable organizations that make a big difference to the people they serve," said Kaveh Sartipi, tournament chairman. "It aligns with our core values."

Sartipi, manager of the Danville branch and company vice-president, is chairing the event for the third year.

Huntington's disease is a genetic disease passed from a parent to a child in which certain nerves in the brain degenerate. There is no known cure, but the society is funding

research seeking both better treatments and an eventual cure.

Mason-McDuffie chose the Huntington's society after some of their associates told them about a friend who had the disease.

The Contra Costa Realtor's scholarship is designed for a college student who has been enrolled in a major in college that could lead to a career in real estate. A grade-point-average of 3.0 is required to apply for the scholarship.

The tournament will be a scramble format with a noon shotgun start. The country club features a traditional layout with small greens and huge old oak trees.

Entry fees include golf with a cart, lunch, tee prizes and dinner. Participants who enter before May 15 qualify for the early bird special of \$195. Entries after that date are \$225.

For further information, please see www.masonmcduffiemortgage.com or call Sartipi at 925-708-7178.

—By Jeb Bing

forSALE

We have TWO wonderful homes in the Parkside neighborhood, next to the Pleasanton Sports Park. Both homes will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 1-4. Drop in to see these wonderful homes!



Open Sat & Sun 1-4

3248 Marilyn Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588

Enjoy every step of this home from its curb appeal, to a lovely entry, to an open and bright floor plan right through to a lushly landscaped backyard with a sparkling pool. **\$ 889,000**



Open Sat & Sun 1-4

5801 Arthur Drive, Pleasanton CA 94588

Enjoy a corner lot, a dramatic entry with cathedral ceilings, to an open and bright floor plan right through to a lovely, spacious backyard. 1 bedroom and bathroom conveniently located downstairs. **\$ 789,000**



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<p>9999 LONGVIEW LN PLEASANTON</p> <p>UWE MAERCZ (925) 360.8758</p> <p>\$3,249,000 • 6 Bd • 5(3) Ba • 8,330+/- sq.ft. Gated custom westside French Chateau w/ stunning grounds, elevator, private tennis court, indoor pool, casino/theater and much more!</p>	<p>VIA DE LOS MILAGROS PLEASANTON</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p> <p>WEINER / MCDOWELL (925) 251.2550</p> <p>\$1,248,000 • 5 Bd • 3 Ba • 3,259+/- sq.ft. located in the desirable "Original Country Faire" neighborhood, well kept homes, large lots, mature trees, & friendly neighbors.</p>	<p>WEST RUBY HILL DR PLEASANTON</p> <p>UWE MAERCZ (925) 360.8758</p> <p>\$5,888,888 • 7 Bd • 8.5 Ba • 10,191+/- sq.ft. Stunning Italian Villa. Probably THE most spectacular home in Ruby Hill. Picturesque aesthetics inevitably transforming the past into today.</p>	<p>1159 MATARO COURT PLEASANTON</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p> <p>DENISE IVALDI (925) 251.2532</p> <p>\$889,000 • 4 Bd • 3 Ba • 2,370+/- sq.ft. Surrounded by open space with gorgeous views! 1 Bedroom and Bathroom Downstairs, Hardwood Floors-Living Rm & Dining Rm, Great Cul-De-Sac</p>	<p>8045 OAK CREEK DR PLEASANTON</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p> <p>ANDY PORYES (925) 251.2570</p> <p>\$1,349,950 • 4 Bd 3.5 Ba • 3,763+/- sq.ft. Located in the foothills backs to the Regional Park w/ views. Back yard; pool/spa, outdr kit & 4 hole putting green.</p>
<p>1976 ARMONDO CT PLEASANTON</p> <p>UWE MAERCZ (925) 360.8758</p> <p>\$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.</p>	<p>7717 COTTONWOOD LN PLEASANTON</p> <p>MCDANIEL CALLAHAN (925) 838-4300</p> <p>\$619,900 • 3 Bd • 2 Ba • 1,593+/- sq.ft. Located on desirable tree lined lane in Highland Oaks. Single level. Kitchen family room combo w/ double sliding doors, pool & more!</p>	<p>1225 LOZANO CT PLEASANTON</p> <p>UWE MAERCZ (925) 360.8758</p> <p>\$4,299,000 • 6 Bd • 7(2) Ba • 8,877+/- sq.ft. Prepare for what lies beyond the gorgeous entry of this Italian Villa. Unrivaled setting among olive trees & lush landscaping, views of vineyards...</p>	<p>9745 SANTOS RANCH RD PLEASANTON</p> <p>PEGGY CORTEZ (925) 648.5454</p> <p>\$2,998,000 • 2,170+/- sq.ft., 70+/- Acres Gated Santos Ranch; renovate existing 4,850 +/- Tahoe-like home or build a grand mansion. Minutes to freeway & downtown.</p>	<p>7814 KNOLLBROOK DR PLEASANTON</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p> <p>WEINER / MCDOWELL (925) 251.2550</p> <p>4 Bd • 3 Ba • 2,178+/- sq.ft., 0.10+/- Acres Stoneridge neighborhood! Open Kitchen - Family Room, hardwood floors. Wonderful backyard. Great location near shopping, freeway, etc.</p>
<p>1159 CANYON HILLS RD SAN RAMON</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p> <p>WEINER / MCDOWELL (925) 251.2550</p> <p>\$774,950 • 4 Bd • 2(1) Ba • 2,360+/- sq.ft. Exceptional home, gated community. Beautifully maintained and upgraded. Excellent curb appeal, great private yard, awesome Master Bath!</p>	<p>3008 SORRELWOOD DR SAN RAMON</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p> <p>WEINER / MCDOWELL (925) 251.2550</p> <p>\$998,000 • 4 Bd • 2.5 Ba • 2,740+/- sq.ft. Beautifully updated home. Dwnstrs bd & full bth. Bright & open kitchen & fam room combo. Updated kitchen w/ granite counters & more!</p>	<p>6605 AMBER LN PLEASANTON</p> <p>WEINER / MCDOWELL (925) 251.2550</p> <p>\$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.</p>	<p>5240 GENOVESIO DR PLEASANTON</p> <p>LISA DOYLE (925) 855.4000</p> <p>\$510,000 • 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.</p>	<p>1867 SANNITA CT PLEASANTON</p> <p>UWE MAERCZ (925) 360.8758</p> <p>\$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.</p>
<p>2748 WHITEHALL CT LIVERMORE</p> <p>OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4</p> <p>DIANE SASS (925) 583.2168</p> <p>\$980,000 • 5 Bd • 5.5 Ba • 4,133+/- sq.ft. Gorgeous home surrounded by lush vineyards! Brazilian cherry flooring downstairs. Inlaw over detached garage-full kit/bath. 50' pool.</p>	<p>MOUNT OLYMPUS CASTRO VALLEY</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p> <p>KRISTY & COMPANY (925) 251.2536</p> <p>5 Bd • 4.5 Ba • 6,696+/- sq.ft. • 38.83 Acres Beautiful Bay Views on seven acres 2 Master suites, Formal living room, Updated Kitchen & Family room. Beautiful pool & spa.</p>	<p>9877 FOOTHILL RD SUNOL</p> <p>KRISTY & COMPANY (925) 251.2536</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>862 GRAY FOX CIR PLEASANTON</p> <p>TONNI CHANDLER (925) 251.2556</p> <p>7 Bd 7(2) Ba • 7,163+/- sq.ft., 1.15+/- Acres Gorgeous custom home created w/ attention to detail in every aspect, representing craftsmanship at its finest.</p>	<p>679 DUNHILL DRIVE DANVILLE</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1:30-4</p> <p>KELLY PATTERSON (925) 200.2525</p> <p>\$950,950 • 5 Bd • 4.5 Ba • 3,397+/- sq.ft. Fabulous Home in Tassajara Ranch! Beautiful Interior Loaded w/ Upgrades. Park-like Rear Yard, .27 Acre Lot. 3 Car Garage Community Pool.</p>

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510.339.4800

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3039 Briggs Ct, Pleasanton
Laguna Oaks Beauty! Private, quiet court away from road noise. Great open floor plan, outdoor kitchen. Views!!! Offered at \$1,399,000



Just Sold

2517 Arlotta Pl, Pleasanton
Laguna Oaks, updated to perfection!! Move in ready 4 bed, 3 bath. Sparkling pool, granite, updated bathrooms. Away from road noise. Offered at \$1,359,000



Available

18 Foothill Place, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,989,000



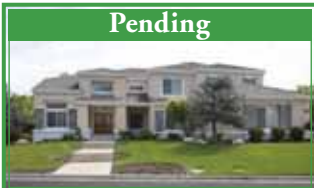
Available

3104 Deveraux Ct, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,299,000



Pending

2309 Gamay Common, Livermore
Offered at \$899,000



Pending

2506 Arlotta Place, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,369,000



Pending

7971 Foothill Knolls, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,239,000



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Shawna Jorat

2440 MILLSTREAM LN - SAN RAMON - \$555,000
STYLISH & ELEGANT! This upgraded townhome offers an open kitchen w/granite countertops, corner work station & eat-in area, hardwood flrs, cozy fireplace, formal living & dining rm, lrg master suite w/huge walk-in closet, soaking tub & dual sinks, downstairs full bth & office/bedrm, laundry rm & much more!



Tracey Esling

1292 REBECCA DR - LIVERMORE - \$749,950
A MUST SEE! 5 BR 3.5 BA 2 Story home with new paint & flooring. An awesome home with a light, bright & open floor plan, large family & formal living areas, & designer window coverings. Wonderful pool & spa with solar heat, great yard for entertaining & play, close to parks & school. A very well maintained home!



Janet Cristiano

2252 DOCCIA CT - PLEASANTON - \$1,250,000
INSIDE THE GATES OF RUBY HILL! Popular Ascona Neighborhood with a great court location. Largest floor plan with 4 bedrooms plus a downstairs study/bedroom & 3 full baths. A charming front porch, beautifully appointed kitchen, spacious master suite with views of Mt. Diablo & a large backyard with room for a pool!



Marjorie Wallace

2426 POMINO WY - PLEASANTON - \$1,639,000
STUNNING CUSTOM MEDITERRANEAN HOME in the gated community of Ruby Hill! Intricate marble & wood floors in entry, dining room & extra wide halls. Double French doors lead to a courtyard that provides privacy & shelter. Desirable main level Master Bedroom & Guest Suite. Attention to detail throughout!

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VIA DE LOS MILAGROS PLEASANTON

OPEN SUN 1-4



\$1,248,000 • 5 Bd • 3 Ba • 3,259+/- sq.ft.
Exceptional Amador model in Original Country Faire. Highly upgraded, kitchen featured in Diablo Magazine, amazing private wooded lot w/pool, spa, lawn, gazebos, fountains, and more!

7814 KNOLLBROOK DR PLEASANTON

OPEN SUN 1-4



4 Bd • 3 Ba • 2,178+/- sq.ft., 0.10+/- Acres
Stoneridge neighborhood! Open Kitchen - Family Room, hardwood floors. Wonderful backyard. Great location near shopping, freeway, etc.

6605 AMBER LN PLEASANTON



\$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.

4041 SAN GIORGIO CT PLEASANTON

OPEN SUN 1-4



\$419,950 • 2 Bd • 2.5 Ba • 1,316+/- sq.ft.
Absolutely perfect townhome in great location, backs to greenbelt space. Meticulously maintained, shows beautifully! Hardwood floors, plantation shutters. Near park and pool.

219 E ANGELA ST PLEASANTON



4 Bd • 3 Ba • 2,178+/- sq.ft., 0.10+/- Acres
Tudor, walk to downtown! 300+/- sq.ft. carriage house. Gourmet kitchen, granite, hardwood floors, solid wood arched doors, private yard.

3008 SORRELWOOD DR SAN RAMON

OPEN SUN 1-4



\$998,000 • 4 Bd • 2.5 Ba • 2,740+/- sq.ft.
Beautifully updated home. Dwnstrs bd & full bth. Bright & open kitchen & fam room combo. Updated kitchen w/ granite counters & more!

1159 CANYON HILLS RD SAN RAMON

OPEN SUN 1-4



\$774,950 • 4 Bd • 2(1) Ba • 2,360+/- sq.ft.
Exceptional home, gated community. Beautifully maintained and upgraded. Excellent curb appeal, great private yard, awesome Master Bath!

321 IRON HORSE COURT ALAMO



\$2,299,000 • 5 Bd • 4.5 Ba • 5,780+/- sq.ft.
Gorgeous European Estate, private gated ct located among majestic oaks. Flat 1/2 acre lot w/ new solar salt water pool. 6 car garage.

6645 AMBER LANE PLEASANTON



\$1,398,000 • 5 Bd • 3 Ba • 3,475+/- sq.ft.
Updated Carriage Gardens full bed & bath downstairs. Huge bonus room all on an improved half acre lot w/ gorgeous pool & full sports court.

1586 LOGANBERRY WAY PLEASANTON



\$832,000 JUST SOLD! CALL FOR DETAILS
Pleasanton's most charming neighborhood; tree lined streets, walk to 3 levels of schools, parks, shopping. New kitchen, fantastic private yard.

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UPGRADED PLEASANTON HOME! \$649,900
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3060 BOLERO CT
BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED! \$485,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA 1611 Sq. Ft. upgraded w/laminate flrs, 2 car garage. Close to schools, parks, & freeway.
 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
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CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES AVAIL PRICING STARTS IN HIGH \$200'S
 1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses, vaulted ceilings avail, w/garages, gated, renovated/upgraded
 925.847.2200

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

MORGAN HILL
 17065 COPPER HILL DRIVE
COMING SOON! \$698,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Vaulted Ceilings, skylights, separate family room. 2681 sq ft. Beautiful 20,500 lot
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Open SUN 1 - 4 343 CHRISTINA COURT
WELL-KEPT HOME! \$495,000
 3 BR 2 BA Walk to downtown. New carpet, roof, dual-pane windows & fence. Hardwood flrs in Kit & hall.
 925.847.2200

3383 ESTERO DR
GREAT OPPORTUNITY! \$500,000
 3 BR 2 BA Nice Flr Plan w/formal living & dining rm. Open Kit. Mstr bath w/jetted tub. Hardwood floors
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LIVERMORE
 1641 CALL OF THE WILD
LIVERMORE BEAUTY! CALL FOR PRICING!!
 Remodeled kitchen w/granite countertops. Recessed lighting. Backyard includes pool and fire pit.
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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

289 TOMAS WAY
FANTASTIC OAK PARK HOME! \$460,000
 3 BR 2 BA Open kitchen, newer texture & ceiling, Upgraded Doors and Hardwood, Lrge Mstr. 2 Car Garage. 925.847.2200

124 COPPER RIDGE RD.
BRIGHT & OPEN FLOOR PLAN! \$400,000
 2 BR 2.5 BA Upgraded-granite/marble slab counters, tile floors in entry & kit., Washer/Dryer.
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1866 CORTE CAVA
OPEN FLOOR PLAN! \$375,000
 3 BR 3 BA Lrge loft upstairs w/ skylights, kit w/ brkfst bar, mstr ste w/walk-in closet, upstairs laundry
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1835 HARMS DR
GREAT HOME! \$538,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA Freshly Painted, New Carpet, dual-pane windows. Upgraded tile on counters in kit and entry. 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON
 Open SAT 11 - 3 2536 CRANEFORD WAY
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235 COPPER RIDGE
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SHORT SALE: 4 BR 3 BA
 2845 sq. ft. Beautiful Dunsmuir Neighborhood. One loan. **Offered at \$660,000**

5055 Rigatti Cir., Valencia



NEW LISTING: 4 BR 3 BA
 1926 sq. ft. — 3728 sq. ft. lot. High ceilings, Chef's kitchen w/granite island and stainless appliances. **Offered at \$749,500 OPEN SUN 1-4**

3739 Raboli St., Ruby Hill



NEW LISTING: 5 BR 6 BA
 + study & 2 bonus rooms, 6008 sq. ft. New England style. **Offered at \$1,999,000 Short Sale OPEN SUN 1-4**

3533 Mercato Ct., Ruby Hill



NEW LISTING: 4 BR 3.5 BA,
 3907 sq. ft. Gorgeous single story custom with updates on quiet cul de sac. **Offered at \$1,575,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

4476 Tosca Ct., West Pls.



NEW LISTING: 3 BR + Office & Retreat, 3 BA, 3141 sq. ft. Semi-custom single story in Lemoine Ranch Estates. Wrap around porch. **Offered at \$1,350,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

6026 Acadia Ct., Valley Trails



NEW LISTING: 3 BR 2 BA, 1482 sq. feet + 225 sq. ft. sun room. Total remodel in 2005. **Offered at \$600,000 OPEN SAT and SUN 1-4**

512 Bunker Ln., Castlewood



4 BR 3.5 BA, plus bonus, 4,000 sq. ft. Beautiful high end features, convenient location to freeway, town and schools. **Offered at \$1,449,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

119 Neal St., Downtown



4 BR 2.5 BA, plus bonus area, 2454 sq. ft. Charming, updated and restored. Walk to town, farmer's market, concerts in the park. **Offered at \$1,099,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

6535 Singletree Wy., Val Vista



NEW PRICE: 3 BR 2 BA, 1560 sq. ft. Pottery Barn perfect, remodeled kitchen, wood floors, covered front porch. **Offered at \$575,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

2381 Romano Cir., Ruby Hill



4 BR 3.5 BA, 3447 sq. ft. Beautiful light and bright setting backing to open space, very private and serene. **Offered at \$1,210,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

Highland Oaks



NEW LISTING: 5 BR 2.5 BA, 2210 sq. ft. on .25 acre lot. New Kitchen, windows and carpet. **Offered at \$750,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

2186 Pomezia Ct., Ruby Hill



5 BR 3 BA, 3,850 sq. ft. - Immaculate and beautiful with many upgraded features. End of cul-de-sac location offering privacy. **Offered at \$1,269,000**

Fran & Dave Cunningham
 925-202-6898
 DRE License #01226296 & 00930892

Donna Garrison
 925-980-0273
 DRE License #01735040

Susan Schall
 925-519-8226
 DRE License #01713497

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during March 2011

Dublin

- 5233 Aspen Street** Toy Trust to H. & N. Danai for \$790,000
- 8019 Brittany Drive** M. Jalilian to P. Coutrakon for \$752,000
- 7765 Cardigan Street** T. Diep to D. Diep for \$420,000
- 4578 Central Parkway #23** J. & K. McDonald to S. Kanajanavar for \$430,000
- 7112 Cross Creek Circle #A** N. Bakhtiari to B. & S. Paras for \$230,000
- 3465 Dublin Boulevard #215** Toll Dublin Limited to R. Bricker for \$359,000
- 3657 Dublin Boulevard** Merrill Lynch to S. Singh for \$225,000
- 2797 East Sugar Hill Terrace** B. Le to Y. Hong for \$1,019,000
- 4274 Fitzwilliam Street** K. Pelton to B. Takata for \$355,000
- 7808 Landale Avenue** J. Benavidez to X. Wang for \$328,000
- 8030 Peppertree Road** R. & M. Warlich to E. & E. Flowers for \$560,000
- 4203 Roscommon Way** J. Thelin to S. & D. Mehra for \$655,000
- 2839 Southwind Lane** D. Truong to V. Chokshi for \$850,000
- 4520 Sparrow Court** C. & C. Ehmke to N. Tran for \$540,000
- 7323 Starward Drive #18** Federal Home Loan Mortgage to S. Aini for \$93,000
- 5502 Waterperry Place** R. & H. Ho to M. Rahman for \$500,000
- 3604 Whitworth Drive** S. Scofield to Y. & S. Tse for \$365,000

Livermore

- 4770 Apple Tree Common** Seadrift II to M. Converse for \$282,000
- 1140 Big Basin Road** Bahr Trust to V. Dribinski for \$505,000
- 398 Burgess Street** Gregory Trust to D. Hutchings for \$380,000
- 1355 Calle De Las Granvas** A. Lichtfuss to S. Lewkowitz for \$385,000
- 3428 East Avenue** M. Johnson to S. & G. Adkins for \$312,500
- 557 Egret Road** D. & J. Sandoval to J. & N. Hill for \$385,000
- 1594 Honeysuckle Road** F. & J. Sherer to J. & N. Sorenson for \$307,000
- 389 James Street** Tra Partners to I. Stclair for \$294,000
- 5314 Lilac Avenue** American Home Mortgage to Y. Zhou for \$300,000
- 4547 Maureen Circle** R. Elvidge to S. Gonzalez for \$560,000
- 1530 Mendocino Road** K. & K. Demers to T. Vogel for \$439,000
- 24 Meritage Common #202** Alvernaz Partners to W. Liu for \$218,000
- 2052 Pinon Court** Wells Fargo Bank to C. Blakeslee for \$275,000
- 1651 Quail Court** D. & C. Neher to J. & D. Long for \$1,210,000

- 2468 Rees Circle** J. & C. Bittner to J. Nuckolls for \$720,000
- 2475 Spyglass Hills Road** XWYZ Limited to R. Resendez for \$410,000
- 724 Tennyson Drive** Mundis Trust to D. Morrison for \$648,000
- 1217 Wagoner Drive** Vanwinkle Trust to J. Morrissey for \$315,000
- 2110 Wedgewood Way** D. & R. O'Keefe to J. & S. Coffey for \$775,000

Pleasanton

- 6828 Corte De Flores** Torrey Trust to H. Chen for \$620,000
- 14 Deer Oaks Drive** Shaffer Trust to B. & S. Mee for \$1,330,000
- 811 Division Street #26** Greyhound Properties to V. McMurtrie for \$195,000
- 2083 Eilene Drive** K. Nohr to J. Wu for \$620,000
- 2744 Foothill Road** V. Parthasarathy to Aiken-Solomon Trust for \$1,230,000
- 4595 Gatetree Circle** R. & L. Kroneder to V. & S. Vyas for \$663,000
- 2533 Glen Isle Avenue** S. & B. Meisenheimer to R. & M. Gupta for \$590,000
- 3564 Gresham Court** S. Randolph to B. & D. Graver for \$690,000
- 7831 Medinah Court** J. & P. Krebs to O. Wang for \$760,000
- 3689 Pimlico Drive** Cirelli Trust to J. Wang for \$618,000
- 3377 Sandstone Court** J. & E. Litvinoff to Y. Xue for \$1,400,000
- 3763 Saratoga Way** K. & K. Singh to Y. Xie for \$270,000
- 4050 Silver Street** Mcurmtrie Trust to A. Helmgren for \$620,000
- 3383 Smoketree Commons #D** Federal National Mortgage to N. Raposa for \$165,000
- 149 Sylvia Circle** J. Rutherford to D. & B. Kim for \$544,000
- 7109 Valley Trails Drive** MPDF Fund Limited to D. & H. McNamee for \$630,000

San Ramon

- 2847 Biddleford Drive** GMAC Mortgage to X. Li for \$473,000
- 450 Bollinger Canyon Lane #293** Z. Xu to K. Nishio for \$265,000
- 1909 Cedarwood Loop** Y. Neal to C. Law for \$425,000
- 9799 Davona Drive** V. Abrams to B. Hackwell for \$350,000
- 11 Henry Ranch Drive** Jomehri Trust to T. Tan for \$1,040,000
- 2255 Magnolia Bridge Drive** P. & M. Quiachon to S. & E. Hyder for \$675,000
- 2756 Mohawk Circle** Scott Trust to A. Taneja for \$750,000
- 2720 Mountain Ash Lane** HSBC Bank to A. & K. Parmar for \$666,000
- 210 Oakham Court** T. & L. Pryor to D. Doles for \$800,000.00
- 120 Reflections Drive #11** Federal National Mortgage to I. Aziz for \$157,500
- 2532 Shadow Mountain Court** Holmes Trust to B. & C. Powell for \$530,000

Source: California REsource

SALES

Continued from Page 25

Single-family home sales rose 4.0% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.45 million in March from 4.28 million in February, but are 6.5% below the 4.76 million level in March 2010. The median existing single-family home price was \$160,500 in March, down 5.3% from a year ago.

Existing condominium and co-op sales increased 1.6% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 650,000 in March from 640,000 in February, but are 4.1% below the 678,000-unit pace one year ago. The median existing condo price was \$153,100 in March, which is 10.1% below March 2010.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the

Northeast rose 3.9% to an annual level of 800,000 in March but are 12.1% below March 2010. The median price in the Northeast was \$232,900, down 3.0% from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the Midwest increased 1.0% in March to a pace of 1.06 million but are 13.1% lower than a year ago. The median price in the Midwest was \$126,100, which is 7.1% below March 2010.

In the South, existing-home sales rose 8.2% to an annual level of 1.99 million in March but are 1.0% below March 2010. The median price in the South was \$138,200, down 6.6% from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the West slipped 0.8% to an annual pace of 1.25 million in March and are 3.1% below a year ago. The median price in the West was \$192,100, which is 11.2% lower than March 2010. ■



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Pleasanton, CA 94588



Open Home Sat & Sun 1-4
1654 Holly Circle, Pleasanton



PRICE REDUCED - WOW!

Feels like Van Gogh must have lived here. This artsy cottage like home is one of a kind, Very bright with lots of windows for natural light. Features 3 bdrm/3 ba. plus den/4th bdrm. (conveniently located on first floor) approx. 1975 s.f.. Original builder lived here and customized many features, rounded corners on all walls, extra windows, open dining area to living room with beam ceilings, paver tile floors, french door from kitchen to covered patio, master bath with separate tub/shower and finished loft area. Kitchen includes newer stainless steel appliances and tile counters. Spacious master bedroom with cathedral ceilings and large secondary bedrooms. New carpeting and decorator paint throughout. Large yard, conveniently located in a court location backing to Iron Horse Trail which provides privacy and views of Pleasanton Ridge. **Offered at \$615,000**

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



450 Bonita

Expanded single story beauty located Downtown Pleasanton....
4 bedrooms, 3 updated baths, updated galley kitchen with granite counter-tops, stainless appliances, hardwood flooring, stunning stone fireplace in spacious family room, French doors and MORE! **Offered at \$739,000**

West Pleasanton Beauty...

COMING SOON



3 bedrooms, 2 baths, updated kitchen with granite slab counter, beech wood cabinets, stainless appliances, tile floor and skylight. Hardwood flooring and neutral carpet throughout, brick fireplace and built-in entertainment center in family room, side yard access (both sides), Trex decking, professional landscaping, near freeways, Stoneridge Mall, BART and MORE!! Call for more information.

apr.com | PLEASANTON 900 Main Street





Emily Barraclough

www.925hometeam.com

emilyb@apr.com

(925) 621-4097

Thinking of selling your home?
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OPEN SAT/SUN 2-5



1422 WHISPERING OAK WAY, PLEASANTON

Just Listed! Beautifully appointed 5 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home close to schools, parks, downtown, and hwy 680. Kitchen upgraded with granite counters, ss appliances, breakfast nook & newer patio glass door. Spacious master suite has a stunning upgraded bathroom & large walk-in closet. Newer carpet throughout the upstairs. 3 car garage with finished epoxy floors. This home is in immaculate condition. Call today for an appointment to see this stunning home. **OFFERED AT \$988,800**

OPEN SAT/SUN 1:30-4:30



4969 MOHR AVENUE, PLEASANTON

Just Listed! Gorgeous home in the desirable Gates neighborhood of Pleasanton. Home consists of 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and is approximately 2103 sq ft of living space. Fabulous floor plan with a sunny open kitchen and breakfast nook that opens to the family room. Upgrades include newer hardwood floors in kitchen, family, living and dining rooms, granite counter tops & stainless steel appliances in kitchen. **OFFERED AT \$799,900**



942 VENTURA AVENUE, PLEASANTON

Don't miss this completely updated 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in South Livermore! Newer laminate wood floors throughout the home, recently updated kitchen with dark wood cabinets, stainless steel appliances & granite counters. Newer dual paned windows, recessed lighting in family room and kitchen & updated bathroom. **OFFERED AT \$289,900**

PENDING

REPRESENTED BUYERS



2832 LONGSPUR WAY, PLEASANTON

Nice home in the desirable Birdland neighborhood of Pleasanton. Newly updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances and a large lot that backs to the sports park. **OFFERED AT \$879,950**

PENDING

REPRESENTED BUYERS



2659 CELAYA CIRCLE, SAN RAMON

Beautiful home in the Twin Creeks neighborhood of San Ramon. Approximately 2700 sq ft of living space with 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms. The home has a great open floor plan and a 3 car garage. **OFFERED AT \$789,950**

PENDING

REPRESENTED BUYERS



66 DOS RIOS PLACE, SAN RAMON

Very well maintained home in the Twin Creeks neighborhood of San Ramon. The kitchen has been completely upgraded and opens to a spacious family room. The home is approximately 2360 sq ft of living space and has 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. The back yard is very large and great for back yard entertaining. **OFFERED AT \$785,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



DRE#01349446



Tim McGuire

925-462-SOLD

WWW.TIMMCGUIRE.NET



Beyond Full Service—A Concierge Approach to Real Estate

OPEN SUN 1-4



2375 Fairfield Court, Pleasanton

4bd/2.5ba, "Monterey" model, 2,101+/-sq.ft. Granite kitchen, newer appliances, hardwood floors, newer windows, remodeled bath, inside laundry, pool and side yard access. Offered at \$779,000

COMING SOON



5230 Hummingbird Rd., Pleasanton

4bd/2ba, "Holiday" model in Birdland. 2,167+/-sq.ft. on a 8,760+/-sq.ft lot, newer roof, windows, Pergo floors, HVAC system, needs cosmetic updating. Please call for details.

OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



3279 Picadilly Court, Pleasanton

4bd/3ba, 1,941+/-sq.ft in Pleasanton Meadows backing to Greenbelt and Cabana Club. New granite kitchen, newer windows, full bed/bath downstairs. Offered at \$669,000

COMING SOON



1515 Greenwood Road, Pleasanton

3bd/2ba, "Country" model in Pleasanton Valley, 1,854/-sq.ft on a 6,858+/-sq.ft lot, remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, newer windows and roof, remodeled master, walking distance to K-12 schools and shopping. Please call for details!



apr.com | PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111

The latest from The 680 Blog

Pleasanton Market Update - Looking Strong

March was another good month for Pleasanton real estate. Pending sales of single family detached homes increased for the third consecutive month, although not as sharply as they had the previous two months. Homes priced under \$1 million led the way with strong gains in pending sales. Inventory gains outpaced sales during the month, particularly for higher priced homes. But it appears the Spring selling season is well underway.

Overall, inventory increased by 21 homes or 17% during March. There were 157 homes on the market at the end of March, compared to 126 at the end of February. There were 71 pending sales during March, an increase of four (6%) over February. Inventory relative to pending sales increased from 1.9 months in February to 2.2 months in March. Certainly we can expect more inventory as we approach summer, which in most

price segments would be a welcome development as there appears to be ample demand to absorb any increase in inventory, especially in the lower price ranges.

There were 60 pending sales of single family detached homes priced under \$1 million during March, a 15% increase over February's 52. Inventory kept pace, increasing by >> **Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.**



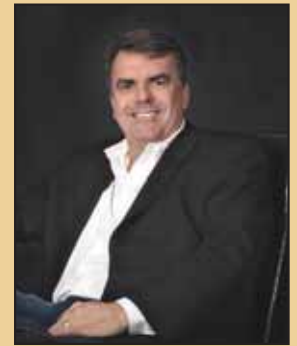
Doug Buenz

Office
925.251.1111
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925.463.2000

680Homes.com

CA DRE# 00843458

High Performance Real Estate



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



JUST LISTED!

Fabulous custom home with 6 BR plus bonus room, 4 BTH, 3 car garage, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, pool, spa, and 1/2 acre private creekside lot!
\$2,250,000



OPEN SUN 1-4

7966 Foothill Knolls Dr
Fabulous estate home with 6 BR + loft & office/rec room, 5 BTH, 4 car garage, stone flooring, dream kitchen, and 1.1 acre lot with pool, sports court, outdoor kitchen and views!
\$1,999,000



JUST LISTED!

Fabulous 2 BR, 2 BTH single story end unit with 2 car garage, gleaming wide plank hardwood floors, open kitchen/living room with fireplace, upgraded kitchen, large private yard with patio. Walk to downtown!
\$475,000



PENDING SALE!

Elegant Golden Eagle custom home with 4 BR plus office, 3 1/2 BTH, new cherry & granite kit, plantation shutters, and incredible .42 acre flat lot!
\$1,450,000



JUST SOLD!

Luxurious 4 BR, 3 BTH home with 3 car garage, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors & stone floors, and resort like yard with pool, outdoor kit, and firepit!
\$929,000



JUST SOLD!

Fabulous luxury single story home with 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH, 3 car garage, hardwood floors, upgraded kitchen, and fabulous flat .57 acre lot with pool, spa, and detached guest house & wine cellar.
\$1,515,000



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KOTTINGER RANCH



JUST LISTED — OPEN SUN 1-4

4241 GARIBALDI PLACE, PLEASANTON
Highly upgraded Kottinger Ranch duet with four bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. Remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops & custom backsplash. Completely remodeled bathrooms. Plantation shutters, crown molding, hardwood flooring and upgraded carpet. Professionally landscaped private backyard includes aggregate patio and mature trees. Excellent quiet location on private 4014 square foot lot with no rear neighbors. Community amenities include: pool, clubhouse, tennis courts, park and open space. Walk to downtown, Kottinger Park & award winning Vintage Hills Elementary. **OFFERED AT \$599,500**

SAN RAMON



COMING SOON

215 KITTELY PLACE, SAN RAMON
Excellent quiet court location. Four bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms with 2008 square feet. Spacious kitchen, large living room & family rooms. Lots of picture windows for viewing & natural light, vaulted ceilings. Spacious master suite with retreat and his & hers closets. Newer roof. Large rear yard with two patios (one covered), covered side yard access. Walk to Walt Disney Elementary, Pine Valley Middle School, California High School and great neighborhood parks. Great curb appeal. **OFFERED AT \$549,000**

CHARTER OAKS



JUST LISTED — OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

1549 MAPLE LEAF DRIVE, PLEASANTON
Highly upgraded four bedroom, plus bonus/teen room, three bathrooms. Approximately 2541 square feet. Completely remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, custom backsplash, custom cabinets & stainless steel appliances. Brazilian cherry hardwood flooring, upgraded carpet & remodeled master bath. Newer interior paint. Three car garage. Completely re-landscaped private rear grounds with built-in BBQ/kitchen, custom fire pit/sitting area, slate patio, garden and play areas. Tile roof. Convenient to downtown, neighborhood park and award-winning schools! **OFFERED AT \$939,000**

SYCAMORE HEIGHTS



1092 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY, PLEASANTON
Wow! Private premium 20,180 sq ft estate lot. Panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge, the valley and Mount Diablo. Large rear grounds with expansive lawn area and patio. Backs to open space. Five bedrooms, plus den, bonus room option (5th), five and a half bathrooms. Approximately 5,000 sq ft. Large gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding throughout, new custom flooring, extensive upgraded light fixtures, new interior paint throughout. Close to downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. Award winning schools! **OFFERED AT \$1,559,000**

PHEASANT RIDGE



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**

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**

RUBY HILL



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 \$1,449,000**

STONERIDGE PARK



OPEN SUN 1-4

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**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street

apr.com

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REALTORS

JO ANN LUISI BY APPT



DANVILLE **\$1,949,950**
Rare Opportunity for a Sports Enthusiast! Estate features a spacious custom home, large multi-purpose out building, and private baseball field. www.FieldOfDreamsDanville.com 8115 CAMINO TASSAJARA

DANIEL ALPHER BY APPT



PLEASANTON **\$1,610,000**
Warm & Inviting 4bd/4.5ba, 4391+/-sf luxury home estate nestled on a court, 334k+/- in upgrades. Irresistible quality, charm & designer touches. www.3372SagewoodCt.com 3372 SAGEWOOD CT

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPT



PLEASANTON **\$1,559,000**
Private 20,180 sq.ft lot. Views of Ridge, Valley & Mt Diablo. Large rear grounds. Gourmet kitchen, crown molding, new flooring, new paint, upgraded fixtures! Approx 5000 sq.ft! 1092 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY

TIFFANY ROSE BY APPT



PLEASANTON **\$1,499,000**
Stunning luxury home in prime location! Upgraded inside and out, top to bottom. Private and spacious outside paradise, fire pit, BBQ, pool, spa, views and more! 1471 IRONGATE CT

SYLVIA DESIN BY APPT



PLEASANTON **\$1,300,000**
Don't miss this beautiful home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, updated gourmet kitchen with ss appliances and granite counters. 1350 BENEDICT CT

Please Join Us for the
71ST ANNUAL PLEASANTON ROSE SHOW
Saturday, May 7th
at the Pleasanton Library
www.ThePleasantonRoseShow.com



ALAIN PINEL
REALTORS

DAN GAMACHE OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON **\$1,099,950**
Rarely available 5 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, original Country Fair home situated on a huge lot! 1 bd/1ba downstairs. The ultimate family neighborhood, quiet street, near parks and schools. 2691 CALLE ALEGRE

KAREN CROWSON BY APPT



LIVERMORE **\$1,085,000**
Gorgeous, 5bd/3.5ba, 1-story with a fabulous kitchen. Beautifully landscaped corner lot with pool and putting green. 2331 GAMAY CMN

EMILY BARRACLOUGH OPEN SAT/SUN 2-5



PLEASANTON **\$988,888**
Beautifully appointed home close to schools, parks, downtown, and hwy 680. Kitchen upgraded with granite counters, ss appliances, & breakfast nook. Don't miss this stunning home! 1422 WHISPERING OAK WY

DAN GAMACHE OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON **\$939,950**
Beautiful 4bd/3 full ba, 2541+/-sf home. Lagoon style pool, palm trees & mature landscaping. Large side yard access at end of court. 1 bedroom and full bath downstairs, 3 car garage. 1839 BEGONIA CT

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



SAN RAMON **\$899,000**
4bd + office, 3ba, 3195+/-sf plus finished attic. Built in 2010 with top of the line materials. Gourmet kitchen, hand made mouldings, energy efficient, entertainers dream home. 9632 BROADMOOR DR

DAN GAMACHE OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON **\$829,950**
Truly a special property! Pristine 5bd/3ba single story in the ultimate family neighborhood. 2423+/-sf, expanded garage, enlarged FR, enlarged LR, new master bd & ba. 2224 GREENWOOD RD

EMILY BARRACLOUGH BY APPT



PLEASANTON **\$799,900**
Gorgeous home in the desirable Gates neighborhood of Pleasanton. Home consists of 4 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths and is approximately 2100 sq ft of living space. Fabulous floor plan with a sunny open kitchen. 4969 MOHR AVE

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SAT/SUN 1:30-4:30



PLEASANTON **\$785,000**
4bd/2.5ba, 2047+/-sf situated on a 6500+/-sf lot. Desired Monterey model, newly updated kitchen, new roof, pool in backyard. 1683 LOGANBERRY WAY

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON **\$440,000**
Charming single story contemporary garden style 2 bd/2full ba home. Open FR and LR, Breakfast bar in kitchen, wood flooring, master opens to brick patio, near park and shopping. 4190 PEREGRINE WAY

