

Pleasanton Weekly

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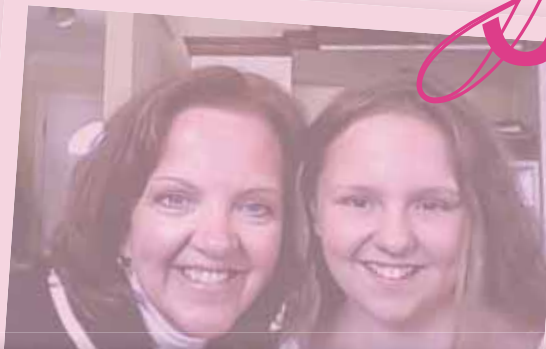
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Let's keep local journalism thriving

For more than a decade, the Pleasanton Weekly has delivered news about our town dependably every Friday. We have brought you stories about your kids, our city government and all the issues affecting the quality of life in our community. We've run your letters and photos and kept you informed about local events. Our website, PleasantonWeekly.com, has become the place residents turn to for breaking local news, to post their own stories and photos, and to discuss news and events in the community.

But today the viability of local journalism everywhere is threatened, and the time has finally come to ask our readers to pay some of the freight through paid subscriptions/memberships.

Why should you pay for something that you've been receiving for free? The short answer is that we're hoping readers will pay for a service they value, and that by paying a modest \$5/month membership fee you can help ensure that Pleasanton continues to have a strong newspaper and community website covering what's happening in our town. Until now, we have been able to rely completely on advertising by local businesses to sustain our journalistic work. But that business model has been undermined by the prolonged recession and by a shift in advertising to the Internet. For any serious publication to be able to continue to employ professional journalists who cover local news, readers will need to start sharing the costs with advertisers.

Our reader surveys show intense support in the community for the Pleasanton Weekly and our website, and a strong appetite for local news coverage. We were immensely gratified that a just-completed survey shows the Weekly is by far the best-read paper and most-visited local website among residents.

Thus we turn to you, the ultimate beneficiaries of our journalism, to help sustain our efforts. Instead of requiring paid subscriptions, or a "pay wall" on our website, our goal is for our readers to sign up as "members," through either an annual payment or (better for us) a recurring monthly credit card charge of \$5 or more. You can do this very simply and

securely on our website. All supporting members will be acknowledged in thank you ads in the Weekly and recognized on PleasantonWeekly.com. You also will be invited to special members-only events, plus will receive a "Support Local Journalism" bumper sticker and special members-only offers from local businesses.

Whether you read the Pleasanton Weekly, turn to PleasantonWeekly.com or rely on Express, our e-daily local news digest e-mailed each day, I'm hoping you'll show your support for local journalism by becoming a member today. We are very proud of our efforts to build a stronger community. Our annual Holiday Fund campaign, which raised more than \$150,000 over the past holiday season, earned us the Business Philanthropy Award from the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce in 2011 and a top recognition last month from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. Your help will enable us to maintain and expand this strong local journalism effort for the Pleasanton community. ■

"We were immensely gratified that a just-completed survey shows the Weekly is by far the best-read paper and most-visited local website among residents."

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Visit www.supportlocaljournalism.org/pleasanton or call 925-600-0840 for more information.

About the Cover

The winners of this year's Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest are mom Alejandra Ahaev and her two daughters, (left) Natasha, 24, and Michelle, 21. More than 60 pairs entered the contest. Cover design by Kristin Herman.

Vol. XII, Number 17

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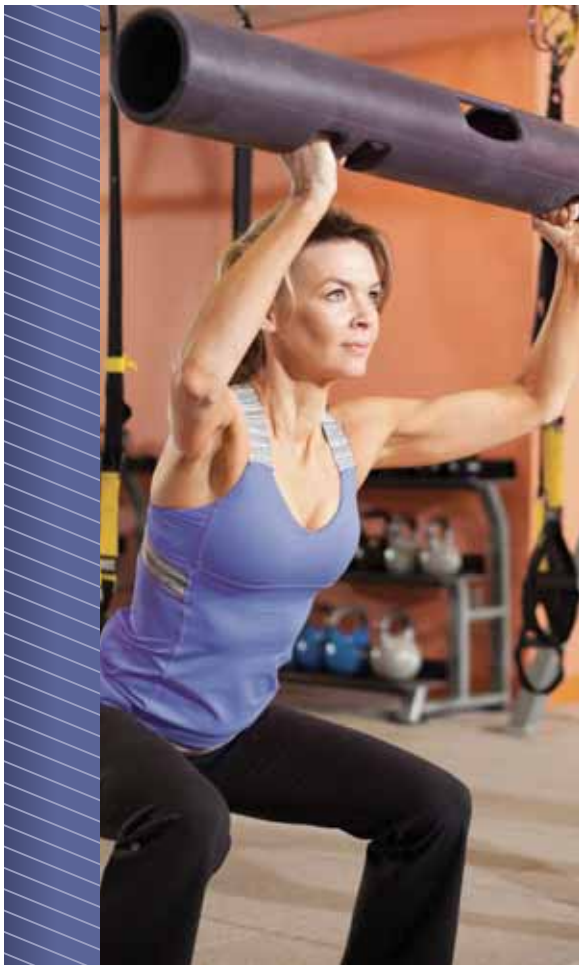
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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What was your reaction to the news that Osama bin Laden had been killed?



Forrest Quinn
Student/flower delivery person

I was excited, because I remember being a kid when the Sept. 11 tragedy happened and wanting him to be caught. I was happy that he finally was, but I'm worried that there will be a retaliation attempt.

Michaela Gray
Student with two jobs

I think justice was served, but for me there is never pleasure in taking someone's life. I was relieved, though, and I'm glad there is closure for those who suffered so much from what he did.



Marcella Cunningham
Caregiver

I was more of a skeptic at first that he was truly dead. It seemed a bit out of the blue after all this time. Someone explained to me why he was given a burial at sea, so now I understand and believe that he is really gone. I feel that all of the celebration over his death is kind of a step backward for humanity.

Chris Miller
Student

I was surprised because I didn't think it would ever happen, but I'm happy. It was a good day.



Nadine Chiu
Full-time mom

I have mixed feelings. I'm glad that he is finally gone, but at the same time I'm afraid that there will be retribution.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Fair theme is '99 Years Young'

This year marks the 99th annual Alameda County Fair. Organizers have planned 17 days of family-centered fun with "99" themes including 99 cent Wacky Wednesdays with 99 cent admission before 3 p.m., 99-second Bull Rides to win a prize, and 99 cent beers in the Grandstands before the second race every Thursday.

There will also be a 99-year-old "meet and greet" special guest who attended one of the very first fairs, and a 99 Kisses Contest with the winner receiving \$99 for kissing a partner 99 times.

This year's fair will run June 22 to July 10, and will be closed Tuesdays. Learn more at www.AlamedaCountyFair.com.

Register for 2011 football, cheer

Registration is open for the 2011 Pleasanton Junior Football League season, for contact football and cheerleading for boys and girls in grades 2-8 as well as flag football for boys and girls in grades 2-12. Everyone plays in PJFL; there are no tryouts and no cuts.

Contact football registration is \$285 and includes a uniform and equipment. Practice begins in early August; games are Saturdays at the Pleasanton Sports Park beginning in early September.

Flag Football registration is \$165 for players in grades 2-8; practice begins the third week of August with games Saturdays at Hart Middle School beginning in mid-September. New this year is the High School Flag Football Division for grades 9-12; registration is \$100 and includes equipment.

PJFL cheerleading is for all skill levels and costs \$250-\$300, which includes a uniform and training. Cheerleaders practice begins in late June.

Registration ends June 2. Go to PJFL.com.

Got wine?

The Tri-Valley Conservancy is holding its second annual Livermore Valley wine competition in June, with entries due May 20. All wines to be entered must be made with grapes grown in the Livermore Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area). Wines entered must be available for purchase, and winemakers are asked to submit their signature or best wines; each winery can enter a maximum of five.

Judging will be done by 16 qualified wine judges at the Wine Steward in Pleasanton. For more information and entry forms, call the Tri-Valley Conservancy at 449-8706.

Parcel tax Measure E defeated

Supporters say they'll try again, after narrow loss in mail-ballot election

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

With Measure E, Pleasanton's latest parcel tax measure suffering a narrow defeat Tuesday, supporters of the tax are promising the issue won't go away.

Of the 20,610 votes counted, the measure received 65.16%, or 13,430 votes in favor, vs. 34.8%, or 7,180 votes opposing the tax.

The measure needed a two-thirds majority, or 66.6% votes in favor, to pass. The last parcel tax vote, in 2009, received 61.7% favorable votes.

Tanya Ludden, who led the campaign in support of the tax, waited until about 8:30 p.m. before speaking to the 45 or so people who had gathered to watch the results.

"It was certainly not the outcome we were hoping for," Ludden told campaign workers. "We did everything we could... you worked so hard."

Meanwhile, parcel tax opponent Doug Miller said the defeat was a call for the school board to make some tough choices.

"I attribute it to the insistence by the school board that regardless of other considerations, pay raises must continue. I think the residents took offense to this position," Miller said.

Supporters say they're not done.

"Guess what — Measure F is coming," said



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Tanya Ludden, the woman who ran the campaign to approve Measure E, gets a hug from her husband Tom after the parcel tax measure was defeated Tuesday.

Tom Ludden, Tanya's husband.

Charles Heath of TBWB Strategies said if not for the state's requirement that a tax increase must receive two-thirds of the vote, the measure would have won by a landslide.

"The frustrating thing is in school parcel tax elections, the deck is stacked against you," Heath said. "You can get 65% of the people to

say yes and you still come up short."

Heath and fellow consultant Bryan Godbe, president of Godbe Research, told the board in January that a tax of \$98 would pass, even with a margin of error of 4.8%, although Heath said it would require a strong push from the community to get out voters.

The push did that. Heath said the turnout was large for elections of this sort.

Four of the five school board members and a number of district staff attended what they originally hoped would be a victory party Tuesday night.

Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi noted that a 65% approval rate was better than the last effort to pass a parcel tax in the city.

"We just need to keep moving on," Ahmadi said. "We'll work together because kids matter."

Board Member Jeff Bowser pointed out that the number of supporters went beyond the board's initial objective.

"Our goal was to receive 10,000 Yes votes and we've exceeded that," Bowser said.

Board Member Joan Laursen choked up when she spoke to the crowd.

"At the end of the day, our schools aren't going to get what we hoped for but we're still going

See **PARCEL TAX** on Page 8



SHERRY WIGGINS

A capacity crowd of mourners fills Pleasanton's Veterans Building on Saturday as uniformed soldiers and veterans walk down the center aisle to pay their respects to the family of Specialist Jameson Lindskog, who was killed in action in Afghanistan March 29.

Hundreds pay tribute to Pleasanton GI killed in Afghanistan

Veterans hall filled to capacity as family, friends, fellow soldiers, veterans remember Specialist Lindskog

By JEB BING

A capacity crowd of mourners filled the Veterans Memorial Building on Saturday to pay tribute to 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, who both remembered their son at the hour-and-a-half-long service. Others who spoke at the service included Specialist Lindskog's brother Ken Nekotani and his sister Mrs. Candace Khattab.

Many, who could not find seats in the main hall of the Veterans Building, stood in the lobby or outside the building where the city of Pleasanton had placed loudspeakers. A large American flag flew from the top of a Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department ladder raised across Main Street, which



Jameson Lindskog

See **LINDSKOG** on Page 9



Police Chief Spiller to be sworn in Monday

Career officer has 'proven track record,' city manager says

Capt. David Spiller, who was named Pleasanton's new police chief by City Manager Nelson Fialho earlier this week, will be sworn in Monday. He succeeds former Chief Mike Fraser, who retired last November.

As police chief, Spiller will earn \$184,000 annually.

Spiller, 43, joined the Pleasanton force in 2002 and most recently has been a captain in the Investigations and Support Services Division, managing all support, investigative, administrative and communications functions.

Prior to coming to Pleasanton, Spiller served as a police sergeant in the Mountain View Police Department. He began his career in 1989 as a police officer with the city of San Diego.

See **POLICE CHIEF** on Page 9

'Days of Wine and Roses'

Annual Rose Show at library tomorrow

Everything is coming up roses tomorrow at the library for the Pleasanton Rose Show, which is held annually on Mother's Day weekend.

The event is dubbed "the people's show" because all gardeners are encouraged to bring in their homegrown blooms. Exhibitors can check in their roses from 7:30-10 a.m.; categories range from different types of roses to those that are unidentified. There are also categories for a single stem rose of any size, any color, and arrangements of any design or size.

The Rose Show will be open to the public from 1-4 p.m., along with wine tasting for \$5. The awards ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m.

The Rose Show, now sponsored by Alain Pinel Realtors, began at a Pleasanton bank in the 1930s, when Harry Harding gave his customers rose bushes to show his appreciation for their patronage. His customers returned the favor by bringing back blooms for him in appreciation, inspiring him to start the Rose Show.

Now Realtors from Alain Pinel say they have been inspired by the past Rose Shows to keep this community tradition going.

The library is located at 400



PHOTOS COURTESY ALAIN PINEL

The Library, which grows its own roses, will be the site of the Rose Show tomorrow. Below, flower arrangements are part of the show.

Bernal Ave. in Pleasanton. For more information and a complete list of rose categories, go to www.thepleasantonroseshow.com. ■

University founder arrested on 33-count federal indictment

Freed on \$300,000 bond

BY GLENN WOHLTANN

A Pleasanton woman, founder of Tri-Valley University, is out of federal custody after posting a \$300,000 bond.

Susan Xiao-Ping Su, 41, was taken into custody Monday on a 33-count indictment, which includes money laundering, wire and mail fraud in connection with her operation of Tri-Valley University.

Court documents claim Su netted \$3.2 million through the fraud, and engaged in multiple money laundering transactions to cover the profits.

Those documents claim Su used profits from her scam to buy five properties, including the two homes in Pleasanton raided by the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division of Homeland Security, at 2890 Victoria Ridge Court and 1371 Germano Way.

Su allegedly engaged in a two-year scheme to defraud the Department of Homeland Security by "submitting fraudulent documents to admit foreign students on student visas" and "fraudulently issuing visa-related documents to student aliens in exchange for tuition and fees," federal officials say.

The indictment "alleges a visa



Tri-Valley University's Pleasanton campus was closed in January.



Susan Xiao-Ping Su

fraud scheme through which the defendant accrued millions of dollars and took advantage of others' eagerness to come to the United States," according to U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag.

Tri-Valley University, which operated out of a small, two-story office space on Boulder Court is now closed. It and the two Pleasanton homes were raided in January by federal officials from ICE.

Federal officials say Su falsely represented her "university" to the government to unlawfully obtain and issue F-1 visa-related documents without regard to the students' academic qualifications or intent to pursue a course of study required to maintain a lawful immigration status. According to the indictment, Su admitted and maintained student aliens in exchange for tuition and other payments.

The F-1 student visa program is designed to allow foreign nationals who are bona fide students to be admitted to the United States on a temporary basis to study at an approved school. F-1 students are admitted for a temporary period during which the student is required to pursue a full course of study at an approved school. ■

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Civics team second in the nation

Top 10 schools compete in congressional hearing rooms on Capitol Hill

By JEB BING

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) met with the Amador Valley High School advanced civics team Tuesday on the steps of the Capitol to praise the students for their accomplishments in the 2011 "We the People" national competition.

After three days of simulated congressional hearings that tested their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Amador students captured second place at the 24th annual "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals last night in Washington, D.C.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies of Richmond, Va., won first place.

"The 'We the People' competition requires hard work, strong commitment and dedicated study of our Constitution and Bill of Rights," McNerney told the class Tuesday. "Once again, students from our community rose to the challenge and led the way at the nationwide competition."

It was the 10th time that Amador topped all other California teams in statewide competitions earlier this year and won the honor of representing the state in the national competition. The school fielded teams in the nationals in 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. In 1995, Amador won the national championship.

We the People civics classes representing all 50 states, the District



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), in center of group, joins Amador Valley High School's advanced civics class Tuesday morning on the steps of the Capitol.

of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands came to the nation's capital to participate in the academic competition.

The competition results were announced at an awards banquet Monday evening before an audience of 1,500 students, teachers, coordinators, judges and other program participants.

During the competition, students demonstrated their knowledge of the Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of state Supreme Court judges, constitutional scholars, lawyers, public officials and We the People alumni. The first rounds of the hearings took place last Saturday,

and then continued into Sunday. The top 10 schools competed in actual congressional hearing rooms on Capitol Hill.

This year's other winners are East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick, N.J., finishing in third place; Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills, Ala., fourth place; East Grand Rapids High School, Grand Rapids, Mich., fifth; Denver East High School, Denver, Colo., sixth; Grant High School, Portland, Ore., seventh; Northwest Guilford High School, Greensboro, N.C., eighth; Maine South High School, Park Ridge, Ill., ninth; and Munster High School, Munster, Ind., finishing in tenth place. ■

Heritage Association honors St. Mary Street home

Five heritage homes to open for museum's tour

The Pleasanton Heritage Association has announced that Don and Noel Anger are the recipients of the second annual Pleasanton Architectural Heritage Award for their home on St. Mary Street in Pleasanton's historic downtown district. Last year the honor went to Teri and John Banholzer a few houses up the street.

The Anger home was originally built in 1921 for the Hansen family, which owned the Hansen-Gieger Dairy. It was purchased by the Angers in 1965 and has been lovingly restored and maintained, from the vintage wooden windows to the carport.

The carport was considered so emblematic of California that World War II soldiers would pose for photos by its orange tree. The old tennis court in the back yard was home base for Don Anger, who is a retired Amador Valley High tennis coach; it also served as the training ground for their children, Jenny and Matt, who went on to become a national tennis champion.

The association gives its Heritage Award to homeowners who preserve and restore existing heri-



tage homes or build new homes that are true to the historic character of Pleasanton's downtown historic district. The award will be presented at noon, Saturday, May 21, at the Angers' home, 541 St. Mary St.

The home will be one of five open to the public for the Museum on Main Heritage Home Tour from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, May 22. Participants will begin at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St., and receive a booklet for the self-guided tour. Cost is \$25; call 462-2766. ■



The Pleasanton Heritage Association announced recently that Don and Noel Anger are the recipients of the second annual Pleasanton Architectural Heritage Award for their home on St. Mary Street in Pleasanton's historic downtown district.

Park board OKs plans for Shadow Cliffs

Waterslides to keep running in the short term

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors on Tuesday approved the new land use plan for Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, which calls for improving the overall trail system and to the beach area.

The waterslides will continue to operate for now although the long-range plan is that they will be phased out, said district Park Planner Celia McCarthy. The current operator, Glenn Kierstead, has an agreement that will last until end of this season, and then the district will accept new proposals to run the waterslides.

"Of course the current operator will be welcome to participate in that," McCarthy said.

Since the original 1981 agreement expired several years ago, the waterslides have been operating on a year-to-year basis, she explained. Now the district wants a five-year agreement with an option for either the operator or the district to extend it.

The Shadow Cliffs review began after the California Splash Water Park project to expand the waterslides was dropped, in 2008. The review resulted in the plan finally approved Tuesday, which

calls for installing picnic sites on the former California Splash site, along with measures to create a more natural landscape in the areas that were once quarries.

The plan is a long-term vision, McCarthy noted.

"What's good is once we have the plans in place we can go out and seek funding for a project," she said.

Some parts of the plan are less expensive to implement, she added, such as the shade pavilions near the beach. The educational elements have the backing of the Friends of Shadow Cliffs, which could also seek funding.

"It depends on who gets involved and how they advocate for those things," McCarthy said.

The Park District staff gathered questions and comments at four meetings earlier this year plus received several dozen emails and letters, which, in some cases, resulted in revisions to the plan.

Improvements in the beach area, to improve safety and crowd control, include re-designing and remodeling existing aquatics offices, storage areas, restrooms and changing rooms, and installing shelters to serve as shade or protection against the rain. ■

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TAKE US ALONG



Pre-wedding fun: Kim Spencer includes her Pleasanton Weekly in the excitement at the gates of Buckingham Palace on the night before the Royal Wedding, April 29. Note the police and American media studios in the background. "Right after this picture was taken, Prince William returned to the palace after his final rehearsal with Kate Middleton," reported Kim.



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Cathy Rainey, right, and Emily Newton monitor computer updates from the Alameda County registrar's office.

PARCEL TAX

Continued from Page 5

to be there," Laursen said. "It's not the result I wanted. ... I really don't understand it yet."

Board President Valerie Arkin attributed the loss to three factors.

"We have a tax-sensitive community," Arkin said. "I think the economic climate (played a part), and people are just not aware of the effect on schools."

The district's budget was developed without factoring in revenue it might receive from the tax, although Arkin said more cuts are anticipated from the state.

The board quietly announced a tentative agreement last week with its unions, which does not include teacher furlough days as it did last year. However, the classified employees' union, the local chapter of the California School Employee Association (CSEA), which represents secretaries, clerks and custodians, agreed to furlough days (days off with no pay) under its tentative agreement with the district.

The CSEA agreement calls for five furlough days for 11- and 12-month classified employees and three furlough days for 10-month and Kid's Club employees in the upcoming year. Classified employ-

ees will be able to choose what days during the coming school year they take off on their own.

Contract negotiations for both unions will automatically reopen if the district experiences a reduction to the Base Revenue Limit that is greater than \$399.

The district's website described the tentative agreements as generating \$1.7 million in savings. Most of the savings, however, are continuations of cuts in programs or services and increased class sizes implemented last year.

Additionally, putting the measure on the ballot cost the district between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

Parcel tax opponent Miller said it's time for the board "to develop some backbone" and make some hard decisions.

"I think the school board needs to immediately enter into negotiations with the union to freeze step and column pay raises so they do not have to lay off so many teachers," he said.

Miller also said the board needs to reconsider how it handles layoffs.

"Why do we have to lay off the best teachers versus saving the ones that are the least senior?" he asked. "The school board needs to take a position against that. Why do some of the best teachers get laid off due to seniority-based layoffs?" ■



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Paralyzed Bay Area businessman beats all odds and is now helping others



Dan Dumas, Founder & CEO of NEURO-FIT and SCI-FIT had to fight for his life starting in 2005 when he broke his neck. He suffered a spinal cord injury and was paralyzed from his shoulders down. He was told repeatedly during his three month stay in the hospital that he would

never walk again. Once out, Dan went right into action to prove them all wrong. Traveling hundreds of miles away, leaving his home for almost three years he worked with a number of "experimental" facilities towards recovery. When his hard work and commitment finally paid off and he was able to walk again, Dan knew he had to give back.

Dan took all he learned in those years and brought with him some of the best exercise therapists in the nation and opened up NEURO-FIT and SCI-FIT in Pleasanton, CA. He did not want people to have to travel like he did and spend millions of dollars to recover. He wanted to make a facility for

the community he grew up in to use and benefit from.

NEURO-FIT and SCI-FIT works with individuals suffering from neurological disorders such as Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Cerebral Palsy and Spinal Cord Injuries. This facility is not like any other exercise therapy facility in the nation. First off, they have great success in improving the mobility and overall health of their clients. Most importantly, they create very specialized one-on-one programs in a 6,000 sq ft state of the art facility to provide the best functional outcome possible. They combine exercise expertise and innovative training with the belief that there are no limitations, only possibilities.

If you or someone you know is suffering from a neurological disorder, please contact NEURO-FIT and SCI-FIT today for a free evaluation and therapy session or visit us on the web at www.NEURO-FIT.org.



Client Testimonial: Debbie Hedge (Stroke, 2006)

My stroke had left me paralyzed on the right side of my body. I was so upset that I couldn't move like a normal person. My daughter talked to someone who suggested NEURO-FIT for me after hearing about my stroke. I started NEURO-FIT in May 2008 and since then I have made significant progress in my endurance and strength. I also feel fantastic mentally and physically after a good NEURO-FIT workout. Because of NEURO-FIT's intense and one-on-one exercises, I will be able to reach my goal of wakeboarding once more this summer.



925.846.1848
3283 Bernal Ave., Ste. 105
Pleasanton
www.neuro-fit.org

LINDSKOG

Continued from Page 5

was closed in front of the Veterans Building during the service.

The solemn service started with tributes to Specialist Lindskog and ended with a long line of veterans filling the center aisle for 20 minutes as they individually said goodbye to their comrade, whose portrait was posted on the stage. Each veteran then stopped to salute the parents, Mrs. Walker and Curtis Lindskog, who sat with their families in the front row.

Remembrances by Specialist Lindskog's fellow soldier in Afghanistan, First Sergeant Randy Wright, and a slide show of family photos of their son over the 23 years of his life left few dry eyes in the packed auditorium.

Born in 1987, Specialist Lindskog would have turned 24 years old on May 25. 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).

Among others paying tribute to Specialist Lindskog at Saturday's memorial service were Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), Pleasanton Councilman Jerry Thorne and Maj. Gen.



SHERRY WIGGINS

Army officer presents a flag to Specialist Jameson Lindskog's mother Donna Walker of Pleasanton at the memorial service Saturday. Mrs. Walker's husband Matthew is at her side along with Ken Nekotani, brother of Specialist Lindskog, who was killed in action in Afghanistan March 29.

Lloyd Miles, deputy commanding general of the Army's I Corps.

Specialist Lindskog attended Pleasanton Middle School and his freshman year at Amador Valley High School. In 2003, he transferred to Orion Academy near Moraga, where he graduated in 2006. From there, he enrolled in the National Holistic Institute in Emeryville where he became a licensed massage therapist.

He enlisted in the Army and

was a medic assigned to the 101st Airborne unit out of Fort Campbell, Ky., at the time of his death.

He received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon and the NATO Medal. ■



SHERRY WIGGINS

Firefighters from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department stand in front of a large American flag they hoisted onto the end of a raised fire ladder on Main Street on Saturday in honor of Army Specialist Jameson Lindskog. The flag was displayed in front of the Pleasanton Veterans Memorial Building during a service for Specialist Lindskog.

POLICE CHIEF

Continued from Page 5

Spiller holds a master's degree in Arts from Saint Mary's College and received a bachelor's degree in science at the University of San Francisco. He also is a graduate of the California Command College and the Senior Management Institute for Police at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

"I am committed to sustaining Pleasanton's quality of life by ensuring the safety of our community and continuing the department's collaboration with residents, the business community, and our school district," Spiller said.

"I look forward to working with the community, our elected officials, the city manager and the fine men and women of the Pleasanton Police Department," he added.

Spiller and his wife Kathleen have a 3-year-old daughter.

In making the announcement Tuesday morning, Fialho said:

"After a comprehensive search to fill this vital position, I am confident that David Spiller exceeds the rigorous criteria for the position of police chief.

"He has a strong and positive reputation as an open communicator with a proven track record of effective and proactive leadership, and divergent experience in serving other municipalities."

An official swearing-in ceremony will be held in the council chamber at 9 a.m. Monday morning.

—Jeb Bing

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

A majority vote loses out in Pleasanton

Thank heaven, the 35% of Tuesday's voters who managed to quash the Measure E \$98 a year parcel tax vote in Pleasanton don't have a similar controlling voice in the rest of our city's or the state's operations or most of us would be heading for someplace else. That's all it took to deny more than \$2 million in desperately needed funds for school children and education in our community. The opponents of Measure E, including the right-wing and Tea Party advocates who spoke against the parcel tax at recent school board meetings, couldn't find a majority of like-minded voters if they had campaigned openly. Yet because of California's peculiar system of "direct democracy" and its two-thirds-plus-one vote requirements for tax measures to become law, the minority rules. In its current magazine, The Economist offers a special report on California's dysfunctional democracy. It could have substituted the word "Pleasanton," where two-to-three speakers with loud, demanding voices can scuttle a tax measure to support our schools or, across First Street, to cause the City Manager to go back on his handshake agreement with the city employees union on an already negotiated contract.

This citizen legislature is causing chaos with those elected to govern the city and the school board, who are barred from fighting back against a barely visible minority that doesn't like the job they're doing but don't want to seek public office and all the burdens that go with it to the job their way. At least Steve Brozsky, who served on both the City Council and the Pleasanton school board — and has now turned against the actions of both — makes his opposition publicly with well thought-out reasons for his positions. We'll give credit, too, to David Miller, a self-proclaimed Tea Party member, whose children attend Pleasanton public schools, and Doug Miller, outgoing head of the Pleasanton post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a spokesman for local veterans, who have been consistent in their public comments, demanding a pay freeze or rollback in salaries and benefits for city and school district employees.

For the most part, there was no organized opposition to the parcel tax and only a few yard signs urging a "No" vote on Measure E. So we don't know why Measure E failed. Charles Heath of TBWB Strategies, a consulting group that was paid \$250,000 to develop strategy for passing a parcel tax, remarked Tuesday night that the measure would have "won by a landslide" if it were not for the state's requirement that a tax increase must receive two-thirds of the vote. We all knew this going into Tuesday's parcel tax vote — the second to fail in the last two years — but we relied on the costly expertise of Mr. Heath and fellow consultant Bryan Godbe that this time, because of their surveys and campaign strategies, victory was a sure thing.

Perhaps three times is a charm, which is why some school board members already are calling for another try at a parcel tax. We doubt that will happen this year or next. In the meantime, the 65% of us who supported Measure E have little recourse but to watch as more teachers are terminated, more programs cut, class sizes increased and programs for our most needy and vulnerable students reduced or paired with neighboring school districts. With another 3,000 residents expected to move to Pleasanton in the next few years as the result of state housing department and Superior Court orders, Pleasanton will need to provide at least one more elementary school to stay within its 600-school population policy. But with a \$7 million budget deficit for the coming school year, an anti-school tax controlling minority, and a governor whose tax and budget plans are stalled by the same radical minority in Sacramento, we can expect school populations here to increase in the short term and the historic lure of the city's quality education program to start to fade. ■



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

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Transitions

WEDDINGS ● ENGAGEMENTS ● OBITUARIES ● BIRTHS

OBITUARIES

Lillie Pellegrinelli Rotta

Lillie Pellegrinelli Rotta died in Pleasanton with her family by her side Sunday, April 24, at the age of 100.

She was born Aug. 2, 1910, in Montague, Texas. When she celebrated her 100th birthday last August, President Obama sent a certificate to her from the White House. She lived in Pleasanton for 41 years and was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church, known as "Nana" to all.

Ms. Rotta is survived by her five children, Vincent Rotta Jr. of Utah, Lenora DiDonato of Modesto, Maryann Hallum of Pleasanton, Betty Kaufman of Livermore and

Glenna Rotta of Colorado; 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren. A vigil was held April 27 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, and a Mass was celebrated the next day at St Augustine's.

Walter Rodoni

Walter "Walt" Rodoni, a longtime Sunol resident, died April 24 at the age of 98 at the Gobel Ranch.

He was born Jan. 23, 1913, in Saratoga. He owned a waste management company in Garberville in the late 1940-'50s, then moved to the Bay Area, first to Concord, then to Sunol, where he lived and worked at the Gobel Ranch. For the past three years he had lunch every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center, and also enjoyed its trips to casinos and poker games.

When he was 97 years old, he renewed his driver's license for five more years, to expire when he became 102. He attributed his longevity to eating 20 pounds of onions each month, cooking them in olive oil and putting them on all of his food. He loved to share his history including life before the Bay Bridge was built and buying his first car for \$5.

He is survived by his sons David and Jim Rodoni, twin granddaughters Jen and Susie Rodoni, and niece Joyce Tafoya. A celebration of his life will be held at 1 p.m. tomorrow at Gay Nineties Pizza, 288 Main St., Pleasanton.



BIRTHS

ValleyCare Health Systems

Christie and Aaron Anderer, boy, March 4

December and Joseph Lotz, girl, March 5

Rebecca Anicich and Jason Elving, boy, March 10

Jennifer and Andrew Aguiar, girl, March 24

Valerie and Anthony Blue, girl, March 27

Tracy and Edward Duncan, boy, March 28

Susan and Gregory Tonkin, boy, March 30



Dalton Kade Maas

Dalton Kade Maas was born Sept. 24 to Jennie and Nick Maas and big brother Hayden. He weighed 9 pounds 12 ounces.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

Businesses burgled on Commerce Court

Four businesses in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle were burglarized overnight between 10:12 p.m. April 27 and early April 28 but little was taken, according to police reports. An alarm went off on at the first, sending officers and a K-9 unit to the

scene. Debit cards were taken from one, and \$10 was taken from another, with desks rifled and doors smashed or pried open but little other stolen, the reports said.

An April 28 burglary at a home in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Road netted the thief a \$2,500 MacBook computer, according to a police report, which said the theft occurred between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. The method of entry was not known.

Twenty-five shirts worth an estimated \$1,112 were shoplifted from Hollister Company in the Stoneridge Mall on April 29, a police report said. The theft took place between 5:15 and 5:30 p.m.

POLICE REPORT

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

April 26

Theft

- 8:29 a.m. in the 4300 block of W. Ruby Hill Drive; identity theft

Vandalism

- 10:48 a.m. in the 100 block of Spring Street
- 10:49 a.m. at the intersection of Corte de Flores and Paseo Santa Cruz
- 10 p.m. at the intersection of Fairlands Drive and Gulfstream Street

Auto burglary

- 4:35 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:44 p.m. at the intersection of Paseo Santa Cruz and Camino Segura; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance
- 9:24 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Rheem Drive; DUI

April 27

Theft

- 3:23 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; petty theft
- 4:34 p.m. in the 470 block of Willow Road; petty theft
- 7:10 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; identity theft
- 7:34 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft
- 10 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 10:08 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Burglary

- 10:14 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

Drug/alcohol violations

- 4:25 p.m. at the intersection of Abbie Street and First Street; paraphernalia possession

April 28

Theft

- 9:49 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft

Burglary

- 7:41 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
- 8:32 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
- 8:36 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
- 2:15 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 7:41 p.m. in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive

Vandalism

- 10:24 a.m. in the 4000 block of Cristobal Way

Drug/alcohol violations

- 4:10 a.m. in the 2100 block of Cascara Court; public drunkenness
- 6:35 p.m. in the 6800 block of Massey Court; DUI

April 29

Theft

- 9:03 a.m. in the 3200 block of W. Lagoon Road; petty theft
- 12:31 p.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive; forgery
- 5:50 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 6:41 p.m. in the 16800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery
- 7:50 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vandalism

- 7:53 a.m. in the 6000 block of Sterling Greens Circle
- 9:38 a.m. in the 5900 block of Sterling Greens Circle

Prank Calls

- 1:42 p.m. in the 5100 block of Johnson Drive

April 30

Theft

- 1:41 p.m. in the 400 block of Los Rios Court; identity theft
- 9:31 p.m. in the 3000 block of Finnian Way; theft, possession of a controlled substance for sale

Burglary

- 11:11 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:46 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 10:52 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Pleasanton Avenue; DUI
- 11:48 p.m. in the 4900 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

May 1

Theft

- 2:25 p.m. in the 3100 block of Berkshire Court; identity theft
- 3:42 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vandalism

- 9:49 a.m. in the 100 block of Rocky Creek Place; vandalism, auto burglary

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:30 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 1:32 a.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Parkway and Koll Center Drive; DUI
- 1:38 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 2:23 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Division Street; public drunkenness
- 2:45 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- 2:54 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

May 2

Theft

- 9:14 a.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane; theft
- 10:06 a.m. in the 1300 block of Kolln Street; identity theft
- 3:08 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; petty theft
- 6:56 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft

Burglary

- 2:33 p.m. in the 7200 block of Moss Tree Way

Public drunkenness

- 3:44 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- PCUP-292, Roman Sheyman and Igor Sheyman, Tornado Acro Gymnastics and Martial Arts Sport Club - Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a gymnastics and martial arts studio at 530 Boulder Court, Suite 102.
- PGPA-17, City of Pleasanton Housing Element Update Scoping Session and Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR for the Housing Element Update.

Youth Commission

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Gingerbread Preschool, 4333 Black Avenue

- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for Youth Commission 2010-2011

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, May 12, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Tennis Clubroom, 5801 Valley Avenue

- Review of Commission Meeting Schedule for 2011

The Library Commission meeting scheduled for May 12, 2011, has been cancelled. The next scheduled commission meeting will be held on July 14, 2011 in the Pleasanton Public Library.

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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*Natasha Ahaev, Alejandra Ahaev and Michelle Ahaev
(winners)*



“At every age, continue to love your children all their lives and support them unconditionally.”

Alejandra Ahaev,
winner of the Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest
with daughters Natasha and Michelle



*Susan Kendall Landrey
and Alexis Landrey*



Genene and Carolyn Hill



*Mallory Lass
and Kristi Marymee*



Molly and Shelly Sheehan



Rylee Pitto and Amy Warren

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

It's been a record year for moms and daughters. More than 60 mom-and-daughter lookalikes sent photos for our Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest, and the eight finalists posted online received a total of 1,250 votes.

The winners, with 430 votes, are mom Alejandra Ahaev and her two daughters, Natasha, 24, on the left in the photo, and Michelle, 21.

Michelle, who's an avid reader of the Pleasanton Weekly, said it was her idea to enter the contest.

"I entered two or three years ago, but we never won," she recalled. "Last year I missed the deadline so this year I wanted to make sure to enter."

They already had the perfect photo, which was taken a few months ago at an outdoor restaurant in San Jose.

"My mom is always asking strangers to take our picture," Michelle explained. "It's a little embarrassing."

Alejandra said the resemblance grew between

Winning looks

Weekly celebrates Mother's Day with its annual lookalike contest

and her daughters as they became older.

"Sometimes we get accused of being sisters," she said with a laugh. "When my older one when to Cal Poly, it was really comical — a teacher thought I was another student."

Both daughters went to Foothill High. Natasha now works at the Child Day School in San Ramon. Michelle is attending Las Positas College with an eye toward UC Davis.

Alejandra, who was named after her mother and grandmother, said that she somewhat resembles her own mother, mainly because they are both 5 feet 1 inch tall. But she resembles her daughters way more.

"Everyone always said I look close to my mother, the same shape and same hair," Michelle said. "My sister and I do look a lot alike — everyone thinks we look like twins."

Except Michelle is 5 feet 3 inches, and Natasha is 5 feet 5, after dad Victor Ahaev added his height to

the gene pool.

"Our dad is like 6 feet 3," Michelle said.

The family moved to Pleasanton 22 years ago, when Victor was transferred from Southern California. Now they own Merry Maids franchises along the 580 corridor and in Stockton.

Alejandra watched her mother raise seven children on her own. And she said she has thoroughly enjoyed raising her two. She has these words of advice: "At every age, continue to love your children all their lives and support them unconditionally."

Second place in the lookalike contest, with 268 votes, goes to Brenda Black and her daughter Rachel.

"We heard about the contest for years and years, and people told us to enter it," Brenda said. "Finally this year we were on the ball and got it in on time."

Rachel, 15, attends Amador Valley High School.

"We were going to a lacrosse game at Amador and my friend saw us walking and said, 'I couldn't tell

which one is you,'" Brenda said. "Rachel is exactly my height and has my mannerisms."

"Not only do we look alike and have the same mannerisms but we also sound so much alike that my husband can't tell us apart on the phone," she added. "Makes us laugh."

Younger daughter Lauren, 11, looks more like her dad, Scott, she noted.

Thank you to all the moms and daughters who entered this year's contest: You all look like winners to us! The Weekly staff had such fun going over all the photos and deciding on the eight finalists, which were posted online for the public to cast their votes.

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. ■

"We also sound so much alike that my husband can't tell us apart on the phone."

Brenda Black, second place in the Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest with daughter Rachel



Baqiyyah and Nadine Bent



Brenda and Rachel Black
(second place)

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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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P A S T A S
T r a t t o r i a

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Last weekend for 'All Shook Up'

Ali Lane as the uptight mayor scolds her son as his would-be girlfriend and the sheriff look on, in Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's "All Shook Up." The exuberant jukebox musical, which shoehorns the songs of Elvis Presley into a narrative that's part camp, part romantic farce, finishes this weekend with performances at 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow; and 2 p.m. Sunday, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St. in Livermore. Tickets are \$37.50 and may be purchased at www.livermoreperformingarts.org or by phone at 373-6800.

Clubs

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB The next meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club is at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Rd. Linda Chalker Scott from Washington State University, author of *The Informed Gardener* and co-author of *The Garden Professors' Blog*, will speak about "Garden Myths." Visitors welcome. Visit www.lavgc.org.

WRITERS CLUB MEETING Tri-Valley Branch of California Writers Club hosts Chris Baty, National Novel Writers Month, at its monthly meeting from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 21, at the Oasis Grille, 780 Main St. All writers are invited to this luncheon. Baty, author of "No Plot? No Problem!," started NaNoWri Mo, an annual November challenge to write a 50,000-word novel from scratch, in a month's time. Cost \$21 for members and \$27 for non-members. Reserve seats by May 18 by calling 484-5924 or emailing alanger2@comcast.net.

Concerts

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE "If Music Be the Food of Love" performance begins at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 21, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. Audience members will soon hear their stomachs growl as the Valley Concert Chorale dishes up a concert of culinary delights. Tickets \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, \$10 for high school and college students with ID., children 14 and under are free. Call 462-4205.

Events

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,

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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.

DONATE BLOOD — FIND THE HERO IN YOU! Blood Centers of the Pacific donor coach will be parked just outside the front door from 3-8 p.m., Monday, May 16, at ClubSport, 7090 Johnson Dr. Donors will receive their choice of a gift. The blood donated will be available the following week for surgery, transplant patients and others in need. Call 463-2822, ext. 570, or visit www.clubsports.com/pleasanton/upcoming-events.

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.heroesvillainscomics.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.

LIVERMORE VALLEY WINE AUCTION The 17 annual Livermore Valley Wine Auction to support local kids charities will be held at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 7, in the barrel room at Wente Vineyards Estate Winery, Tesla Rd., Livermore. Funds raised at the gala event will feed the hungry, send kids with life-threatening diseases to summer camp, and provide healthcare via donations to Open Heart Kitchen, Children's Skin Disease Foundation and ValleyCare Foundation's Mobile Health Unit. Cost \$225. Call 447-9463 or visit www.lwine.org.

NARFE LUNCHEON Potential and active NARFE members are invited to attend the monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 12 at Emil Villa's Restaurant, 3064 Pacific Ave., Livermore. The meeting will feature reports from delegates to the recent Federation Convention held in Ontario, Ca. For more information, call Elaine at 426-7800.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL RUN The third annual California Peace Officers' Association Memorial Run honoring those who've lost their

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T IME	• Time is critical, call 9-1-1.

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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.

PROFESSIONAL BODY BUILDERS FIGURE CHAMPION Ava Cowan will be available for a meet and greet from 4-7 p.m., Friday, May 13, at Iron Horse Nutrition, 4270 Rosewood Dr., Ste D. Cowan will offer free autographed photos, professional fitness and nutritional advice. Event discounts and sample giveaways. Call 737-0398 or visit www.ironhorsenutrition.com.

TRI-VALLEY CHESS TOURNAMENT The Thomas Hart Chess Club and Carden West School are pleased to sponsor the Tri-Valley's first Chess Tournament, which they hope will be an annual event, from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sunday, May 15, at Carden West School, 4576 Willow Rd., opens to any Tri-Valley student, grades 1-8. The tournament is a "Swiss" style tournament, where players are progressively matched up with other players. Cost \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. Visit www.trivalleychesstournament.eventbrite.com/ or email hartchessclub@gmail.com.

WRITING ABOUT FRIENDS Anne Marshall Homan, author and local historian, whose most recent book is "Vasco's Livermore, 1910 Portraits From the Hub Saloon," will be the guest speaker at the AAUW meeting from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at Lynewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Her topic will be "Writing About Friends." Open to the public. Call 484-3321.

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

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 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.

GARAGE SALE FOR THE ANIMALS Valley Humane Society will hold a huge fundraising garage sale from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22, at 3229 Curtis Circle, to benefit its building campaign and animal care programs. The sale will feature a wide variety of gently used furniture, clothing, books, household goods and other donated items. Call 872-7668 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.

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.

Kids & Teens

ATLATL CLUB The Atlatl is a hunting tool from the ancient past to help cast a spear a great distance. Learn the lore of this archaic tool as you create your own atlatl, from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, June 4, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old

Foothill Road. Ages 11 and up. Cost \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents. Call 931-3485.

Lectures

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE FORUM Tri-Valley Community parents and teens are invited to hear from experts about the prescription drug abuse epidemic among teens in our community, signs of abuse, and the psychological, physiological and social effects of addiction, from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, May 11, at 7106 Johnson Dr. Call 846-1040.

Miscellaneous

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL: PASSPORT TO INDIA This mini multicultural fair will have booths presenting the culture of India. Learn the style of dance, try exotic food, and even get henna tattoos. The event is free; donations are welcome to raise money for supplies in India. Event is from 6-9 p.m., Friday, May 20, at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Dr. Call 963-1533.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ONLINE BOOK SALE Did you know you could buy books from the Friends of the Library at Amazon.com? The Friends have a year round magazine and paperback book sale in the library and have two major book sales a year. To buy books, visit www.amazon.com/shops/ptwnfriends or call Nancy Bering at 462-4368.

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

AFTERNOON DANCE Enjoy music and dancing through the decades with DJ Colin Dickie from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 11, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. No charge for the event. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW The P-Town Push Rods will have a selection of Classic Cars on display from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday, May 9, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The display is in honor of a three-day celebration of "The Past Times." Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

DISNEYLAND, THE BEGINNING From a 160-acre orange grove to the

"Magic Kingdom," the genius of Walt Disney came to life in 1955. Journey back to the beginning of a dream that has delighted millions for decades at a lecture at 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. No charge. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

FINDING MEANING THROUGH LOSS & CHANGE This interactive workshop will engage participants in a discussion about how experiencing loss can offer many perspectives on life. Various models of the grief process and activities to discover hope will be discussed. The workshop is from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 10, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost \$1.75 for residents and \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

HISTORY OF PLEASANTON The Museum on Main will present "The History of Pleasanton" as the Senior Center kicks off a three-day celebration honoring "The Past Times." Learn what the city was like in the '30s, '40s and '50s. The free presentation is at 10 a.m., Monday, May 9, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

MINI-PHOTO ALBUM WORKSHOP Bring 8-10 photos that can be cut into 4-inch squares to make a creative mini-photo album that you can take home with you. Great keepsakes for Mother's Day,

birthdays or graduations. Space is limited so reserve your space today. Workshop is at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 10, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

Support Groups

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.

DEPRESSION & BIPOLAR Depression Bipolar Support Alliance, DBSA, is a support group for people who live with depression, bipolar and other disabilities. They can help each other navigate the ups and downs of life! A place where you can be yourself and feel safe. The group meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m. every Wednesday, at St. Claire's Episcopal Church, Classroom 1, 3350 Hopyard Rd., although it is not affiliated with the church. No charge for meetings. Call 462-6415 or visit www.dbsalliance.org/pleasanton.

Check out Community Calendar at PleasantonWeekly.com for a complete listing of events.

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OF NOTE



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Sophomore Eric Butler holds up one of the imaginative cakes that was auctioned off to raise money for Amador Valley High's music programs.

Boosters bring in big bucks for bands

More than 200 past, present and future band parents and supporters turned out for Saturday's American Bandstand fundraiser for Amador Valley High School music programs.

The event featured performances by vocal and jazz ensembles, a silent and live auction, dancing and interactive games. Jon Grantham, Amador Valley's director of bands, gave a talk about the future of band programs.

Grantham also brought the '70s to life with a short dance performance mimicking John Travolta's dance in "Saturday Night Fever."

The live auction featured cakes baked by band students, and interactive events included "Heads or Tails" in which contestants had to guess the outcome of a coin flip by placing hands on their heads or their behinds.

The Magic of Music evening brought in well over \$35,000. The annual event is the major fundraiser for band programs at Amador Valley. Last year, money brought in went toward new uniforms for the marching band, new drums and a new floor for the school's winter-guard.

The Amador band is the largest student activity at the school and is expected to grow to 250 students in the 2011-12 school year.



Clockwise from left: Director of Bands Jon Grantham shows his "Saturday Night Fever" moves, all for a good cause; auctioneer Frank Jakubka encourages the crowd to bid higher and higher; Meri McCoy-Thompson, donned in attire from the American Bandstand era, bids on an item.



\$10,000 for shelters

The dance production "The Way She Moves," produced by Pleasanton resident Priya Shankar in the Amador Theater on April 17, raised more than \$10,000 to benefit Seva Mandir's domestic violence shelter in India and the Bay Area's Tri-Valley Haven. Dances included flamenco and a Rajasthani folk dance the women at the shelter taught Priya during her stay in India.

"I have heard so many compliments and positive feedback about the professionalism of the show and the dancing, but also how moving and worthy the particular cause really is," Shankar said. "I've been lucky to witness how kind and supportive people around the Bay Area can be in opening their hearts to a cause like this."

She told the dancers, "I hope you will always continue to dance, bringing joy to your audiences and giving many women and girls self-esteem, confidence, and happiness by teaching them dance."



OF NOTE



Art aids AIDS awareness

Four Foothill High School artists took top places in the fifth annual Don't Turn Your Back On AIDS, HIV/AIDS High School Awareness Art Competition.

Three of the four took first, second and third places, with the fourth winning the founder's choice award.

Matt Beadle won first place with a ceramic bowl with cutouts of hearts and figures reminiscent of Keith Herring's drawings.

Madison Craig took second place with a charcoal and ink piece of a person with AIDS looking into a mirror.

Nils Thornally won third place with an anime-inspired piece of a crying young woman whose face is covered by a red AIDS ribbon.

SuWan Oh took home the Founders Choice award for her piece of a woman holding a red AIDS ribbon surrounded by gray figures. The piece says, "Behind the stigma, there's a person just like you."



Discover lovely gardens

Golden poppies are a vision in Callie's Country Club and an old pair of loafers find new life as planters at Hummer's Haven, two gardens on this year's sixth annual "Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour," a fundraiser for Valley Humane Society.

The garden tour will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, May 15, rain or shine. It features a self-guided tour of 10 unique and outstanding gardens at private homes in Pleasanton.

The tour provides an opportunity to gain ideas and inspirations for garden designs, fountains, flower and shrub combinations, decks, patios, gazebos, outdoor kitchens — and more.

Television personality Buzz Bertolero, the "dirt gardener," will be on hand at one of the tour locations to chat and answer gardening questions.

Non-refundable tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased online at www.valleyhumane.org and at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton. Cash, checks, MasterCard and Visa are accepted at Valley Humane Society.

Tickets are also available at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore; Armstrong Garden Center, 7360 San Ramon Road, Dublin; and the following Pleasanton locations: Murphy's Paw, 410 Main St.; Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.; The Wine Steward, 641 Main St.; and Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave.

Call Valley Humane Society at 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

OF NOTE

Skating to a medal

Sixteen members of the Redwood City Theatre on Ice (RCIT) figure skating team including Pleasanton teen Alyssa Rhodes, were crowned the Junior Bronze Medalists at the 2011 National Theatre on Ice competition held in April in Cape Cod, Mass. The team represents the Peninsula Skating Club. Their Bronze medal program titled "Swing" used elements from the song "Zoot Suit Riot," which reenacted the heyday of swing clubs in East Los Angeles during the start of WWII.

"This team worked hard to master a really difficult program that blended advanced skating skills in a theatrical and entertaining way that included the use of props and costumes all designed to tell a story within the six-minute time allotment," said Artistic Director Jodi Porter.

The team will perform May 15 at "Ice Pop," a spring Ice show at their home training facility, Nazareth Ice Oasis in Redwood City. For more information, visit www.redwoodcitytheatre.org

National Charity League celebrates service

The 42 mother and daughter graduates of the National Charity League of Pleasanton were joined by family and friends at the Castlewood Country Club recently to celebrate their six years of community service.

The Senior Presents event recognized the NCL class of 2011 Ticktockers, the daughters, who are completing the six-year program and have volunteered more than 5,600 hours to 34 organizations in the Tri-Valley.

Graduate Sarah Williams received the Senior Service Award for having the highest number of cumulative philanthropic service hours. She volunteered more than 650 hours.

"All of the Ticktockers and their moms have volunteered hundreds of hours while helping others, and every single hour that was served made a big difference in the lives of someone else within our community," said Williams. "That is what it is really all about — helping others."

Mothers and daughters join NCL when the girls are in the seventh grade and stay through their senior year in high school. This year's Ticktockers are Rachel Bowers, Sarah Hadley, Aubrey Hahn, Caylee Heller, Alison Hernbroth, Sarah Holmgren, Kersten Jaeger, Jessica Johns, Sarah Jupina, Rachel Kinnard, Erica Moran, Lindsay Olenic, Kristin Pedersen, Alyssa Recupero, Stephanie Ropp, Briana Sorochoak, Jenna Sparks, Caroline Tanonis, Kelsey Williams, Sarah Williams and Lauren Woolley.

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135 Group Activities

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140 Lost & Found



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Real Estate

Mortgage applications decrease

By JEB BING

Mortgage applications decreased 5.6% from one week earlier, according to data from the Mortgage Bankers Association's Weekly Mortgage Applications Survey for the week ending April 22. There was no adjustment made for Good Friday.

"Purchase applications fell last week, driven primarily by a sharp decrease in government purchase applications as new, higher FHA premiums went into effect," said Michael Fratantoni, MBA's Vice President of Research and Economics. "This decrease reverses a 20% increase in government purchase applications over a four-week period, which was likely driven by borrowers attempting to beat this deadline."

The Market Composite Index, a measure of mortgage loan application volume, decreased 5.6% on a seasonally adjusted basis from one week earlier. On an unadjusted basis, the Index decreased 5.6% compared with the previous week. The Refinance Index decreased 0.6% from the previous week. The seasonally adjusted Purchase Index decreased 13.6% to its lowest level since Feb. 25, 2011, driven by a 26.6% decrease in government purchase applications. The unadjusted Pur-

chase Index decreased 12.8% compared with the previous week and was 28.8% lower than the same week one year ago.

The four week moving average for the seasonally adjusted market Index is down 2.4%. The four week moving average is down 0.8% for the seasonally adjusted Purchase Index, while this average is down 3.2% for the Refinance Index.

The refinance share of mortgage activity increased to 61.6% of total applications from 58.5% the previous week. This is the highest refinance share of the month. The adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) share of activity remained unchanged from the previous week at 6.5% of total applications.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages decreased to 4.80% from 4.83%, with points decreasing to 1.01 from 1.06 (including the origination fee) for 80% loan-to-value (LTV) ratio loans. The effective rate also decreased from last week.

The average contract interest rate for 15-year fixed-rate mortgages decreased to 4.03% from 4.07%, with points decreasing to 0.96 from 1.02 (including the origination fee) for 80% LTV loans. The effective rate also decreased from last week. ■

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6819 Corte De Flores \$720,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Carolynn Machi 208-4853

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SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 10
 Lowest sale reported: \$125,000
 Highest sale reported: \$550,500
 Average sales reported: \$366,150

Livermore

Total sales reported: 19
 Lowest sale reported: \$179,000
 Highest sale reported: \$899,000
 Average sales reported: \$464,211

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 20
 Lowest sale reported: \$250,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,225,000
 Average sales reported: \$684,025

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 28
 Lowest sale reported: \$122,500
 Highest sale reported: \$1,100,000
 Average sales reported: \$603,768

Source: California REsource



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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>NEW PRICE</p>  <p>WEINER / MCDOWELL (925) 251.2550</p> <p>\$1,198,000 • 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 SAT 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>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>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>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>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. Up-dated kitchen w/ granite counters & more!</p>	<p>6605 AMBER LN PLEASANTON</p> <p>NEW PRICE</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>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>42200 VARGAS RD FREMONT</p>  <p>KRISTY & COMPANY (925) 251.2536</p> <p>4 Bd • 1 Ba • 1,320+/- sq.ft. • 56.20 Acres Dream Property, Estate style ranch home w/ 4 Bd, A Large Barn & over 56 Acres of beautiful rolling hills & level land. Chance of a Lifetime</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>788 VINEYARD TER PLEASANTON</p>  <p>UWE MAERCZ (925) 360.8758</p> <p>Call for Price • 5 Bd • 6 Ba • 5,330+/- sq.ft. Country Estate, w/ main house & separate guest quarters. Theater & Gourmet Kitchen. Heritage Oak Trees & private Driveway on 0.91 acres.</p>

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Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Blackhawk West

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Danville, CA 94506
925.736.6000

Danville

15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Lafayette

3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549
925.385.2330

Livermore

1983 Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

Montclair/Piedmont

6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200
Oakland, CA 94611
510.339.4800

Pleasanton

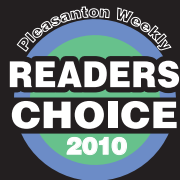
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925.251.2500

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2123 Myrtle Beach Lane, Danville

Country Club Living! Townhome with gorgeous golf course views! Single story beauty has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and neutral décor. 1364 square feet.
Offered at \$427,500



Dennis Gerlt

Broker Associate
 925.426.5010
www.dennisgerlt.net
 DRE # 01317997



SOLD! Represented buyer

2782 Turnstone Dr, Pleasanton

Must see, gorgeous, rarely available one level home on corner lot in BIRDLAND neighborhood! 4BR + den, updated kitchen with granite. New windows with plantation shutters, fresh paint, hardwood floors and private backyard. This home is move in ready!



Natalie Kruger

REALTOR®
 925.847.7355
www.krugergroup.com
 DRE # 01187582



Open Sun, May 15, 1-4

2421 Livorno Court, Livermore

Discover a trail into Tuscany. This stunning home features 5 bedrooms, 3.5 luxurious bathrooms, approx. 3573 sq.ft. of living space on an expansive approx. 11,411 sq.ft. lot. Over \$250K in upgrades — owned by a contractor! This is a must see!
Offered at \$979,950



Delores Gragg

REALTOR®
 925.989.6500
www.deloresgragg.com
 DRE # 01206964



603 Blossom Ct, Pleasanton — Carriage Hills Estates

This premium home features 4 BD, 4 full BA, a separate office/library with fireplace, bonus/game room, exercise room, and a gorgeous backyard. Large master bedroom offers a private deck and retreat. Approx 5,200 sqft on a 31,060 sqft lot. **Offered at \$1,798,000**



Dave & Sue Flashberger

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Walk the Kids to School and the Park...

From this delightful 4 bdrm, 2 bath home in Pleasanton. Beautifully remodeled granite & stainless steel kitchen with both tile and hardwood floors. Cozy family room with stunning fireplace and mantel. French doors to patio and large yard. Call today for a private showing!



Tom Fox

Broker Associate
 925.872.1275
www.TomFox.com
 Tom@TomFox.com
 DRE # 00630556



Open Sat & Sun 1-4

1724 Zenato Place, Pleasanton

Ruby Hill custom 4BR home on private lot with pool, spa, waterfall. Overlooks vineyards. Master suite on lower level. Approx 4000sqft. **\$1,599,000**



1162 Hearst Drive, Pleasanton

Kottinger Ranch 4BR+ bonus room. Updated with granite. Level backyard with pool, spa, sport court and side access. Beautiful views. Three car garage. **\$1,395,000**



Cindy and Gene Williams

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Open Sun 1-4 www.1632VettaDrive.com

1632 Vetta Drive, Livermore

Absolutely model perfect! 6 bed options, 3.5 baths, cherrywood floors/cabinets, crown molding, gourmet kitchen, gorgeous landscaping, amazing location just minutes from wine country and so much more!
Offered at \$919,900



DeAnna Armario

REALTOR®
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Open Saturday 1-4

2350 Gloria Court, Pleasanton

Beautifully updated 4 BR, 3 BA single story with in-law unit, backing to Pleasanton Ridge. Main house is 3363 sq. ft. In-law unit is 1200 sq. ft. Custom gourmet kitchen, master suite with sitting area, oasis backyard with pool, spa, covered patio, built in BBQ. **Offered at \$1,649,000**



State's distressed housing market improves

Report shows short sales well above last year's numbers

BY JEB BING

The share of distressed homes sold in March declined from February but was unchanged from a year ago, the California Association of Realtors reported this week.

"Consistent with the state as a whole, nearly all the counties for which we have data also experienced an improvement in distressed sales," said CAR President Beth L. Pearce. "However, distressed sales in most of the counties were higher than a year ago, as the market continues to work through large numbers of troubled mortgages."

Distressed housing market data:

■ The total share of all distressed property types sold statewide declined in March to 51%, down from 56% in February and unchanged from 51% in March 2010.

■ Non-distressed sales made up the remaining share at 49% in March, up from 44% in February but unchanged from 49% in March 2010.

■ Of the distressed properties sold statewide, the total share of REO (real estate-owned) sales was 31% in March, down from 33% in February, and down from 32% in March 2010.

■ The statewide share of short sales also dropped in March to 20%, down from 23% in February but up from 19% in March 2010.

■ The median price of homes sold in the state varied dramatically depending on the property type, with non-distressed properties selling for much higher prices than short sales and foreclosures. Price differences across short sales, REOs and non-distressed properties reflect variances in the condition of the property, with REOs typically being in worse condition than short sales and non-distressed properties. A seller's circumstance, such as needing to sell under duress, is also a factor.

■ The statewide median price of non-distressed properties sold in March was \$386,500, which is \$111,800 or 41% higher than the short sale median price of \$274,700 recorded in March, and \$181,500 or 88% higher than the March REO median price of \$205,000.

March pending home sales in California rose from February, according to CAR's pending Home Sales Index (PHSI). The index was 128.7 in March, rising 15.2% from February's revised index of 111.7, based on contracts signed in March. The index was down 0.3% from March 2010, when the presence of housing tax credits played a strong role in home sales. Pending home sales are forward-looking indicators of future home sales activity, providing information on the future direction of the market. ■

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2011

Dublin

- 7040 Amador Valley Boulevard** F. & L. Cristobal to J. Chen for \$419,000
- 3720 Central Parkway** C. Pinilla to A. Shamshirirad for \$320,000
- 4263 Clarinbridge Circle** D. Crandell to Poperidge Limited for \$340,000
- 3245 Dublin Boulevard #232** Gomez Trust to N. & J. Ison for \$290,000
- 8362 Ferncliff Court** P. Leonard to K. Gee for \$440,000
- 3420 Finnan Way #406** Toll Dublin Limited to E. Willis for \$381,500
- 7740 Ironwood Drive** Federal National Mortgage to K. Stevens for \$375,000
- 4596 Mirano Court** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to P. & M. Shastri for \$550,500
- 4763 Perugia Street** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to R. Vaidya for \$420,500
- 7323 Starward Drive #13** Federal National Mortgage to G. & C. Li for \$125,000

Livermore

- 1677 Cascina Court** J. & J. Sonner to H. & S. Humphreys for \$850,000
- 652 Chase Court** D. & R. Arnold to K. & K. Caldeira for \$370,000
- 873 Debra Street** B. King to J. & H. Lettus for \$320,000
- 5601 Dresslar Circle** Miller Trust to D. Sanchez for \$749,000
- 853 El Caminito** A. & B. Tabares to M. & O. Stowell for \$345,000
- 5630 Elder Circle** K. & J. Carlisle to J. & P. Dinicola for \$750,000
- 1141 Geneva Street** M. & P. Anderson to W. & L. Hawkey for \$558,500
- 662 Heligan Lane #3** Shea Homes to R. & B. Robinson for \$481,000
- 188 Heligan Lane #8** Shea Homes to M. Perrin for \$300,000
- 442 Humboldt Way** Miller Trust to M. & N. Lang for \$330,000
- 529 Jackson Avenue** Nevins Trust to J. West for \$355,000
- 1007 Mocho Street** B. Young to L. & N. White for \$365,000
- 540 Mulqueeny Street** D. & T. Snyder to D. & L. Farrell for \$380,000
- 4763 Nicol Common #5** A. Davis to P. Cottingham for \$179,000
- 2471 Rees Circle** Deutsche Bank to J. Kozak for \$687,000
- 5490 Scenic Avenue** D. & T. Grassi to H. & M. Franco for \$257,500
- 1615 Summerhouse Common** P. Punsal to J. Okui for \$400,000
- 850 Tolentino Court** J. & B. Roberts to P. & S. Parker for \$899,000
- 1336 Tulip Way** Mullins Trust to M. Bartee for \$244,000

- 3919 Kral Place** D. & L. Jackson to W. Blake for \$600,000
- 3524 Milleford Court** D. Sanchez to R. & G. Srivastava for \$1,225,000
- 4411 Newman Place** Dompe Trust to N. Wang for \$508,000
- 403 Oak Lane** Rideli Limited to J. Dias for \$882,500
- 6913 Paseo Santa Cruz** SGT Investments to C. Wu for \$812,000
- 5043 Rigatti Circle** S. Li to K. Somangili for \$799,000
- 473 Sangro Court** Dowden Trust to V. & S. Sinha for \$951,000
- 519 St. John Street** Mccaughan Trust to S. Hallock for \$580,000
- 2474 Tapestry Way** T. Doan to R. Ramanujala for \$685,000
- 4159 Torino Court** F. Abooameri to G. Dong for \$470,000
- 3713 Vine Street** Indymac Mortgage to Prime Growth Holdings for \$445,000
- 1453 Whispering Oak Way** V. & J. Sood to M. Lingareddy for \$840,000

San Ramon

- 9085 Alcosta Boulevard #380** US Bank to R. Asencios for \$160,000
- 3306 Amaryllis Circle** E. Ackermann to J. & A. Antony for \$483,000
- 522 Amherst Court** M. & E. Stuart to H. Groot for \$600,000
- 600 Bali Court** M. & J. Needham to P. & R. Pokorny for \$865,000
- 9839 Belladonna Drive** G. Costello to C. & W. Thom for \$555,000
- 3071 Bernard Avenue** K. Weaver to M. Choy for \$442,000
- 7229 Briza Loop** Bank of New York to A. & P. Bir for \$527,000
- 9808 Broadmoor Drive** J. Benson to G. & C. Parra for \$480,000
- 2858 Calais Drive** JMP Financial to E. & K. Ackermann for \$599,000
- 2170 Canyon Lakes Drive** C. Messerschmitt to K. Sheikh for \$617,000
- 142 Copper Ridge Road** Legacy Copper Ridge to J. Cesana for \$325,000
- 459 Donner Way** G. & A. Deshpande to D. Bridges for \$665,000
- 166 Eastridge Drive** M. Lorenzo to S. Yoo for \$240,000
- 308 Fiddle Creek Place** D. Holsworth to S. & C. Butkovich for \$765,000
- 2895 Fountainhead Drive** R. Weber to T. Brousseau for \$301,000
- 12012 Harcourt Way** Mccann Trust to D. Choi for \$490,000
- 1028 Hoskins Lane** G. Brown to S. Jeevarathinam for \$860,000
- 2313 Joree Lane** Deutsche Bank to F. Namazi for \$405,000
- 2503 Marsh Drive** R. Drake to X. Zhong for \$710,000
- 245 Reflections Drive #25** California Housing Finance to R. & E. Tan for \$122,500
- 210 Rio Grande Court** Waterfall Victoria Reo to M. & N. Rane for \$740,000
- 3570 Rosinccress Drive** RWW Properties to L. & K. Donati for \$1,100,000
- 2001 Sorrelwood Court** B. Salter to M. & S. Deane for \$919,000
- 34 Terraced Hills Way** FV Reo to A. & N. Madan for \$575,000
- 6090 Tigerside Way** Berry Trust to B. Liang for \$1,000,000
- 6108 Tigerside Way** M. & H. Cook to Q. Su for \$1,024,000
- 11 Westside Court** F. Cezar to H. Wu for \$780,000
- 810 Willow Pond Court** Chen Trust to P. Madhusudhanan for \$556,000



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PENDING!!!

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...
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.



COMING SOON

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Source: California REsource

9632 BROADMOOR DR. SAN RAMON
LOCATED IN SAN RAMON ROYAL VISTA



4 BD + office, 3 BA, 3,195sf. + finished attic.
Built in 2010 with top of the line materials.
Gourmet kitchen, handmade mouldings,
energy efficient & entertainer's dream home.
\$899,000

4025 CHADWICK PLACE, DUBLIN
LOCATED IN TASSAJARA CREEK



4 BD 2.5 BA 1,972sf. on a 3,613sf. lot.
Nice open floor plan, great location!
Two story, built in 2003. End of court location.
\$589,000

1683 LOGANBERRY WY. PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN PLEASANTON VALLEY



4 BD 2.5 BA 2,047sf. on a 6,500sf. lot.
Desired Monterey model. Wood floors,
crown mouldings, new roof. Pool in backyard.
Walk to schools & shopping.
\$785,000

1226 SHADY POND LN. PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN PHEASANT RIDGE



Amazing backyard! 6 BD 6 BA 5,096sf.
on 15,712sf. lot. Top of the line upgrades
throughout. Private location, BD, office &
full bath on main level.
\$1,550,000

3123 MONTPELIER CT. PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN PLEASANTON MEADOWS



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

COMING SOON

LOCATED IN PLEASANTON
4 BD 2.5 BA 2,000sf.+
Spacious, updated home.
Close to Mohr Elementary.
LOW \$600,000s

LOCATED IN PLEASANTON VALLEY
— MONTEREY MODEL
4 BD 2.5 BA 2,047sf. on a 7,650sf. lot.
Updated kitchen and baths. Spacious
private backyard with **NO POOL.**
HIGH \$700,000s

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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. Large 6958 square foot lot. 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



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



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**

KOTTINGER RANCH



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**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



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DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,999,000
Exquisite Mediterranean estate! 6bd+loft+detached office/rec room, 5ba, 4 car garage, tumbled stone & granite, private 1.1 acre lot w/pool, waterfall, outdoor kitchen, sports court. 7966 Foothill Knolls Dr

JO ANN LUISI BY APPT



DANVILLE \$1,949,950
Rare opportunity for a sports enthusiast! One of a kind estate with 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 4391 sq ft estate on a court with over 334k in upgrades. Irresistible quality, charm & designer touches embrace this 4 bd, 4.5 ba luxury home! www.3372SageWoodCt.com 3372 SAGEWOOD CT

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




DANIEL GAMACHE BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,099,950
Rarely available 5 br, 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

EMILY BARRACLOUGH SAT 1:30-4:30



PLEASANTON \$958,000
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 WAY

MARY JANE DEERING SAT 1-4



DUBLIN \$915,000
Richly appointed upgrades! 4227 +/- sqft, 4 bd, 3.5 ba plus den/office. Opulent kitchen. Huge master suite with walk-in closet. "Princess suite", wet bar, slab granite, hardwood floors, lovely backyard. 5091 ROYAL PINES WAY

DEBI BODAN BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$849,000
Five bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, shutters, premium lot, 4 car garage, side access, stamped patio w/ arbor and room for a pool. 1096 CARRARA WAY

EMILY BARRACLOUGH SAT 3-5



PLEASANTON \$799,900
Gorgeous home in the desirable Gates neighborhood of Pleasanton. Home consists of 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and is approximately 2100 sq ft of living space. Fabulous floor plan with a sunny open kitchen. 4969 MOHR AVE

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$779,900
4bd/2.5ba, 2101+/-sqft on a 7806+/-sqft lot, granite kitchen w/ tumbled stone back splash, hardwood floors, newer windows, remodeled baths, inside laundry, pool, covered patio, side yard access. 2375 FAIRFIELD CT

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$669,000
4bd/3ba, 1,941+/-sq.ft, new Granite/Maple kitchen with built in appliances, Oak Hardwood floor, full bed/bath downstairs, newer windows, roof/gutters, patio with raised deck. 3279 PICADILLY CT

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$475,000
Fabulous one story end unit with 2bd/2ba 2 car garage, granite kitchen, hardwood floors, private patio, and more! 1403 GROTH CIRCLE

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE BY APPT



WALNUT CREEK \$459,000
Single story home, 1690+/-sf, 2bd/2.5ba, hardwood floors, eat in kitchen, dual vanity baths, inside laundry, side yard access, workshop & large lot. 2689 BUENA VISTA AVE

