

Pleasanton Weekly

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SAFARI

Couple raises 'exotic' animals as part of the family **[12]**

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

One last trip in a Penske

By JEB BING

Over the years, I've written a few columns about trips I've made to help my children move — to college dorms, to far-away jobs, to new homes and even across town. Perhaps the most emotional was about the trip my wife Jan and I made to take our daughter Jenny to college, only to come back to Pleasanton realizing that we had become empty nesters like so many other parents that fall.

Later, and again with Jenny, I shared the driving as we made our way to her new job in Nashville, pulling a U-Haul trailer behind her Saturn hatchback, a trip I repeated about a year later when she found a better job back here in the Bay Area. Not long after, it was our son Chris I joined in a U-Haul truck, moving him from UC San Diego to New York City where his wife Mary had already started her residency work as a doctor at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Those trips gave us a chance to visit places we might not otherwise have gone, including the memorial for those killed in the Oklahoma City federal building bombing, President Clinton's library on opening day in Little Rock, Old Faithful at Yellowstone and Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

Two weeks ago, I helped again, joining Chris in a very large, noisy (and uncomfortable) rented 26-foot Penske truck equipped with air brakes, and a 3,400-pound car being towed behind, for his family's move back to California.

Certainly, more remarkable than the long drive was the process of moving the contents out of a 33rd floor apartment down to the street to be loaded in a truck that was parked on the sidewalk. The logistics of positioning this truck involved two policemen stopping traffic, family and friends guiding a U-turn on a narrow one-way street, and a cacophony of horns from impatient New York City drivers, along with amused pedestrians watching this circus set up its tent. Someone had to be posted at the truck at all times just to watch the contents as well as be ready to move the truck if those in authority decided enough was enough. Fortunately, that didn't happen, but we did feel the pressure of another building resident staking out our sidewalk space, ready to call in his waiting U-Haul.

Chris and I left their apartment building at 70th and York at 3 p.m. Tuesday, arriving at his new home in Roseville six days later at



8 p.m. Sunday. This 2,935-mile trip, almost all of it on hardly-scenic Interstate 80, took us through 11 states and consumed some 500 gallons in diesel fuel.

Without doubt, I-80 offers a non-stop drive across the country, although except for majestic mountain passes, fertile fields and lots of corn, motorists don't really see much at all. The biggest cities we went through were Omaha, Salt Lake City and Reno besides skirting the far southern suburbs of Chicago. It sure lacks the nostalgia I remember of old Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles. No Burma Shave signs; no roadside reptile stands; I don't think there's ever been a song about getting your kicks on route I-80.

Much of the way during this trip across country, I found the rapidly changing milepost signs one of the few reliefs from hundreds of miles of crops, cattle and farms. At times, particularly during that long 37-mile drive across the salt flats from Salt Lake City to the Nevada state line, it was downright monotonous, with roadside signs warning drivers to "Stay Awake." Sometimes, especially in Nebraska where the first milepost showed us there were another 441 miles to cross the state, we found it best not to look.

For those who enjoy trivia, here's more about I-80 I learned along the way: Pennsylvania operates a large fireworks store at its border with New Jersey, which it was promoting heavily in this pre-Independence Day timeframe. Available only to non-Pennsylvania customers, the store's receipts go to pay down the state's budget deficit. West of Omaha, the next 72-mile section of I-80 is the country's longest stretch without a curve. Although we found road work under way across the Plains and most of I-80 in good shape, the worst stretch in terms of road width and pavement conditions was coming into California from Reno, adding even more bounce and steering challenges for the Penske.

Now back in Pleasanton, I'm getting the word out now that if there are any more relocations ahead, I'm busy. ■

About the Cover

Ostriches roam the hills in farms along the 680 corridor. This ostrich, who also has zebras on its farm, is owned by Kathy and Jim Stewart, a veterinarian who once specialized in ostrich medicine. Photo by Jessica Lipsky. Design by Lili Cao.



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Streetwise

ASKED AT THE LIBRARY

Do you think that the not guilty verdict in the Casey Anthony murder trial was the right one?



Paige Weisbrod
Nursing student

I'm pretty upset about it, actually. I don't know the full details of the case, but I wish it could be reevaluated.

Claire Pauly
Teacher

I think it was the right verdict. From what I've seen and read, they didn't have enough evidence to find her guilty.



Mandla Gobledale
Musician

Our justice system is set up so that we are innocent until proven guilty. If there was undeniable proof that she was responsible for the murder, it would have been brought forward. If it can't be proven, it is fair that she was found not guilty.

Tracie Bailey
Software sales

I don't know that it was necessarily the right verdict, but I did expect it. I don't feel that they proved their case beyond a reasonable doubt; it was too circumstantial.



Indra Laksana
Realtor, Keller Williams

I think that from what I have read, she is probably guilty. But I wasn't there, and I didn't hear all the evidence that the jurors did.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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Newsfront

DIGEST

'Horsing Around'

The Foundation for Axis Community Health invites everyone to an afternoon of Horsing Around tomorrow with a catered buffet lunch, a "Best Hat" contest, drawing prizes and silent auction, and a no-host bar, in addition to the full schedule of horse races.

Horsing Around takes place noon-6 p.m. July 9 at the Trackside Terrace. Tickets are \$50 per person and include admission to the Fair; they may be purchased at www.axishealth.org or by calling 201-6017. It benefits Axis Community Health as the need rises for its medical care, mental health services and substance abuse counseling.

Deputies to shake things up

Local deputy sheriffs will compete tonight in a first-ever "Sheriffs Bartending Showdown" at TGI Friday's in Pleasanton to raise money and awareness for the CALICO (Child Abuse Listening, Interviewing and COordination) Center. The cocktails made during the competition will be auctioned to the highest bidder, and drink donations will go directly to CALICO.

All day the restaurant, 3999 Santa Rita Road, is donating 20% of its food sales to CALICO, plus patrons can buy drawing tickets with profits going directly to CALICO; prizes include Disneyland passes.

For several weeks, sheriff deputies have been volunteering their off-duty time, training with professional bartenders to master the art of bottle flipping, tossing and mixing known as flairing, highlighted in the 1988 Tom Cruise film, "Cocktail." Tonight's contest will run from 5 p.m. until midnight.

Shabbat Service for all

For the second year in a row, the entire Tri-Valley community is invited to join Congregation Beth Emek this evening as it moves its weekly Shabbat observance to Harvest Park at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Del Valle Parkway.

The community dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., with everyone bringing blankets, lawn chairs and picnic food to share. "In the spirit of Jewish tradition, we encourage you to follow kosher style principles with your meal," said volunteer Scott Summerfield in an email.

Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m. will include guitarists and singers with a light and friendly tone. At 8:15 p.m., host families will provide samplings of desserts and cold beverages.



PHOTOS BY LISA LORENTZ

Old-fashioned fun on the Fourth

Andrew Dito, 1, enthusiastically waves his American flags at Pleasanton's Fourth of July event, "Celebrating Freedom and its Evolution since the Revolution," at Lions Wayside Park. Above left, Bob Williams directs the Pleasanton Community Concert Band in patriotic tunes while the crowd enjoys warm breezy weather that reached 88 degrees in the shade.

Fair fun: Giant hamburger weighs in at 777 pounds

Alameda County Fair seeks Guinness certification

Alameda County Fair officials tentatively declared victory Sunday in their quest to break the record for the world's largest hamburger.

The giant hamburger grilled at the Fair on Saturday weighed in at 777 pounds with all the trimmings, 187 pounds more than the previous record holder, said April Mitchell, event and marketing manager for the fair. All that remains now is for officials from Guinness World Records to certify the results.

A crew of 10 people spent 13 hours cooking the giant burger patty on the world's largest barbecue, owned by Juicys Outlaw BBQ, a mobile food and beverage company that serves large events. The grill is mounted on an 18-wheel, 72,000-pound truck.

The burger was cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees, and served with trimmings including a 110-pound bun, more than 50 pounds of cheese, more than 20 pounds of onions, more than 12 pounds of pickles, and 30 pounds of lettuce.

Fairgoers were able to purchase bites of



JAY FLACHSBARTH

With the burger safely in place, crew members add the finishing touches.

the burger for 99 cents, with proceeds going to the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

"It was a wonderful event shared by the community," Mitchell said.

The burger was expected to be a total of 1,375,000 calories, which is enough to feed one person for about 22.5 months.

—Jeb Bing

Livermore Lab acts on 'open campus' initiative

New computer center allows public to tap into advanced research, programs

By JEB BING

In an initiative that aims to boost the country's economic competitiveness, Lawrence Livermore and Sandia national laboratories have opened the first phase of their new 110-acre "open campus" that will provide greater public access to research and advanced computer programs developed by the labs.

Last week, federal, state and local representatives joined managers from the two laboratories in dedicating the Livermore lab's new High Performance Computing Innovation Center.

"This new center opens a new era in Lawrence Livermore's collaboration with universities and industry," said LLNL's Director George Miller. "We have a long history of mutually beneficial partnerships. These efforts will expand with the innovation center, which will create even greater opportunities for collaboration with corporate and academic partners to meet the nation's important challenges through advances in technology."

The high performance computing center is part of the Livermore Valley Open Campus (LVOC), a complex located on Greenville Road between the

See LAB on Page 7

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Pickers protest wages, safety issues at building site

Bricklayers union threatens larger actions against Safeway

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

Members of the bricklayers union were out at the crack of dawn last Thursday protesting what they said were poor pay and inadequate safety measures for construction workers at the building site of the new Safeway "Lifestyle" store at Bernal and Valley avenues.

"D.L. Masonry does not meet area wage and standards. They're not a union company," said Troy Garland, a representative of Bricklayers and Allied Crafts Local 3. "There are safety issues as well."

He said workers at the site are not wearing respirators when needed and that there are problems with scaffolding.

"We take safety concerns very seriously," said Safeway Spokeswoman Susan M. Houghton. "We will take that up immediately with our contractor." Houghton could not be reached about whether any safety issues were found.

About a dozen union members walked a picket line on Bernal Avenue where trucks enter and leave the construction site, alongside a 10-foot-tall inflatable rat bearing the sign "simply unfair."

Garland said while Safeway stores themselves are largely unionized, many of the companies it hires for construction and other work are not.

"We'd like Safeway to hire good local contractors," he said.

Houghton said, though, that choosing a contractor is more about picking the right vendor for the project than guaranteeing union jobs at each construction site.

"We do a very thorough and competitive bid process," she said. "On a typical construction site you're going to see a mix of union and non-union vendors."



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Standing alongside a giant inflatable rat, members of BAC (Bricklayers and Allied Crafts) Local 3 picket D.L. Masonry at the construction site of Safeway's new store on Bernal Avenue.

Garland said Greg Feere, CEO of the Contra Costa Building Trades Council, is in discussions with Safeway about the local issue, as well as similar ones in Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties.

Garland later explained that, "If

Safeway does not improve on the contractors they hire, there will probably be more actions taken against them by different organizations throughout the Bay Area."

D.L. Masonry could not be reached for comment. ■

Complaints continue about parking at health club

Members worry problem could worsen with closing of old facility

Parking has gotten better at 24 Hour Fitness's new facility on Willow Road, but there are still problems during peak hours, according to some members. They were also expecting things to get worse with the end of shuttle service from the gym's old building on W. Las Positas Boulevard and the closing of that gym on July 5.

Still, there doesn't seem to be the same kind of slow crawl through the lot in search of parking that was the norm, not the exception, when the club opened in January. A statement from 24 Hour Fitness says a number of changes have been made to solve the parking problem.

"Over the past several months, 24 Hour Fitness has worked to resolve the parking situation at its

Pleasanton Super-Sport club and remains committed to making the club easily accessible to our members in the area," the statement reads. "In doing so, we are happy to provide our members with additional parking options, including: complimentary valet parking from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends; additional parking at neighboring business Polycom (4750 Willow Road) on weekdays after 6 p.m. and all day on weekends and holidays, and all 24 Hour Fitness employees and personnel are instructed to park off-site to ensure members have full access to the club's parking lot."

All that hasn't actually solved the parking problem, according to a number of members.

"The reality of the situation

shows you still have not resolved it," wrote Dan Carroll in an email. "Members want to park their own cars and do not want to hear they have to wait until after 6 p.m. or use valet parking."

Carroll said he'd continued to use the old gym because of the parking situation, and expects parking to get even worse now because that's no longer an option.

He's not alone. At least one person pointed out on the Town Square forum at PleasantonWeekly.com that the problem continues.

However, Pleasanton Planning Manager Janice Stern said of, no one has brought a complaint to the Planning Commission, which was involved when the parking issue first came up earlier this year.

—Glenn Wohltmann

Town hall addresses health care reform in U.S.

Congressman discusses bill to change Medicare

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) is warning that health care costs for the elderly could double if a bill proposed by a Wisconsin Republican goes through.

Speaking in a telephone town hall with constituents on Tuesday, McNerney said Paul Ryan's plan to offer vouchers to seniors to replace Medicare would continue the current problems with rising health care costs. He said those rises have been averaging 15-20% a year.

McNerney is an active supporter of the health care reform package that passed last year. People called in from across his district, including a number from Pleasanton, and were introduced by first names only.

Kay of Pleasanton worried that the Medicare reform package is too expensive to the federal government and asked what changes could be made to make it more affordable.

"Health care costs are increasing," McNerney acknowledged. "We will reach a point where it starts causing problems with our federal budget."

Ryan's bill is part of his overall plan to reduce federal spending on entitlement programs including Social Security and Medicare. Under his bill, people who enroll in Medicare after 2020 would receive a fixed contribution from the federal government rather than a

benefit package, like those who are currently receiving Medicare. Those later enrollees would apply their entitlement against the cost of health insurance.

Health care reform — often called Obamacare — has been under increasing scrutiny after last year's elections, which led to a Republican majority in Congress.

However, McNerney said that by reducing "waste, fraud and abuse," the costs would become more manageable.

"There's a lot of things in our current reform package that will reduce the cost of Medicare over the next 10 years or so," McNerney said.

Pleasanton resident Timothy worried about coverage under the voucher system proposed by Ryan.

"Is there something that says if we go to that kind of system that the insurers do have to insure us and make it affordable?" he asked.

McNerney said that's one of the problems with Ryan's plan.

"History has shown that when people have price support (as in the voucher plan) in the system, the insurance companies just raise their rates," he said. "What I want to do is make sure that we continue with our current Medicare plan. The overhead is low. It's very efficient."

Connie of Pleasanton was concerned about prescription prices; she noted that the current health care reform package blocked the

federal government from negotiating prices with drug companies, although that's already being done by the military.

McNerney pointed out that while that was originally not allowed, the reform package will allow the government to negotiate in the future, which would reduce prescription prices "significantly."

The number of doctors available for Medicare patients was worrisome for both Virginia of Dublin and Pleasanton resident Trinity.

"Will the insurance companies have doctors working for them? It's hard today to find a doctor who's taking Medicare right now," Virginia said.

Trinity pointed out that there's already a backlog for doctors who can see Medicare patients or people with disabilities, who are also covered under the plan.

McNerney said the health care reform package has taken that into consideration by giving new doctors financial incentives to become generalists and not specialists.

"We need to make sure there's enough primary care physicians out there to meet the needs of the American people," he said. "You don't want folks to have to wait months to see a physician."

McNerney added that wellness programs that keep people healthy and out of doctors offices and hospitals are also part of the plan. ■

LAB

Continued from Page 5

two laboratories. In addition to LLNL and Sandia, the open campus partnership also includes the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Security Administration.

"The LVOC will position the two laboratories to more fully address their broad national security mission," explained James (Buck) Koonce, a senior advisor at the Livermore Lab.

He said the national agencies and the labs "recognize that many national security issues are too important and complex to leave out the broader participation by the talented scientist and engineers in universities and industries.

"We need their contributions to expand and deepen the basic research related to national security in areas such as transportation, energy cyber security, high-performance computing and nonproliferation."

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) agreed. Speaking at the dedication ceremony of the new High Performance Computing Innovation Center, he pointed out that the missions of the two neighboring laboratories are changing.

"That means collaborating with local businesses by sharing the scientific expertise and technology developed by the laboratories with businesses not only in terms of national security but in terms of production and manufacturing," he said.



JACKIE MCBRIDE, LLNL

Lawrence Livermore Laboratory managers join local representatives in dedicating new high performance computing center on Greenville Road. From left to right are Sam Brinker, NNSA's Livermore Site Office; Congressman John Garamendi (D-Walnut Creek); LLNL Deputy Director Tom Gioconda; Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), and Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena.

"The Tri-Valley and the Bay Area represent the most innovative corner of the entire world and this collaboration we're seeing today will allow us to maintain that position," he added. "This will benefit not only our national security but also our local region by creating jobs."

Congressman John Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove), whose district includes both the Lawrence Livermore and Sandia laboratories, called the opening of the new computing center "a special day" for the region and the country.

"With this computing center here

and with this open campus and the research that will be blossoming in this area we are going to grow the economy here in the Tri-Valley area and beyond," he said. "We now utilize the research tools we have here to develop new businesses. This will be a key part of the future of the entire region."

LLNL Director Miller said the new computing innovation center represents the first step in the creation of the Livermore Valley Open Campus collaboration zone being developed on the Livermore lab's east side. ■

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Opinion

LETTERS

Get motorcycles off Main

Dear Editor,

I am writing in to report my opinion. Main Street Pleasanton is a great place to eat dinner with your family or hang out with friends, even take walks.

But these are all ruined when a motorcycle comes down the street and makes it impossible to hear or enjoy the surroundings that Main Street has to offer.

I propose that a law should be passed saying motorcycles should not be allowed on Main Street. If not, maybe even just a notification to bikers saying that they are bothering people in the area.

Richard Nicholas

YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest. Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Redistricting: Right or wrong?

We're not saying the purportedly nonpartisan Citizen's Redistricting Commission pulled a fast one, but its release of dozens of new "visualizations" (maps) last Friday just before the three-day Independence Day weekend is suspicious. Many voters and politicians, including a few good reporters, were already off celebrating. Paul Mitchell of Redistricting Partners, a Democrat, former legislative staffer and now a consultant focusing on legislative races and independent expenditures, points out that the way to bury a story is to give it to the media before a holiday weekend. Either by design or mistake, that's exactly what the commission did, releasing scores of redrawn district maps as its busy week ended. Mitchell said this avoided the spotlight from anyone with a family or a social life.

The state commission has now reconvened, holding daily hearings until next Thursday when it is scheduled to release yet another set of redistricting maps. This should be fun to watch as the Democratic, Republican and nonpartisan members field the heavy criticism already being vented while still maintaining the necessary super-majority of 9 of 14 votes to achieve final approval.

The 14-member commission is responsible for redrawing the boundaries of California's congressional, Board of Equalization, state senate and assembly districts based on 2010 Census data and public input, and also in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act, which protects against "minority vote dilution." A Latino rights group already has called the June 10 first redistricting drafts a "worst case scenario for Latinos," noting that Latinos stand to lose a congressional seat despite accounting for 90% of the state's growth over the last 10 years. The African American Redistricting Collaborative is urging the commission to recognize its population strengths and draw redistricting maps accordingly. The Asian Pacific American Legal Center is working closely to present a united case to the commission.

Here in the Tri-Valley, it's still unclear where the boundaries are in the 10th, 11th and 13th congressional districts, represented by Congressmen John Garamendi, Jerry McNerney and Pete Stark, respectively. Last Thursday, State Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan seemed surprised to learn that her district boundaries that had been expanded to include Dublin and Pleasanton had already been redrawn back into Contra Costa County. As for Pleasanton's once three-Assembly districts, it appears to be not in any, at least for the time being.

Unfortunately for the reading public, all this confusion comes on the heels of a glowing analysis of California's new way of drawing political maps in the June 18 issue of The Economist, a British magazine that is not usually kind to the political structure and activities of our state. It calls the chaos among California's incumbent politicians a "good sign," with the new lines of the state's 177 congressional districts being finalized by a "genuinely independent commission of citizens, not by state legislators." As charges of favoritism along political, ethnic and special interest lines intensify in the coming week, we'll see if The Economist is right in recommending our new system to other states. ■

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Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Makeshift bomb found on First Street

A Molotov cocktail was discovered near the Pleasanton Farmers Market on July 2, a police report said.

The makeshift bomb was found behind a vehicle at about 10:49 a.m. in the 4700 block of First Street, according to the report, which described the device as a 2-liter plastic bottle apparently filled with gasoline and with a gasoline-soaked rag partway inside. The Liver-

more-Pleasanton Fire Department responded and the bottle is being shipped to a laboratory for fingerprinting. There are no suspects, the report said.

In other police reports:

A person doing massage at an establishment in the 4400 block of Black Avenue has been cited for inappropriate conduct.

Pleasanton police officers, following up on prior violations, sent an undercover officer into Asian Massage Therapy for a compliance check. About 45 minutes into the session, the woman performing the massage touched the officer improperly. The woman was cited for prohibited conduct, and the establishment was cited with failing to meet its operating responsibilities.

POLICE REPORT

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

June 29

Theft

- 9:17 a.m. in the 5100 block of Golden Road; petty theft
- 10:01 a.m. in the 1600 block of W. Lagoon Road; mail theft
- 1:10 p.m. in the 6000 block of Big Bend Court; identity theft
- 3:27 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 8:54 p.m. in the 600 block of Junipero Street; misappropriation of property
- 10:30 p.m. in the 3800 block of Old Santa Rita Road; petty theft

Auto burglary

- 5:58 a.m. in the 2300 block of Willet Way
- 8:10 a.m. in the 3500 block of Helen Drive

Vandalism

- 2:36 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive
- 11:12 p.m. in the 4100 block of Amberwood Cir; vandalism, battery

Drug/alcohol violations

- 4:18 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive; public intoxication, drugs
- 4:49 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and W. Neal Street; public drunkenness
- 7:51 p.m. at the intersection of Harvest Circle and Winter Court; possession of alcohol by a minor
- 11:27 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Hansen Drive; DUI

June 30

Robbery

- 12:21 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Theft

- 10:33 a.m. in the 5100 block of

Rappolla Court; grand theft

- 4:18 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 4:41 p.m. in the 2300 block of Sandpiper Way; petty theft

Battery

- 6:39 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

July 1

Theft

- 9:17 a.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft
- 12:01 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; petty theft

Vandalism

- 4:39 p.m. in the 3200 block of Curtis Circle

Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:34 p.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and St. Mary Street; DUI

July 2

Theft

- 6:20 a.m. in the 4600 block of Sandalwood Drive; petty theft
- 8:34 a.m. in the 4300 block of Muirwood Drive; petty theft
- 4:12 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft, vandalism
- 4:58 and 5:40 p.m. in the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 8:31 p.m. in the 3200 block of Runnymede Court; petty theft

Vandalism

- 7:32 a.m. in the 7400 block of Alder Court

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:40 a.m. in the 4100 block of Tassajara Road; DUI
- 3:49 a.m. in the 3100 block of Thistledown Ct; public drunkenness
- 4:40 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Ave and Arthur Dr; public drunkenness
- 8:36 p.m. in the 1500 block of Calle Santa Anna; under the influence of a controlled substance

July 3

Theft

- 10:43 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; grand theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:29 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Crestline Road; DUI
- 1:23 a.m. in the 6400 block of Owens Drive; marijuana possession
- 1:41 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue; public drunkenness
- 6:36 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; under the influence of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

July 4

Vandalism

- 1:30 p.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive
- 4:15 p.m. in the 3700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:33 a.m. at the intersection of Francisco Street and Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 1:13 a.m. at the intersection of Danbury Park Drive and Valley Avenue; DUI
- 1:17 a.m. at the intersection of W. Las Positas Boulevard; DUI
- 6:24 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Ave; public drunkenness

July 5

Theft

- 8:40 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 3:39 p.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive; grand theft

Illegal weapon

- 12:45 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Auto burglary

- 8:03 a.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- 9:13 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

BIRTHS

The following Pleasanton births were reported by ValleyCare Health Systems for June:

- Danielle and Brian Ritter, a boy, June 11
- Julie and Anthony Bridenbaugh, a boy, June 22

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THE CITY OF

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• PUD-82, David DiDonato, Donato Builders, Inc.

Application for Rezoning of an approximately 1.17 acre site located at 4171 and 4189 Stanley Boulevard from R-1-6,500 (One-Family Residential) District to the PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential) District and for Planned Unit Development (PUD) Development Plan approval to construct 13 detached single family homes.

• PCUP-185/P11-0043, Generations HealthCare

Applications for: (1) a modification to a previously approved Conditional Use Permit (UP 71 3, Pleasanton Convalescent Hospital) to increase the number of beds from the approved 129 to the currently operating 139 at the existing convalescent facility; and (2) Design Review approval for on site modifications, including removing existing landscaping to add 10 parking spaces and removing the existing freestanding tower element located near the southwest corner of the building. The facility is located at 300 Neal Street.

Library Commission

Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discussion regarding Library Commission planning retreat
- Discussion and review of library fines & fees
- Discussion regarding outdoor public gathering area

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Rd.

- Parks Maintenance Division Maintenance Report for January – June 2011
- Parks Projects Quarterly Status Report for January – June 2011

General Information

Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee

The City of Pleasanton formed a Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee to oversee the implantation of the Youth Master Plan. The Master Plan was adopted by the Pleasanton City Council and Pleasanton Unified School District in August 2010. The implementation of the Youth Master Plan falls under the responsibility of the Community Services Department.

The Oversight Committee is made of up nine (9) members including; two (2) Youth Commissioners; one (1) Youth at large member in grade 6-12, one (1) non-profit youth organization member; one (1) business community representative and four (4) parent-at-large positions that have children who are either in pre-school, elementary, middle-school and high school. The Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee reports directly to the Youth Commission and meets 3-4 times a year to receive updates from staff, provide input and make recommendations to the Youth Commission regarding the implementation of the Youth Master Plan.

Committee Members will be appointed at the September 14, 2011 Youth Commission meeting

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME

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

OBITUARIES

Madeline Margaret Tonda

Madeline Tonda died June 21 in the company of her family in Pleasanton, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. She was 88.

She was born and raised in Santa Barbara, the youngest of five children of Henry and Eugenia Favro.

She graduated from Santa Barbara High School and worked in Los Angeles as a secretary during World War II. She met her future husband, Oliver from Renton, Wash., through a blind date arranged by family friends. They married in 1942 and moved to Washington for a brief time before settling in Alhambra, Calif. She was an avid tennis player, swimmer and an enthusiastic bowler, and also loved to travel.

Ms. Tonda is survived by her two children, Kathy Helfrich of Pleasanton and Gary Tonda of New York

City and their spouses Joe and Linda; four grandchildren and their spouses, and two great-grandchildren. A funeral Mass was celebrated June 26 at St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Pleasanton, with interment at Calvary Cemetery in Santa Barbara on June 29. Donations can be made to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin 94568.



TRAINED FOR BATTLE but not for peace

Filmmakers highlight post-traumatic stress disorder

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

What started out as an intense drama in a police station has evolved into a movie with a message.

Co-writers Scott Cornfield and Erik Colandone, who met when working at the San Jose Police Department, were planning an independent short film showing one night in an interrogation room. But during the writing, "In the Box" developed into a story about a suspect, back from multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, who the detectives begin to realize is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

It's being produced by Reel Good Pictures, a production company owned by Cornfield and his partner John Reinert.

"We discovered that our real theme — more important than our original story — was that PTSD is another reminder that perhaps we train our warriors for battle but not for peace," Cornfield said.

Police, especially in larger cities, run into a lot of PTSD, he explained.

"It's a form of mental illness, and we deal with a lot of mental illness," Cornfield said.

The movie ends with information on where sufferers can get help.

The script for "In the Box" took two years to complete and the men wrote and rewrote as the characters grew.

"In screenwriting it can take a long time to figure out what your story is," Cornfield said.

Then it was more months finding the crew and actors, meanwhile working on funding.

Cornfield, Colandone and Reinert — three guys with a combined 60 years of law enforcement — sought support for "In the Box" via Kickstarters.com, a website that posts art projects for funding, after reviewing the applications. The deadline to contribute was July 7, and their goal was \$3,750.

Funds will go mostly toward feeding the 15-member cast and crew, which is also about 15, Cornfield said with a laugh. "Everybody's a volunteer."

Cornfield, who lives in Pleasanton with his wife Sandi, joined the San Jose Police Department in 1980 and two years later was making videos. Throughout the years he has shot everything from weddings to travel films.

"It started as a hobby, then become a job," he said.

He also enrolled in the UCLA Professional Program in Screenwriting to hone those skills and wrote two scripts during the course of study.

"In the Box," at 31 minutes, is long for a short film, Cornfield noted. And there aren't many venues for short films except festivals.

"There are tons of film fests," he said. "We'll pick and choose which to enter."

His "Children of Alcatraz," a one-hour film that combines interviews with subjects who grew up on the prison island with footage from news reels, won Best Documentary of 2005 in the Danville International Children's Film Festival.

Cornfield also placed first a few years ago in the California Independent Film Festival's Iron Filmmaker Contest, where he had to create a three-minute film in 24 hours.

Although that was fun, said Cornfield, it is frustrating to create a film that is good but could have been great. He had the luxury of time with "In the Box."

Although this project is serious, Cornfield says his first love is comedy. He did standup while in college and is in an improv troupe called Freedom of Espresso.

"In the Box" will begin shooting July 31 with an Army base scene at Ford Ord, where his son attends CSU Monterey Bay and whose condo was once base housing. Then it's on to Dublin, where the India Spice House will serve as a convenience store for the film. Bar scenes will be shot at Gallagher's in Dublin for the exterior and the Blue Bar in Livermore for the interior. Goodwill offices in San Jose will serve as the police department set.

"I'm very excited," Cornfield said. "The scariest part was, can we get good actors? We got really good people."

They plan to finish shooting in September. Then there will be the editing and adding original music. His sons Clint and Ty, 23 and 22, are musicians so they may help.

"We're so lucky we can do this. It's an important subject and fun to do," Cornfield said.

He is hoping that someone will pick up the short film and expand it so the message will reach a larger audience. The government is doing more than it's ever done to help those suffering from PTSD, Cornfield said, after statistics showed the rising suicide rate of returning GIs.

"So many people are coming back now after multiple tours," he commented. "We're hoping the movie will make PTSD more known and lead people to get help." ■

COURTESY REEL GOOD PICTURES

"In the Box" writer/director Scott Cornfield (left) and director of photography John Reinert test the lighting on actor Daryl Todaro, who plays soldier Brandon Clark. As he is interrogated after being arrested in a bar, police begin to realize that he is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.



Next up: high school

Incoming freshmen are excited but apprehensive

BY KATIE LYNNESS

For recent eighth-grade graduates, this summer is not just for traveling, seeing friends, and relaxing. It is also for anticipating their upcoming high school experience.

While some students look forward to meeting new friends and participating in high school sports teams and clubs, others are more interested in embarking upon a highly challenging academic curriculum. Some students moving on to high school feel confident that they are socially and emotionally prepared, but for other students it is the complete opposite as they worry about how the next four years will play out for them.

Whether students entering high school are excited for it or not, they all have expectations and many even have goals that will motivate them to succeed in high school. Apprehensions about high school may scare some students, but luckily they have their whole summer to prepare for their new high school experience. It is hard for students to not wonder this summer about what going to high school will be like, they hear so many different rumors and stories.

Kat Zhao, a recent eighth-grade graduate from Pleasanton Middle School, expects that high school will be challenging and that she will be exposed to new encounters. She also is eager to make new friends and join school clubs.

Another incoming ninth-grader is Chloe Smith, who attended Hart Middle School and will be a student at Amador Valley High. She is also looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

Chloe said she knows that the transition from middle to high school will be difficult in the beginning but will definitely become easier once she becomes accustomed to the changes, particularly the greater number of students and the size of the school.

Chloe says her eighth-grade teachers gave her important advice: "to plan ahead with school assignments, so that she'll stay organized and won't create stressful situations for herself by being unprepared." Chloe said she is

taking this advice to heart.

While incoming freshmen are receiving advice from just about everyone, possibly the most important advice comes from recent high school graduates who experienced entering high school themselves not so long ago.

Melissa Bonnel, who graduated from Foothill High in 2008 and currently attends San Jose State University while working at Pleasanton's Valley Humane Society, says that the most important advice she can give is to "be yourself."

As obvious as this may sound, Melissa believes it is important because her own high school experience would have been much better had someone stressed this to her beforehand. Melissa remembers simply trying to fit in throughout high school and conform to others' expectations of "normal."

Though she describes her high school experience as being "good," she encourages incoming ninth-graders to be comfortable just being themselves because they will have a much better time that way.

"In high school you try to be this perfect, pretty, skinny person that high school wants you to be, but in college you can just be who you want to be, which feels good," she said.

She thinks that in high school many people lose themselves by becoming carried away with fitting in, but in college they can finally find their own identity again.

Sarah Lewis, who also graduated from Foothill High School in 2008 and now attends Brown University, does not recall receiving any good advice before she entered high school, and she was the oldest child in her family so she had no one whose example she could learn from.

She agrees with Melissa that important advice would have been to be herself and to put most of her effort into academics. Having now completed high school, she has other advice to offer, too.

First, she believes high-schoolers who are often insecure about their capabilities should begin their new endeavors with confidence.

Also she believes that maintaining a sense of perspective on each situation is important because it is easy to become mired in activities that you do not care for but feel a need to participate in because of friends and classmates.

If you're content with doing what everyone else is doing, that's great, Sarah says, but most people would have a better time if they

were being true to themselves rather than succumbing to peer pressure.

Instead, she says, it is best to use high school as a tool to learn about your own interests so you can identify who you actually want to be and where you want to end up in life.

"There are so many people and places to choose from!" she said.

Sarah says she gives this advice because she wishes in high school she had just been herself.

"I came to college and was finally surrounded by oodles of other nerds, and wish that I had just embraced the Magic Card playing and the Dungeons and Dragons excursions in high school instead of being worried that those weren't cool pursuits," she said, "because they are buckets of fun, and I probably would have made some enjoyable connections with those classmates that I instead overlooked."

"Whoever you are, there is someone else who shares your concept of fun, be it raging par-

ties or Monopoly tournaments. Embrace all of your choices as your own, and don't be afraid to go after what you want," she added.

In short, the lesson Sarah passes along is to remember to do what you love. Additionally, Sarah recommends to incoming freshmen that they think outside the norm because anything can be done.

"The world is full of cool things," she said. "No reason to wait until you are out of the house to learn about them."

Her last piece of advice is: "Good luck, have fun, ditch the 'shoulds,' embrace exploration, and have a great next four years!"

Many teachers encourage their eighth-grade students to get excited about high school and also offered their own personal advice for the future beyond high school. At Pleasanton Middle School, eighth-grade language arts teacher Kathy Nichols handed out a copy of a speech by Mary Schmich entitled, "Everybody's Free."

This speech not only gives advice for high school but also dispenses common sense advice for life, including, "Don't feel guilty if you don't know what you want to do with your life," and "Don't congratulate yourself too much or berate yourself, either." Nichols thinks that the speech is meaningful plus easy for everyone to understand and appreciate.

Many times students think of their high school years as being amusing, confusing, overwhelming and just plain crazy — it will be interesting for those who are new to see what will happen during their high school years.

Hopefully, this year's freshmen who are graduating in 2015 will be able to derive something insightful from their high school experience and have some wise advice of their own to offer in four short years.

—Katie Lynness is a youth correspondent for the Pleasanton Weekly. She just completed the eighth grade at Pleasanton Middle School and will attend Amador Valley High.



Katie Lynness



Melissa Bonnel



Sarah Lewis



Chloe Smith

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“ Zebras were meant to be something that could generate minor income as opposed to horses, which eat money. ”

SAN



STORY AND PHOTOS BY JESSICA LIPSKY

Commuters along the 680 corridor can feast their eyes on a variety of sights — rolling hills, signs for ostrich eggs off Sunol Boulevard and emus in Alamo — that are often more exciting than the bumper stickers on the car in front of them. But some of the Tri-Valley's most exotic attractions are slightly off the beaten path.

Jim and Kathy Stewart live on the west side of the Tri-Valley where they share 450 acres of land with a veritable menagerie of animals — a wild kingdom that snorts, brays and barks.

"They're just such beautiful animals," says Kathy, a researcher at Children's Hospital Oakland and a long-time Valley resident.

Kathy's family, the Muellers, were early settlers to the valley and helped develop Las Trampas Stables and Little Hills Ranch in San Ramon.

The Stewarts own three Grants and Plains zebras — Zelda, Zara and Zeus — along with 20 ostriches, 100 cattle, border collies and a "zonkey." They raise cattle for beef and routinely use their bovine facilities for herding their zebras, which, at one point, numbered seven.

"Some people will just want a pair because they have acres that need to be grazed and want something pretty on them," Kathy says.

"Zebras were meant to be something that could generate minor income as opposed to horses, which eat money," says Jim, a large animal veterinarian and professor at Carrington College in Hayward.

California has strict rules on the sale of equine products such as meat and hides.

"You can't sell zebra products, so they're worth considerably more alive than they are for skin," Jim adds.

The Stewarts primarily keep their hoofstock for grazing or sale to other farm families. While they have had approximately 16 zebras since 1995, the Stewarts estimate that only 20 other Bay Area residents own the African equids.

"I always knew people who brought their zebras into Davis (during vet school residency) and I thought they were neat. My wife's been on horses since before she could walk, so it seemed to be a good fit," Jim says.

While Zelda, Zara and Zeus aren't halter or saddle broken — meaning they can't be ridden or led with a harness — the Stewarts have sold baby zebras to Southern California residents who will train the animals to show. Because training can be a lengthy and time-consuming process, Jim and Kathy prefer to

acclimate their zebras to people and noise to make them more "workable" animals.

Though the result is a tame animal that can be petted and hand fed, "they're still wild animals and not all people should have them," Jim says.

Jim and Kathy haven't had any problems with their zebras in more than 15 years and said most issues come from passers-by who will stop and ogle the striped beauties or from overly adventurous college photography students.

"People will go in with the zebras and feed them. When they go over the fence and into the field and barn, that's just stupid," Jim says.

When the sight of Zelda, Zara and Zeus became too disruptive, they were moved from the front of the Stewarts' property to their back pastures, which are opened seasonally for grazing. Here the zebras can nuzzle, smile in greeting and mingle with the ostriches and Zsa Zsa, the Stewarts' 3-1/2-year-old zebra-donkey hybrid.

"She's our prized possession," Kathy says before pulling out a "Baby's First Christmas" card featuring Zsa Zsa in a red bow.

While zebras are often picky about mating — it took almost seven years to produce a young zebra, though they are now "always pregnant" — donkeys and zebras mate naturally and more frequently than zebras and horses. The resulting zonkey offspring are sterile hybrids.

"It's interesting with the behaviors. Zebras, donkeys and horses may look similar, but they are quite different, and when you cross them, it's right down the middle," Jim says.

Zsa Zsa looks three-quarters donkey, with a light brown hide, zebra-striped legs and a long muzzle. Her coloring is indicative of animals from North Africa, as more southerly zonkeys will have only white legs, and she is less skittish than the zebra half of her family, which tend to keep to themselves when in the company of strangers.

"Zebras have an incredibly strong bond, which was probably bred out of horses so they'd be easier to do things with," Jim says.

The Stewarts' ostriches are also hybrids and were domesticated in Africa the 19th century for their feathers. Kathy and Jim met at an ostrich conference where he was speaking. Jim was specializing in ostrich medicine at the time, and he convinced her family to raise ostriches.

At the Stewart farm, the ostriches are free to roam. But their various equines remain close, creating a tableau of a western savannah that those in the more densely packed parts of town might never know exists. ■

FARI

Couple raises 'exotic' animals as part of the family

Opposite: Zebras graze on a Tri-Valley farm, where they share grassy pastures with ostriches, donkeys and dozens of cattle. Above, l-r: Zsa Zsa, a 3-1/2-year-old "zonkey" or zebra-donkey hybrid; Jim and Kathy Stewart let their 20 ostriches roam freely among their other animals.

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ON THE TOWN



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4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2010. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

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

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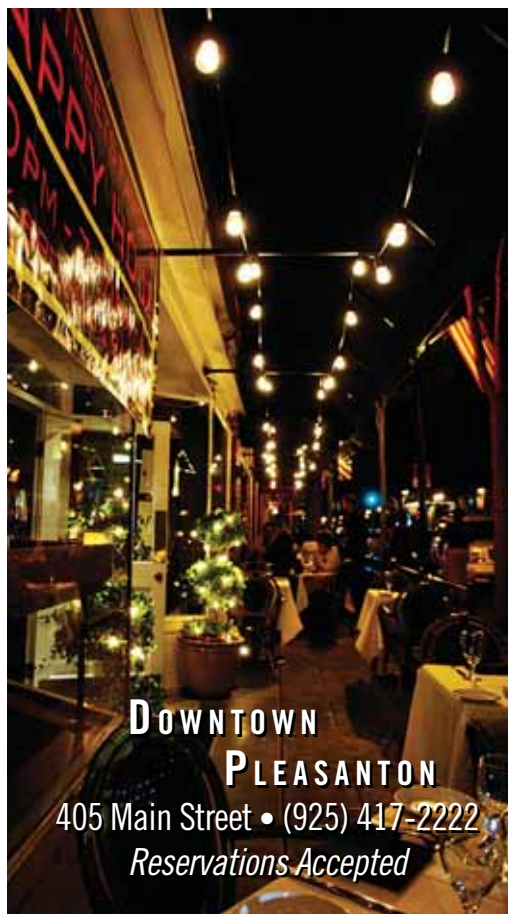
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Classes

MEDITATION Whether you are already meditating or feel it's time for you to begin, join this free interactive workshop series. In this informal setting, you will have the opportunity to discuss your meditations so that any difficulties or obstacles you are encountering can be overcome, allowing you to have a deeper, and more rewarding meditation. Classes are at 7 p.m. Monday, July 11, July 18, Aug. 1, Aug. 8 and Aug. 15 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. For more information, contact Mary Langevin at 830-2975.

THE SURPRISING WILKES FAMILY OF TASSAJARA Learn about one of the most interesting local early pioneering families, their son Joseph who was the only one from the Tri-Valley to join the Union Army, and the great contributions the family made to the area. Also, learn some little known facts about the family and how Mr. Stephenson made these discoveries using his own research and documentation. The class is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct. For any additional information email Richard Finn at program@l-ags.org.

Clubs

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

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter meets the first Saturday of the month. It is a social gathering and time to explore the history of our American roots. For meeting time and location, call Ann at 510-507-5509 or email anariso@comcast.net.

EAST BAY EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION The East Bay Executives Association is a non-profit organization for helping businesses network with other businesses. It meets at 7:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays monthly at Shari's, 3360 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley. Call 600-7342.

GNON (GIRLS NIGHT OUT NETWORKING) The group meets once a month after work at various locations throughout the Tri-Valley. The networking event runs from 5:30-8 p.m. Visit www.gnontrivalley.com for upcoming dates and locations or call 487-4748.

KIWANIS CLUB The Kiwanis Club meets at 11:45 a.m. Fridays at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. For information, call 1-800-Kiwanis.

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB This club is a great way for new and established residents to make new friends. It meets for coffee on the first Wednesday of every

month and for lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. The group has activities like hiking, walking, Bunco and more. Visit www.pleasantonnewcomers.com or call Ruby M. at 462-6404.

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

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON NORTH Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at the Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Dr. Call 580-7947 or visit www.pnr-rotary.org.

SOCRATES CAFE The Socrates Cafe discusses modern philosophical questions using the Socratic method, on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Peets Coffee, corner of Valley Ave. and Hopyard Rd. No politics involved. Call 249-1865 or visit www.digiassist.com/SocratesCafePleasanton.html.

TRI-VALLEY EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION Established in 1984, the Tri-Valley Executives' Association helps business owners and managers develop resourceful relationships in a fun and progressive format. The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m. every Thursday at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201-A Main St. Membership is open to businesses that are not in competition with a current member of the association. Call 736-4522 or visit www.trivall-eyexecs.com.

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS Virtually Speaking Toastmasters club meets from noon-1 p.m. every Thursday at Electrical Reliability Services, 6900 Koll Center Pkwy., Suite 415. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

Concerts

POP MUSIC ICON MELISSA MANCHESTER Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Melissa Manchester will perform in an intimate midsummer evening show at 8 p.m., Saturday, July 16, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$35-\$45. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehou-searts.org.

Events

'BE A HERO' Pleasanton Public Library will host "Be a Hero," its adult summer reading program for library patrons ages 18 years and up, from June 11-July 30. Read or listen to three books or attend three library programs, or any combination of the two, and enter a weekly drawing for prizes. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400 or visit www.adultsummerreading.wordpress.com.

www.adultsummerreading.wordpress.com.

11TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN SUMMER WINE STROLL Pleasanton Downtown Association is presenting over 20 wineries from Livermore Valley and the East Bay area to showcase their wines at 32 downtown Pleasanton locations in this year's Wine Stroll. Patrons will have the opportunity to learn more about local businesses, taste a variety of wines, and sample small bites at each location. Each guest will receive a commemorative wine glass and event map. The stroll is from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, July 14, in downtown Pleasanton. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased through July 14 at the Berry Patch, Studio Seven Arts, Towne Center Books, Clover Creek and the Rose Hotel. Any remaining tickets will be sold the day of the event at the Firehouse Arts Center for \$30. For more information, call Kelly Foulk at 484-2199.

ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR The Alameda County Fair runs through July 10. It is closed on Tuesdays.

Horseracing is available and free concert series. For more information visit www.alamedaountyfair.com.

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

Film

MOVIES IN THE PARK SUMMER SERIES Residents are invited to enjoy free movies during six Thursday evenings this summer at the Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., compliments of the City of Pleasanton. All films will be shown at dusk.

Summer film series kicks off on July 14 with "Despicable Me," the charming tale of a criminal mastermind who uses a trio of orphan girls as pawns for a grand scheme, only to find that their love is profoundly changing him for the better. The film is rated PG. Seating will be cordoned off in sections with blanket seating in the front, low-back beach chairs in the center and camp chairs and other higher positioned seating in the rear to accommodate for the best viewing. Do not place blankets or chairs on the lawn area prior to 10 a.m.

Health

SURGICAL OPTIONS FOR BREAST CANCER Dr. Vanni Manthiram will speak on surgical options for breast cancer, from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Tuesday, July 12, at ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd Suite 240. All registered participants will receive a free-boxed lunch. Call to register, 734-3319.



N.E.A.T Award

Neighborhood Environment Attractiveness Team

Specialty Inspections is this quarters recipient of the Pleasanton Downtown Association "NEAT" Award. This "Neighborhood Environment Attractiveness Team" award is given quarterly to the downtown business or property that has been improved or is considered unique in design, architecture, or style. Specialty Inspection has made significant improvement to their office and helped to beautify the neighborhood along Spring Street.

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CALICO CRITTER TEA PARTY It's Tea Time for girls who love Calico

Critters from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, July 16, at Golden Apple Learning Store, 4807 Hopyard Rd. Win prizes, play bingo, make a tiara and fan. Photos with Mrs. Cat. Don't worry if you have to bring your brother...there's the build-a-rama corner for citi-blocks. Prize drawing for Town House. Camper Caravan, too. This is a free event. Call 460-5163 or visit www.goldenappletoys.com.

Lectures/ Workshops

WALK AWAY THE PAIN Walking is one of the most repetitive activities

that we do throughout our lives. Poor walking habits can lead to injury. Learn how to walk correctly to improve your strength, mobility, overall health and to get rid of pain. The lecture is from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 14, 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.

Live Music

FREE CLASSICAL CONCERT Clarinetist Joe Bonfiglio joins Micah and Danielle Naler for a free concert of classical music at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 10, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The program will begin with the "Trio" K.498 for clarinet, viola and piano by W.A. Mozart and continue with works by Max Bruch, Amilcare Ponchielle, Igor Stravinsky, Andre Messager, George Gershwin and Charles Hoag. Open seating. Call 931-3405.

NEELY'S RHYTHM ACES Dan Neely, vocalist Carla Normand, and Neely's Rhythm Aces, the sextet from the Royal Society Jazz Orchestra of San Francisco and renowned for its Hot Syncopated 1920s jazz, 1930s and 1940s swing blues, Dixieland, vintage jazz and traditional jazz, will perform at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 24, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The concert is free. Call 931-3405.

Miscellaneous

'LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY' Members of the Alameda County Bar Association visit the Pleasanton Public Library on the third Tuesday of each month to give free 15 to 20 minute consultations, in a program co-sponsored by the Alameda County Bar Association. Appointments are by lottery. Register from 5:30-5:45 p.m.; names will be selected at 5:50 p.m. and people must be present when names are drawn. Appointments begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

On Stage

'CYMBELINE' - SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK Shakespeare's inventive fairytale of Princess Innogen's journey includes forbidden love, mistaken identities, banishment and a magic potion. Performances are from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Saturdays-Sundays, July 23-Aug. 7, at Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave. There is no charge for this production. Call 931-5340 or view www.firehousearts.org.

'SUNSHINE' Singer and songwriter, Jonathan Edwards, will perform "Sunshine" at 8 p.m., Saturday, July 9, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$16, \$22 and \$28 for adults; \$22 for seniors and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

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

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR SUPPORT GROUP If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about this common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us from 10 a.m.-noon on the third Saturday of each month, in the Blackhawk A and B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Rd. Call 487-5706 or e-mail galexplor@comcast.net.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP Formed in 2003 this group provides support and comfort to the Pleasanton families whose loved ones are deployed in the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. The group has monthly meetings and other events such as "pack outs" of comfort and care items for deployed members of the armed forces. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where streamers are displayed with the name, rank and branch of service of Pleasanton military personnel. Learn more at www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org.

STEPPING STONES ON YOUR GRIEF JOURNEY The Catholic Community of Pleasanton is offering bi-monthly meetings to help grieving people deal with their loss. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays now through Aug. 25 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Call Mary at 846-5377.

Seniors

GRANDPARENT AND ME Bring your grandchildren, preschool to third grade, and a lunch to the Senior Center from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Friday, July 29, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., to enjoy a morning of fun. Volunteers from the Pleasanton Public Library will be here to read the newest books. Crafts and activities, plus a treat will be served. Cost is \$1.75 for residents and \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

LUNCH PROGRAM The lunch program sponsored by Spectrum Community Services is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Lunch is served at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.25. Reservations required a day in advance by 1 p.m. Call 931-5385.

Support Groups

BEYOND TREATMENT BREAST CANCER This group provides a safe place to express and share thoughts, concerns and experiences of living with the uncertainty, the physical effects and problems related to intimacy, marriage, reproduction and employment. The group meets from 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month at ValleyCare Health Library & Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd, Suite #270. The group is facilitated by Mary Prishtina, RN, and Estee Goren, MFT. Call 399-1177.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS ORIENTATIONS Tour the Pleasanton Blood Donation Center and learn ways to greet, inform and thank the community's blood donors. The tour is from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, July 14, at the Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave. Advanced sign-up required. Call Anne at 510-594-5165.

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE At the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1-7 p.m., Friday, July 15, at 3574 Vineyard Ave. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to redcrossblood.org (Sponsor Code: INTERFAITHCOMMUNITY) to schedule an appointment.

GARDEN CHORES AT ALVISO ADOBE Be a steward of the land as you plant, water and weed the garden at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road, from 10-11 a.m., Saturdays, now through Aug. 27. Ages 5 and up. No charge. Call 931-3485 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/. Native plants help native animals find food and shelter; stop by and sift the soil through your fingers

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Orange Tabby still missing
Hellion, my 4 year old orange tabby male is still missing from 4/9/11. He has short hair, a long thin tail and lean long body. He is neutered and is not wearing a collar. He is microchipped. Last seen in the Santa Rita Road - Stoneridge Drive near the Arroyo. His brother and I desperately miss him. Any information please call Melissa at 510-381-3261. A reward is offered.



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210 Garage/Estate Sales

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Pleasanton, 4212 Denker Drive, July 8 & 9, 8:00 - 2:00
Multiple family garage sale. Couches, cd's, tools, movies, household items, bedding, clothing and much more.

Pleasanton, 5200 Crestline Way, July 16 8-2
Crestline Way neighborhood garage sale, multiple families, numerous items including furniture, stereo and tv equipment, dvds and sports equipment.

Pleasanton, 5527 Blackbird Dr., July 9 & 10, 8-3 & 9-2
Two Family Yard Sale!! Lots of baby clothes, baby supplies, antiques, books, VHS and more.

Girly Yard Sale
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Existing home sales decline across U.S. in May

Realtor's group blames constraints on buyers

By JEB BING

Existing-home sales were down in May as temporary factors and financing problems weighed on the market, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Existing-home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family, town-homes, condominiums and co-ops, fell 3.8% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.81 million in May from a downwardly revised 5 million in April, and are 15.3% below a 5.68 million pace in May 2010 when sales were surging to beat the deadline for the home buyer tax credit.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said temporary factors held back the market in May, as implied from prior data on contract signings.

"Spiking gasoline prices along with widespread severe weather hurt house shopping in April, leading to soft figures for actual closings in May," he said. "Current housing market activity indicates a very slow pace of broader economic activity, but recent reversals in oil prices are likely to mitigate the impact going forward."

"The pace of sales activity in the second half of the year is expected to be stronger than the first half, and will be much stronger than the second half of last year," Yun added.

Yun said the market also is being constrained by the lending community.

"Even with recent economic softness, this is a disappointing performance with home sales being held back by overly restrictive loan underwriting standards," he said. "There's been a pendulum swing from very loose standards which led to the housing boom to unnecessarily restrictive practices as an overreaction to the housing correction — this overreaction is clearly holding back the recovery."

There were notable regional differences in home sales.

"A large decline in Midwestern existing-home sales can be attributed partly to the flooding and other severe weather patterns that occurred, but this also implies a temporary nature of soft market activity," Yun explained.

The national median existing-home price for all housing types was \$166,500 in May, down 4.6% from May 2010. Distressed homes — typically sold at a discount of about 20% — accounted for 31% of sales in May, down from 37% in April; they were 31% in May 2010.

"The price decline could be diminishing, as buyers recognize great bargain prices and the highest affordability conditions in 40 years; this will help mitigate further price drops," Yun said.

"Home prices are rising or very stable in local markets with improved employment conditions, such as in North Dakota, Alaska, Washington, D.C., and many parts of Texas," Yun noted.

NAR President Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I., said a number of proposals being considered in Washington could further jeopardize the housing recovery.

"We're concerned about the flow of available

capital, including a possible rule that would effectively raise minimum down payment requirements to 20%," he said.

"We don't need to throw the baby out with the bath water — increasing down payment requirements would effectively shut many qualified families out of the market," he explained. "What we critically need is a return to the basics of providing safe mortgages to creditworthy buyers willing to stay well within their budget."

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage was 4.64% in May, down from 4.84% in April; the rate was 4.89% in May 2010.

"Although low mortgage interest rates are welcome, they are less meaningful compared to the tightness of loan underwriting standards," Yun noted.

Total housing inventory at the end of May fell 1.0% to 3.72 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 9.3-month supply at the current sales pace, up from a 9-month supply in April.

All-cash transactions stood at 30% in May, down from 31% in April; they were 25% in May 2010; investors account for the bulk of cash purchases.

First-time buyers purchased 35% of homes in May, down from 36% in April; they were 46% in May 2010 when the tax credit was in place. Investors accounted for 19% of purchase activity in May compared with 20% in April; they were 14% in May 2010.

Single-family home sales declined 3.2% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.24 million in May from 4.38 million in April, and are 15.4% below a surge to 5.01 million one year ago. The median existing single-family home price was \$166,700 in May, down 4.5% from May 2010.

Existing condominium and co-op sales fell 8.1% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 570,000 in May from 620,000 in April, and are 14.7% below the 668,000-unit pace in May 2010. The median existing condo price was \$165,400 in May, which is 5.8% below a year ago.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the Northeast declined 2.5% to an annual level of 770,000 in May and are 13.5% below May 2010. The median price in the Northeast was \$241,500, up 6.1% from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the Midwest dropped 6.4% in May to a pace of 1.02 million and are 22.7% below a year ago. The median price in the Midwest was \$136,400, which is 8.5% below May 2010.

In the South, existing-home sales fell 5.1% to an annual level of 1.85 million in May and are 14.4% below May 2010. The median price in the South was \$149,200, down 3.1% from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the West were unchanged at an annual pace of 1.17 million in May but are 10.0% lower than a year ago. The median price in the West was \$192,300, which is 12.6% below May 2010. ■

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Blackhawk

4 BEDROOMS
731 Blue Spruce Dr \$1,249,000
 Sun 1:30-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

Danville

3 BEDROOMS
216 Country Meadows Lane \$485,000
 Sat & Sun 1-4 Sue Fredrickson 413-1208

4 BEDROOMS
4044 Westminster Pl \$899,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

5 BEDROOMS
214 Pinewood Ct \$1,159,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

Dublin

4 BEDROOMS
4025 Chadwick Place \$589,000
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS
1414 Aspen Ct \$539,000
 Sun 1-4 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500

1219 Hansen Rd \$1,120,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5 BEDROOMS
2137 Bella Vista Pl \$1,090,000
 Sun 1-4 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500

Pleasanton

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4059 School Street \$568,000
 Sun 1-4 Eva Deagen 699-2133

219 Birch Creek Dr \$575,000
 Sat 1-4 Andrea Rozran 858-4198

5439 Cameo Ct \$429,900
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500

6432 Inglewood Dr \$585,000
 Sat 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

575 Del Sol Ave. \$949,000
 Sat 12:30-3:30/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 251-1111

5400 Black Avenue \$319,000
 Sun 2-5 BHG Realty, Katie Moe 216-9083

4 BEDROOMS
4674 Corday Court \$519,000
 Sun 1-4 The Bianchi Team 819-6080

3533 Mercato Ct \$1,525,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

4476 Tosca Ct \$1,299,995
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

1522 Poppybank Ct \$625,000
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

512 Bunker Ln \$1,350,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

4483 Shearwater Ct \$779,000
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2020 Martin Ave. \$1,595,000
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2691 Calle Alegre \$1,074,950
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3616 Nicole Ave \$1,825,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

4340 Campinia Pl \$1,295,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

1867 Sannita Court \$2,675,000
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500

1194 Via Di Salerno \$1,779,000
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San Ramon

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 Sun 12-3 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

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 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 667-2100

9632 Broadmoor Drive \$869,898
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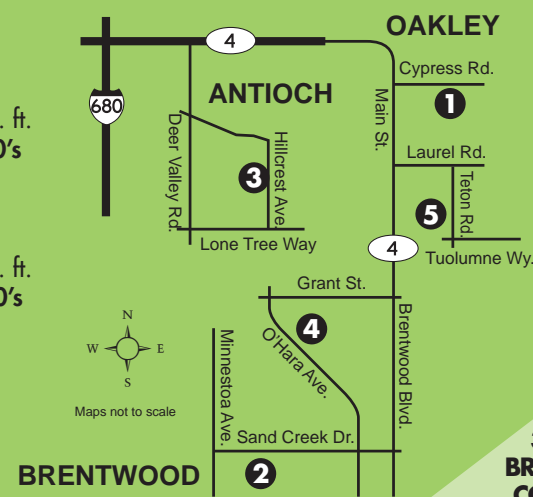
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<p>321 IRON HORSE COURT ALAMO</p>  <p>KAREN TEXEIRA (925) 251.5555</p> <p>\$2,299,000 • 5 Bd • 4.5 Ba • 5,780+/- sq.ft. European Estate on PRIVATE GATED COURT located among majestic oaks. Flat lot w/ new solar salt water pool. 6 car garage/ RV parking.</p>	<p>1678 VIA ROMERO ALAMO</p>  <p>DAVID AZIMI (925) 251.2580</p> <p>\$2,099,000 • 5 Bd • 4.5 Ba • 5,681+/- sq.ft. Park-like yard, custom pool, energy efficient, quality plus REO/ Bank owned home on 2+/- acres.</p>	<p>5359 AZALEA CT LIVERMORE</p>  <p>MICHAEL SWIFT (925) 251.2587</p> <p>\$299,000 • 2 Bd • 2 Ba • 1,280+/- sq.ft. Park Like Back Yard. Newer Stucco and Paint. HUGE living Room. Dual Pane Windows. New Furnace, A/C and 50 Year Roof.</p>	<p>2501 TAMWORTH LN SAN RAMON</p> <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p>  <p>CINDY ENGEL (925) 580.5107</p> <p>\$1,095,000 • 4 Bd • 4 Ba • 3,824+/- sq.ft. Pebble sheen pool. prem lot, 4 car garage, office, bonus rm, cust blt-ins, crown mouldings, close to hike trails, top-rated schools. 300k in upgrades!</p>	<p>9877 FOOTHILL RD SUNOL</p>  <p>KRISTY & COMPANY (925) 251.2536</p> <p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 3,027+/- sq.ft., 19.89+/- 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>

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Stunning executive home backing to the 12th tee with breathtaking views of the golf course and city lights.

6605 AMBER LN PLEASANTON



\$1,249,000 • 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.

321 IRON HORSE COURT ALAMO



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

219 E ANGELA ST PLEASANTON



\$1,099,000 • 4 Bd • 3 Ba • 2,178+/- sq.ft.
Tudor, walk to downtown! 300+/- sq.ft. carriage house. Gourmet kitchen, granite, hardwood floors, solid wood arched doors, private yard.

2416 VIA DE LOS MILAGROS PLEASANTON



NOW PENDING

\$1,198,000 • 5 Bd • 3 Ba • 3,259+/- sq.ft.
Amador model in Original Country Faire. Upgraded, kitchen, bamboo floors, wooded lot with pool, spa, lawn, gazebos, fountains, and more!

PHYLLIS WEINER 925.872.1416

WMGHOMES.COM

PETER MCDOWELL 925.209.0343

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DANVILLE
1250 COUNTRY LANE
CUSTOM RANCHER! **\$1,599,950**
5 BR 3.5 BA Upgraded home w/In-law Apt.Pool w/ deck.Formal living/Dining rm.5 Stall Barn & raised garden 925.847.2200



FREMONT
4474 MACBETH CIRCLE
ARDENWOOD HOME! **\$550,000**
4 BR 2 BA Pleasant flr plan w/Atrium.Updated Kit. w/granite,recessed lighting.Dual pane windows. 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
6329 CORTE ESPERANZA
PONDEROSA HOME **\$949,950**
4 BR 3 BA Many upgrades!4.5" Plantation Shutters.Brazilian Hardwood flrs in Kit+Tea Stained Cabinets 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
Open SAT/SUN 12 - 4 **145 COPPER RIDGE RD**
Condos/Townhouses Avail Pricing Starts in the High \$200's
1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses,vaulted ceilings avail,w/garages,gated,renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

CASTRO VALLEY

5167 CHESNEY GLEN DRIVE
EXCELLENT LOCATION! **\$499,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA Modern Decor.Laminate floor downstairs.Spacious Kit. w/maple cabinets & pantry. 925.847.2200

counters,court location,vaulted ceilings,walk to schools. 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 **5254 PERSIMMON DRIVE**
COMING SOON! **CALL FOR PRICING!**
4 BR 3.5 BA 3100 SqFt Downstairs Master Suite,Bonus room upstairs Nicely Landscaped Excellent Location 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

4706 BEL ROMA RD.
LOVELY RANCH HOME! **\$2,250,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA Formal Dining & Living rm.Lrge Fam. Rm w/wet bar.Remodeled Kit w/Granite.6 Stall horse barn 925.847.2200

counters,updated cabinets,laminate flrs,many upgrades throughout 925.847.2200

2412 TAMUR COURT

COMING SOON! **CALL FOR PRICING!**
3 BR 2 BA New paint & new flooring Located across the street from Kottinger park,& walk to downtown! 925.847.2200

FREMONT

4557 CELIA COURT
BEAUTIFUL ARDENWOOD HOME **\$630,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA Light & Bright Kit w/new Marble

PLEASANTON

892 MADEIRA DR
COMPLETE REMODEL! **\$699,900**
4 BR 2.5 BA Home located in Vintage Hills Kit/ Bath New granite cntrs,new cabinets,new tile flrs. 925.847.2200

SAN LEANDRO

1272 BEGIER AVE
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED! **\$599,000**
3 BR 2 BA Hardwood Flrs.Chef's Kit.Custom Cabinets.Farm House sink.Travertine flr.Recessed lighting. 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

6953 EMERSON LANE
SOLAR POWERED HOME! **\$1,048,000**
5 BR 4.5 BA Corner Lot.Formal Dining.Many

upgrades.Hrwd Flrs,Prof landscape yd w/flagstone patio. 925.847.2200

5118 HOLBORN WAY

HOME WITH A VIEW! **\$995,000**
4 BR 3.5 BA Bright & Open Flr Plan.Hardwood flrs downstairs.Updated Kit w/Granite.Fam Rm w/ Fireplace 925.847.2200

Open SUN 12 - 3

2536 CRANFORD WAY
BEAUTIFUL HOME! **\$949,000**
4 BR 4 BA Over 4000 Sq. Ft. w/Huge Bonus Room. Gourmet Eat-In Kit.Granite Slab,SS Appli.& Tile flrs. 925.847.2200

TRACY

2669 HANDSTAND WAY
REDBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD **\$414,000**
Mahogany wood flrs from entry through kit and Fam. rm.Kit w/S.S. appl.Community Amenities. 925.847.2200



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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(925) 621-4097

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OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



3717 BRANDING IRON PLACE, DUBLIN

Just listed! Don't miss this 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhome situated in the desirable Silvera Villas neighborhood of Dublin. With approximately 1654 sq ft of living space, this gorgeous home has a wonderful light and bright open floor plan. This home features many upgrades throughout. **OFFERED AT \$465,000**

PENDING



1422 WHISPERING OAK WAY, PLEASANTON

Beautifully appointed 5 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, 2988 sq ft home close to schools, parks, downtown, and hwy 680. Kitchen upgraded with granite counters, ss appliances, breakfast nook & newer patio glass door. Spacious master suite has a stunning upgraded bathroom & large walk-in closet. **OFFERED AT \$899,000**

PENDING



942 VENTURA AVENUE, LIVERMORE

Don't miss this completely updated 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in South Livermore! Newer laminate wood floors throughout the home, recently updated kitchen with dark wood cabinets, stainless steel appliances & granite counters. **OFFERED AT \$279,900**

JUST SOLD



4969 MOHR AVENUE, PLEASANTON

Gorgeous home in the desirable Gates neighborhood of Pleasanton. Home consists of 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and is approximately 2103 sq ft of living space. Fabulous floor plan with a sunny open kitchen and breakfast nook that opens to the family room. **SOLD FOR \$770,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street

3616 NICOLE AVENUE, PLEASANTON LOCATED IN MOHR/MARTIN ESTATES

OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



5 BD 3.5 BA 4,460sf. on a 3/4 acre lot. Remodeled kitchen w/ large island, breakfast nook, granite counters & Brazilian cherry floors, large master & additional bedroom on main level. Large private backyard with pool. **\$1,825,000**

2020 MARTIN AVENUE, PLEASANTON LOCATED IN MOHR/MARTIN ESTATES

OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



4 BD/office 3 BA 3,107sf. + 1,100sf. guest home or a 24,932sf. lot. Updated gourmet kitchen with cook island, generous storage. Overlooks the grand rear yard that offers a pool, bocce court, fire pit & spacious grass area. **\$1,595,000**

575 DEL SOL AVENUE, PLEASANTON LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON

OPEN SAT 12:30-3:30 & SUN 1:30-4:30



3 BD 2.5 BA tri-level home with 2,266sf. on a 6,490 acre lot. Recently upgraded throughout, kitchen offers cherry wood cabinets, recessed lighting, and gas cooking. Amazing views from two covered patios! Walking distance to downtown! **\$949,000**

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

OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



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. Backs to the 4th hole green. **\$869,898**

1522 POPPYBANK CT. PLEASANTON LOCATED IN CHARTER OAKS DUETS

OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30-4:30



4 BD 2.5 BA 2,020sf. on a 2,850sf. lot. Location, privacy, updated & move in ready. Open kitchen w/ granite countertops. Large master w/ cherry cabinets and large tub. Private backyard perfect for entertaining. **\$625,000**

4025 CHADWICK PLACE, DUBLIN LOCATED IN TASSAJARA CREEK

OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30-4:30



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**

AVAILABLE



5082 CRESTWOOD CT. PLEASANTON LOCATED IN PLEASANTON VALLEY

Charming 3 BD 2 BA 1520sf. on a 11,119sf lot. Refinished wood flooring throughout, updated kitchen. Spectacular rear yard with professional landscaping on a private and spacious lot. **\$685,000**

COMING SOON



3623 CAMERON AVE. PLEASANTON LOCATED IN MOHR/MARTIN ESTATES

4 BD 2.5 BA 3,291sf. on a 39,892sf lot. Country elegance close to town. This single story offers a private well, pool, volleyball court, horseshoe court and so much more! **\$1,325,000**

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The latest from The 680 Blog

Q & A: Should We Counter That Offer?

Our home is currently for sale in Pleasanton. We have only been on the market for about 2 weeks. We received an offer yesterday, and while it is a really good offer, we think we should give the buyer a counter offer to see if they will go up. Is this smart?

This is a great question, and reflects a situation that occurs all too often. Namely, how do you respond to an offer? Over the years I've heard and seen everything. I had one client tell me once that his best friend told him to "always counter every offer". When I asked what his friend did for a living, the seller told me he was a restaurant manager. Now I'm sure he was very capable in his position, but I did question his ability to give advice on the local real estate market. Because when it is all said and done, this question can only be answered in the context of the local market conditions at that point in time.

There are risks to the seller all the way around. If you counter

the buyer's offer, you run the risk of the buyer changing their mind or not responding. I have seen this happen numerous times. The buyer puts forth a good faith offer, and feels insulted that the seller counters them, and decides to look elsewhere. And on several occasions, I have seen sellers end up selling the house for less than what their original offer was.

On the other hand, if you accept the buyer's first offer, how do you know that they are not willing to pay more? Again, the short answer is you don't. Maybe they will, maybe they >> **Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.**



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

OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



Fabulous French Country custom with 5 BR + office & retreat, 4 full & 2 half BTH, hardwood floors, 4 car garage, and private .62 acre lot with pool.
\$1,779,000
1194 Via di Salerno

OPEN SUN 1-4



Pristine remodeled single story! 3 BR, 2 BTH, hardwood floors, cherry & granite kitchen, dual pane windows, and large 8000 sq ft lot with paved side access!
\$669,500
7791 Desertwood Lane

COMING SOON!



Walk to Vintage Hills School! Spacious single story home with 3 BR, 2 1/2 BTH, 3 fireplaces, sunny updated kitchen, vaulted ceilings, and large 8600 sq ft private creek side lot!
\$600,000's

PENDING SALE!



Old world charm in a private oasis! Stunning single story custom home. 4 BR, 4 1/2 BTH, private .75 acre lot with pool & security gate, and exceptional quality!
\$1,785,000

JUST SOLD!



Fabulous estate home with 6 BR + loft & office/rec room, 5 BTH, 4 car garage, stone flooring, dream kitchen, and 1.1 acre lot with pool, sports court, outdoor kitchen and views!
\$1,840,000

JUST SOLD!



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



apr.com | PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111



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LAGUNA OAKS

COMING SOON



2505 ARLOTTA PLACE, PLEASANTON
Best location in Laguna Oaks! Desirable Newport model on premium .40 acre lot. Quiet premium court location. Four bedrooms, bonus room, plus formal office. Private guest/in law/ au pair quarters (4th). Three and a half bathrooms. Approximately 3,830 square feet. Large gourmet kitchen, granite countertops, custom backsplash, tile flooring and large eating area. Spacious master suite with views of Pleasanton Ridge, and large walk in closet. Beautifully landscaped rear yard with ultimate privacy. Expansive lawn areas (pool site). A short walk to the community pool, park, and tennis courts. **PRICE TO FOLLOW**

VINTAGE HILLS

JUST LISTED OPEN SUN 1-4



3593 ARBOR COURT, PLEASANTON
Beautiful single level in quiet court location. Excellent condition. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, 1766 square feet. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with new cabinetry and stainless appliances. Wood flooring, fully cased windows, new light fixtures, new hardware, upgraded bathrooms. Private premium .26 acre lot with large park-like rear grounds. Pebble tech free form pool, brick patio, covered patio area, wood deck and spacious lawn area. Walk to great neighborhood Parks. Convenient to downtown. Award winning Pleasanton schools. **OFFERED AT \$729,500**

OAK MANOR



819 OAK MANOR COURT, PLEASANTON
As soon as you enter you will be impressed with the unique elegance. Gorgeous custom home on private .62 acre lot. Approximately 4,541 square feet, four bedrooms (two master suites) plus office/wine room and bonus loft area and 5.5 bathrooms. Quality, high end equipment and finishes throughout. Gourmet kitchen with granite slab counters and stainless steel appliances. Hardwood floors. Oversized four car garage. Beautifully landscaped Tahoe-like grounds with mature trees. Two minutes to Castlewood Country Club. **OFFERED AT \$1,649,000**

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 \$1,439,000**

FOOTHILL KNOLLS

PENDING



7863 FOOTHILL KNOLLS, PLEASANTON
Beautiful single story on private premium .35 acre lot. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, approximately 2,150 square feet. Completely remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, custom backsplash, custom cabinetry and high end European appliances. Hardwood flooring, French doors, vaulted ceilings, newer windows, newer tile roof. Master suite includes custom built-in closet/dresser area, French doors to rear grounds, private bathroom with dual sinks. Very private professionally landscaped rear grounds, with no rear neighbors. Recently re-plastered and tiled pool/spa with new equipment. Built-in kitchen/BBQ island with refrigerator. Mature trees, patios and lawn areas. **OFFERED AT \$949,000**

CHARTER OAKS

PENDING



1549 MAPLE LEAF DRIVE, PLEASANTON
Highly upgraded four bedroom, plus bonus/teen room, three bathrooms. Approximately 2,541 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 \$899,500**

SYCAMORE HEIGHTS

JUST CLOSED



1092 SYCAMORE CREEK WY, 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! **SOLD FOR \$1,490,000**

RUBY HILL

JUST CLOSED



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. **SOLD FOR \$1,382,500**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street





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DANIEL ALPHER BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,579,000
Warm & inviting 4391+/-sf estate on a court with over 334k+/- in upgrades. Quality, charm & designer touches embrace this 4bd/4.5ba luxury home! www.3372SagewoodCt.com 3372 SAGEWOOD CT

DIANE SMUGERESKY BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,179,000
5bd/3ba, 3501+/-sf beauty! Large upgraded kitchen w/granite counters & stainless steel appliances. Gleaming hardwood floors downstairs, new carpets upstairs, views of Mount Diablo! 857 MONTEVINO DR

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



PLEASANTON \$1,075,950
Just reduced! Rarely available 5 bd, 3 full ba, 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

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPT



SAN RAMON \$979,950
Location Location Location. Features include five BR plus den, 4 BA, one bed & bath downstairs, granite, stainless steel Appliances, 3 car garage, and located across from the park. 865 PIPERS BROOK CT

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SAT/SUN



PLEASANTON \$949,000
3bd/2.5ba, 2266+/-sf, tri-level, recently upgraded throughout, cherry kitchen cabinets, recessed lighting, gas cooking, amazing views from 2 covered patios, walking distance to downtown. 575 DEL SOL AVE

TIFFANY ROSE BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$899,000
Prime location across from Valley View Elementary! Custom, spacious, unique family friendly home w/parklike 12,500+/-sf lot, pool/spa, oversized upstairs deck, back house w/475+/-sf. Views! 465 ADAMS WAY

TIM MCGUIRE OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$779,000
Absolutely "turnkey"; remodeled throughout, eat-in granite kitchen, SS appliances, travertine marble master bath, hw floors, plantation shutters, finished garage/attic storage and more! 4483 SHEARWATER CT

JOYCE JONES SUN 2-4



PLEASANTON \$749,000
4bd/3ba (1 bd/ba downstairs), updated kitchen/baths, & solar panels for energy efficiency. End of the cul-de-sac, backing to greenbelt w/playground, community pool, tennis courts! 3298 MONMOUTH COURT

JULIA MURTAGH SAT 2-4:30



PLEASANTON \$585,000
Super clean, upgraded kitchen, huge beautiful backyard, new windows, great location, very well maintained by owners. 6432 INGLEWOOD DR

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$525,000
Charming "WillowWest" home, quiet court, new roof, paint, carpet & updated master bath. Finished garage w/insulated garage door, separate HVAC, carpet, can lights, cabinets, & more! 4649 KLAMATH CT

BLACK

A tuxedo. Caviar. The little black dress. Alain Pinel Realtors.



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

