

Pleasanton Weekly

25 players compete
in Pleasanton's junior
tennis tournament » 17



VOL. XIII, NUMBER 7 • MARCH 2, 2012

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identity FRAUD

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MARTA RIEDY BY APPT



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DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



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MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



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MOXLEY TEAM SUN 1:00-4:00



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SALLY MARTIN BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$895,000
Stunning hardwood floors & vaulted ceilings. Kitchen has slab granite & lrg brkfst nook. Master with fireplace & fabulous views. Gorgeous pool & spa. 5th bdrm is an office, 4th bdrm is media room. 1108 CRELLIN ROAD

STASIA POIESZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$699,000
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



JEB BING

Waterslides developer Glenn Kierstad in happier days.

Keep the waterslides open

The East Bay Regional Park District wants to close the Shadow Cliffs waterslides in Pleasanton for good. It's already said it won't open the slides this summer, no doubt disappointing the 26,000 who used them last year. But with park district inspectors declaring the slides unsafe and with repairs estimated at \$400,000, the park district, never a fan of the slides and its longtime operator Glenn Kierstad, wants to replace them with something less costly to operate, such as an interpretive center. That should keep the summer crowds coming!

To be fair before making the final decision, the park district will hold its final public hearing at a Board Operations Committee meeting on the issue March 15. Even though the slides, along with most of its users and supporters are in Pleasanton, you'll have to go to the park district's headquarters at 2950 Peralta Oaks Court in Oakland to express an opinion. On the other hand, don't bother. The decision's been made by Ayn Wienskamp, our park district board member from Livermore who represents Pleasanton's interest, and her colleagues who already have said they plan to close the waterslides.

The upcoming hearing is a sham. At previous hearings, support for retaining and upgrading the waterslides was almost unanimous. Susan Andrade-Wax, Pleasanton's Community Services director, and all the members of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission asked the East Bay Park District representatives to keep the wa-

terslides open. Even some who liked the alternative plans for more trails and the interpretive center, also asked that the slides stay open.

But the die was cast when Wienskamp and park district inspectors invited a reporter from the San Jose Mercury News for an exclusive tag-along look at the slides in January. Kierstad, who has operated the waterslides since they were built and knows the maintenance schedule, wasn't invited. The inspection took place in mid-winter when the slides aren't maintained and probably are in their worst condition. No one even turned on the water to see if they could operate before unnamed city, county, fire district and state inspectors declared the slides a hazard that shouldn't be allowed to open again.

We've watched the thousands of kids, including many of our own, come breathtakingly down the Shadow Cliffs slides summer after summer. Since 1981, when Kierstad obtained is permit to build and operate the slides, they have offered a reasonably-priced hot summer day of fun for families and children who could enjoy a day of cooling recreation right here in Pleasanton. Kierstad says he could make the needed repairs to the slides for much less than the \$400,000 the park district estimates, but he will need a 20-year lease to keep them running to pay off the loans he'll need. He's likely out of luck, and with no thanks for the 30 years he's operated the slides, trouble-free.

Without the slides, the thousands who might have enjoyed them this summer and in the future will now have to drive to waterslide parks in San Jose or Concord to spend their money for summer fun. ■

About the Cover

Identity theft is becoming a common occurrence in Pleasanton; although more thieves are in business, they are able to steal less money. Design by Lili Cao.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

With gas prices rising to \$4 and \$5 a gallon, will your driving habits change?



Sue Falls
Instructional assistant

I walk to work, but I would try to be more thoughtful about driving on the weekends.

Lourdes Rudd

Stay-at-home mom

Yes. I won't travel that much. I would normally drive to the Central Valley to visit my family, but I can't anymore even though I drive a Prius.



Carmie Buhalis

Tutor/mom

Yes. It costs about \$80 to fill up my SUV, and as a result we are considering purchasing a more fuel-efficient car to help keep gas costs down.

Charles Seiter

Engineering manager

Not in particular at this point. I have a very short commute, so it hasn't affected me much. I would have to weigh out a long distance trip, but the economics of driving compared with buying multiple plane tickets can't be argued with.



Jack Storage

Health and safety consultant

Not really, because I try to minimize my driving as much as possible already. I moved here to be closer to work, and I'm very light-footed on my gas. I do what I can to conserve fuel.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2012 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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DIGEST

Special Olympics needs volunteers

Volunteer referees and medical personnel — certified nurses, doctors or EMTs — are needed for the Special Olympics basketball tournament being hosted March 17-18 by Amador Valley High School for the ninth year. Games will take place at Harvest Park and Pleasanton middle schools as well as the high school.

To volunteer, contact Special Olympics Coordinator Ken Mano at 846-4381 in the evenings or email avboosters@comcast.net.

Amador Valley will host the Special Olympics volleyball tournament and track meet on May 19. Volunteers will be registered for this event in April.

BART wants to hear from you

BART is holding public meetings to get input about a proposed fare increase in July, as well as to find out if Clipper cards are convenient to purchase. The fare increase will help to replace aging trains, a long-range project expected to total \$3 billion. Most of the funding will come from local, regional, state and federal governments, with BART contributing about 25%.

As part of Clipper, a regional payment system for public transportation, BART's discounted fares for seniors and youths are automatically deducted as they board. BART wants to make sure that the cards are readily available in the communities it serves, cards are at various transportation service centers.

The meetings will be held March 6 in Oakland; March 12, Concord; March 14, San Francisco; March 15, Daly City; and March 19, Richmond. Or an online survey at www.bart.gov can be used to give input.

Free energy seminar

The Pleasanton Downtown Association is holding a free presentation for businesses and building owners to learn more about PG&E's switch to a Time Variable Pricing rate beginning Nov. 1 on non-residential accounts. Topics will include rate changes, energy assessments and monitoring, solar options, quality maintenance and incentive programs, city rebates and other commercial energy programs.

The meeting will be held from 8-10 a.m., Wednesday, March 14, at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St. in Pleasanton. RSVPs required; go to eup-commercial3-14.eventbrite.com.

Unions urge members, Democrats to rally against Walmart

Labor leaders say retailer pays workers below-scale wages

By JEB BING

Union leaders called on members and others at a Democratic Party rally last week to protest at upcoming meetings throughout the East Bay where operating permits for Walmart grocery stores will be considered.

First up for the union protests is a public hearing scheduled March 14 before the Pleasanton Planning Commission.

The commission will hear an appeal by Linda Martin and Angela Willmes, both Pleasanton residents, asking the commission to overturn an approval of a zoning administrator's recommendation to allow Walmart to move into the former Nob Hill store in the Meadow Plaza Shopping Center. The shopping center is located on Santa Rita Road just south of West Las Positas Boulevard.

The union spokesmen made their pitch for support in battling proposed Walmart Neighborhood Markets in Pleasanton, San Ramon and other East Bay cities. Their pleas came at a rally in

the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers hall in Dublin where 350 were waiting to hear comments from Congressman Pete Stark, who is seeking re-election in the new 15th Congressional District, and his challenger, fellow Democrat Eric Swalwell, an Alameda County deputy district attorney and Dublin City Councilman.

Union representatives urged the crowd, and especially union members, to attend the March 14 meeting in Pleasanton to show their unified objections to allowing Walmart to open one of its Neighborhood Markets at the Nob Hill site. Union leaders said Walmart pays its employees below-union scale wages, denies part-timers health insurance, and then sells groceries at lower prices than the larger supermarkets can afford, threatening smaller grocers.

More than 150 packed a Pleasanton City Council meeting Feb. 7 when the council, in a 4-1 vote, approved an item on the consent calendar that said Walmart could reopen the Nob

Hill market because no major changes would be made to the provisions of the operating permit that governed Nob Hill.

Councilman Matt Sullivan voted against the recommendation. And while the other four on the council voted in favor, their vote came after City Attorney Jonathan Lowell explained in detail that their approval could be appealed, which it now has. It's likely that the same group of protestors and supporters of the Walmart bid will be at the Planning Commission hearing. And, no matter how the commission votes, it's also likely that the "losing" side will appeal that decision back to the City Council for another public hearing all over again.

This all makes it likely that Walmart won't have an answer on its Nob Hill bid before late spring or early summer.

The delays don't please Tom Foley, the property manager of Meadow Plaza Shopping Center

See **WALMART** on Page 7



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Occupy Oakland members join Castlewood workers and union members to march through downtown Pleasanton to the country club last Saturday.

Occupiers march to Castlewood Country Club

Club spokesman responds to union claims, urges member vote

Between 300 and 350 people turned out for last weekend's Occupy Pleasanton event to protest the lockout of workers from Castlewood Country Club, now in its second year.

Pleasanton Police and Alameda County Sheriff's deputies escorted the marchers, but there were no arrests and the event concluded without incident.

While no one camped out, a group calling itself "Save the 1%" pitched tents near the golf course during the protest as a satirical gesture. That group, which carried signs like "The rich make the world work (for us)," and "Golfing is a human right," dressed in suits, ties and evening gowns and was featured this week in Mother Jones, a liberal magazine based in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, UniteHERE Local 2850, the union representing the 57 full- and part-time workers

locked out of the country club, is awaiting a ruling from the National Labor Relations Board.

"The last day of the hearing is Thursday, March 1," said union organizer Sarah Norr. "From there, it will be another two or three months before a decision is issued."

Norr said negotiations between club management and the union have been called off for now.

"We have not been negotiating for the past couple months because everyone's been focused on the NLRB case. We will probably resume soon, but don't have a definite date yet," she said.

The dispute mainly revolves around health care benefits; Castlewood spokesman Vintage Foster, president of AMF Media Group, said the club wants the union to allow a vote on its

See **CASTLEWOOD** on Page 7

PUSD board votes to slash budget by \$5.3 million

Cuts include counselors, reading specialists and Barton program

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

A split school board voted to keep a proposed list of cuts intact, despite a last-minute effort by two members to restore a reading program and a reading specialist.

On a 3-2 vote at its Tuesday meeting, the board adopted cuts that will mean the layoffs of the equivalent of 75.22 employees although, because some are part-time, the number of pink slips sent out will be higher, according to Bill Faraghan, assistant superintendent of human resources.

Board President Joan Laursen and members Jeff Bowser and Chris Grant voted to approve the cuts as listed. Board Members Valerie Arkin and Jamie Hintzke supported a modified cut list that would keep the Barton Reading Program intact and restore one reading specialist.

All five members said they support reading programs.

Arkin made a motion asking the board to reconsider its approval of spending \$240,000 on a facilities study.

Laursen noted that parliamentary procedure did not allow for the motion; Arkin then changed her motion to approve the cuts without the reading specialist or the Barton program being cut, and requested the facilities master plan be reconsidered at the next board meeting, before layoff notices were finalized.

"I would ask for leniency on this because I asked for this to be on the agenda tonight," Arkin said, referring to the facilities master plan. She and Hintzke asked staff at the last board meeting to come up with other cuts that could keep the reading specialist and Barton program off the cut list; Arkin's motion to approve the cuts without the specialist and Barton on the cut list lost on a 2-3 vote.

Despite the vote to approve two cut lists, one of cuts that were made and then restored last year, and a new round of cuts, Laursen, Grant and Bowser said that doesn't mean the end of district support for reading or the cuts that in-

See **CUTS** on Page 6

TAKE US ALONG



Roman adventure: Rose & Marla Marino enjoy the Pleasanton Weekly at the Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy.

CUTS

Continued from Page 5

clude a reduction in counselors at high schools and middle schools, the end of class size reductions

and a physical education position, among other things.

Those were cut last year but restored with fundraising, concessions from the district's CSEA (California Service Employees As-

sociation) workers and by using district reserve money. Those cuts, which totaled more than \$3.1 million, were brought back on a one-time basis.

The new cuts total just over \$2.2 million. They include the elimination of adult education and summer school, additional cuts for counseling at all schools, cuts in psychologists and program specialists, reductions in custodial services at middle and high schools and the district offices and cuts to maintenance and grounds services. They also include eliminating car allowances for managers and reducing car allowances for other management by \$200 a month and cutting the work year for management by five days.

The new round of cuts was necessary because the district has to anticipate the possibility that a tax increase referendum proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown might not pass. Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services, outlined the two scenarios that could occur, with the district losing \$150,000 if the tax increase is approved and

losing \$5.4 million if the tax increase doesn't pass. The two cuts total more than \$5.35 million.

More than 30 people attended the board meeting Tuesday night, many coming for a second time to ask the board to keep the Barton program intact. Seven people asked the board to restore the program, including Dianna Zachlod, a third-grader at Walnut Grove Elementary School.

"I'm a smart girl, but I've had a hard time learning to read," Zachlod told the board, citing how much her skills have improved during the single year she's been in Barton. Most of the others who spoke were parents who worry about what will happen to their children if that program and the reading specialist were cut.

Bowser suggested that they could be restored with savings that could come about through union concessions and with donations.

"This is like a bad movie," he said. "We're trying to anticipate what the bad scenario will be with so many uncertainties and knowing that we can go from bad to worse with the stroke of a pen."

Those uncertainties include whether some programs that are required but not funded by the state will be waived and whether a weighted funding formula that would direct money to poorer districts will continue as planned. Cazares said Pleasanton stands to be one of the biggest losers should that plan go forward.

While Arkin and Hintzke said it

would be easier to keep Barton and the reading specialist than it would be to bring them back, Grant said he's committed to bringing back as much as possible.

"I will fight to have Barton restored," he said. "We need to restore all of these programs."

Regarding school funding, Cazares said she'd recently been questioned about "magical money" that appears at the end of each year in time to bring back some employees and restore programs. She attributed that to employee concessions that have amounted to \$7.5 million over the last three years, and to \$1.6 million in donations raised by Pleasanton Partnerships in Education and by the Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation over the same time.

Negotiations with the district's two unions are continuing and could offset some of the cuts. However, the board Tuesday night took the first step toward staff reductions when it approved the release of all of its temporary certificated employees, which total the equivalent of 50 fulltime employees.

The board also approved policy that will allow drug detection dogs on all three high school campuses. Those dogs — which will be kept away from students — will search student and staff parking lots and student gym lockers. With the OK, searches can begin any time, although they must have the approval of Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi or someone she designates to make the approvals for her. ■

ValleyCare Health System Celebrates

Patient Safety Awareness Week

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During this week ValleyCare is celebrating its commitment to patient safety.

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FOCUS ON FITNESS

What's your excuse for not exercising?

DEAR JIM: It seems like I've been thinking about exercise forever, but I always have a million excuses and never get started. When I read that more than 2/3 of Americans are overweight — and more than 1/3 are obese — I get concerned, but since I'm probably one of the 2/3 majority, I assume that I'm just normal and just shrug it off. Do most people make excuses like I do to rationalize their lack of physical activity? **LAZY BONES IN LAS VEGAS**



DEAR LAZY BONES: Most people have every excuse in the world not to exercise, let alone engage in any kind of athletic endeavor. They are too tired, too fat, too old, too sick, too busy, too weak, too lazy, too depressed, too this, or too that. They have physical disabilities, they are in pain — well, you get the message. Instead of trying to be everyone else, why not look at those people who have overcome some of these excuses and achieved extraordinary accomplishments:

- **26-year-old Nick Vujicic** of Australia (now living in Los Angeles) was born with no arms and no legs due to a rare condition known as Phocomelia. He has a small foot on his hip which allows him to balance himself and to kick. Vujicic, who holds a degree in Financial Planning and Real Estate, can type and write with his foot and pick up things between his toes. Despite his missing appendages, Vujicic swims, surfs, and even plays football.
- **Charles Zibleman** swam for 168 consecutive hours in a pool in Honolulu. Three years earlier he swam the Hudson River from Albany to New York City, a distance of 147 mi., to set the distance record for handicapped swimmers. By the way, Zibleman had no legs.
- **Pete Gray** played professional baseball for the major league St. Louis Browns with one arm (he lost his arm in an accident as a youngster) and once had five hits and two RBI against the New York Yankees.
- **Marie Dorothy Buder** was 23 when became a nun. More than two decades later as Sister Madonna, she started running. At a time when many of her peers were slowing down, Sister Buder was just warming up. At 52, she added swimming and biking to her repertoire, and since 1982 she's powered through more than 300 triathlons, including 34 full Ironmans (2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, 26.2-mile run). In 1996, she completed an Ironman in 14:27:14—fast enough to break the world record for 65- to 69-year-olds. And at 75, Buder became the oldest woman to complete the Hawaii Ironman, a title she repeated in 2006.
- **Kyle Maynard** is a former college award-winning wrestler and amateur mixed martial artist born with congenital amputation of the forearms and lower legs. Maynard had a record of 35 wins 16 losses as a high school wrestler.

Now, what's your excuse?

Jim Evans is a 45-year veteran of the health and fitness industry and internationally recognized fitness consultant. He is also a member of the Visionary Board of the International Council on Active Aging. Readers can send their questions to Jim about health, fitness, and quality of life to jime@bayareaaffc.com.

This column is brought to you by Bay Area Family Fitness Center, 4250 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, in the Rosewood Shopping Center. Call 925-416-1100 for further information.



School district adds position

Duties include analyzing test data

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

The Pleasanton school district has a new public face to replace former public information officer Myla Grasso, who moved to the purchasing department last year.

Nicole Steward started as Management Assistant/Technology Coordinator in November, earning \$76,034 as an 80% fulltime employee, although sending out news releases and the district's e-connection digital newsletter is just a part of her duties.

Steward explained that she's working with schools on testing, helping them "translate the data into English."

She previously worked at Fremont Unified School District, where for the last year and a half she was a behavior management specialist, working directly with students and their families.

"I was contracted with the Alameda County Behavioral



Nicole Steward

Heath Services to do prevention and early intervention for students with academic and behavioral needs. I also did transition counseling with sixth-graders on their way to seventh," Steward said. "I was able to move many students from 'below basic' to 'proficient' on their state testing simply by working with them and their families to provide the non-

school services they needed."

That, she said, included helping with things like housing, food, and child care. Now, she said she's taking a macro approach, but is still helping students.

"Much of the work I did one-on-one with students and their families translates perfectly to my new position as it gives me a real-world picture of what the achievement gap really looks like and how it impacts communities," Steward said. "It also gives me a strong personal/moral push to make sure Pleasanton Unified has their assessment and technology needs met so they can better serve every student in the district."

Steward, who lives in San Jose, said she decided on the move to Pleasanton because her earlier job as public information officer, which she held for about two-and-a-half years in Fremont, was cut and her last job was "shaky." ■

CASTLEWOOD

Continued from Page 5

final offer.

"About 40 of their members signed a petition that said, 'We want to vote on this offer,' and they have not been able to," Foster said. "The position was presented to us at the bargaining table."

While approving a vote doesn't mean it will pass, Foster questioned why the union is blocking it. He also said the union is looking for better health care coverage than most country clubs provide.

"What Castlewood Country Club has done is said, 'We're going to protect the employee' — 100% of coverage of the single employee is covered in our proposal," Foster said. He said on average, East Bay country clubs pay 93% of health benefits for single employees and most pay an average of 48% of health care coverage for families; the club's proposal would pay 47%.

Foster noted that health care benefits have risen 113% in the last 10 years, but the club "has not passed a single dime of that cost onto its employees."

He said he's confident the club will win at the NLRB hearing, as it did in the last hearing.



In a mock counter protest, a group called "Save the 1%" held its own rally, with signs like, "Cheap labor bought my Lexus."

Norr could not be reached for comment.

Foster said the cost of membership has dropped from about \$85,000 to around \$11,000, but said that was because of the economy, as is the case with many local clubs, and not the lockout. Castlewood has 800 regular members.

He admitted, however, that the club has lost business as a result of the strike.

"The union has gone to meet with organizations that want to have events at Castlewood and said, 'We will not support you or your business if you hold your event there,'" Foster said.

—**Glenn Wohltmann**

WALMART

Continued from Page 5

where the empty Nob Hill store is located.

"Since Nob Hill Foods closed in 2010, our center has been without an anchor tenant," he said. "We have worked hard to find a business to locate in the vacant building. We are very pleased that the Walmart Neighborhood grocery has stepped up."

Foley said that since Nob Hill closed, smaller businesses at Meadow Plaza have closed with the vacancy rate now 67% there and 30% at the adjoining Santa Rita Center on the West Las Positas side of the shopping and service business complex.

At the Feb. 7 meeting, nearly a third attending wore bright yellow lapel stickers reading: "Give our Pleasanton a voice! No Wal-Mart."

A union steward stood outside the Civic Center door leading to the council chamber checking in those who had agreed to support the effort by several unions to deny the Walmart application.

With the IBEW's appeal to Democrats at the Stark-Swalwell "smack-down," as it was called, more protestors are expected at the March 14 Planning Commission meeting, which will be held in council chamber at the Pleasanton Civic Center, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. ■

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Workday adds 2 VPs to its management team

Pleasanton firm's workforce, global reach expanding

Workday Inc. of Pleasanton added two new vice presidents to its management team this week to support its growing workforce and global product gains.

The appointments were announced by Dave Duffield and Aneel Bhusri, Workday's co-founders and co-CEOs.

Jim Shaughnessy was named vice president, general counsel and secretary of the company, which is a recognized leader in enterprise solutions for global human resources, payroll and financial management. He now oversees the company's legal, corporate governance, security and compliance operations globally.



Jim Shaughnessy

Debi Hirshlag was named vice president of human resources with responsibility for talent acquisition and development, compensation and benefits, and employee engagement programs.

Prior to joining Workday, Hirshlag served as vice president of worldwide HR at Flextronics, where she led its deployment of one of the world's largest rollouts of a core HR system in cloud computing. In addition, she managed an internal team of more than 500 HR professionals,

implemented and ran global HR shared services, and managed the site-based HR and learning systems organizations for Flextronics' 200,000 workers around the globe.

She has also held HR leadership roles at Ariba Inc., Latitude Communications, and Trimble, holding earlier career roles at Amoco Corp., Pepsi-Cola and Seagate.

She holds a master's degree in labor and industrial relations from the University of Illinois and a bachelor's degree in industrial management from Carnegie Mellon University.

Shaughnessy has more than 25 years of experience as a strategic legal executive for companies including Compaq Computer Corp., HP, Lenovo Group Ltd., and PeopleSoft Inc. Just prior to joining Workday, he served as senior vice president, chief administrative officer and general counsel at Orbitz Worldwide Inc.

He holds Juris Doctor and master's of public policy degrees from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in political science from Northern Michigan University. ■



Debi Hirshlag

Ross Stores reports sales increase of 10% for first 4 weeks of January

Pleasanton-based Ross Stores, Inc. has reported sales for the four weeks ended Jan. 28 of \$483 million, an increase of 10% over the \$441 million in sales for the four weeks ended Jan. 29, 2011. Same store sales for the four weeks ending this past Jan. 28 grew 5% on top of 3% and 8% gains in the prior two years.

For the 13 weeks ending Jan. 28, 2012, sales rose 12% to \$2.398 billion, from \$2.145 billion for the 13 weeks ending Jan. 29, 2011. Comparable store sales for the quarter ended Jan. 28, 2012 increased 7% on top of 4% and 10% growth in the fourth quarters of 2010 and 2009, respectively.

For the 52 weeks ending Jan. 28, 2012, sales grew 9% to \$8.608 billion, compared to \$7.866 billion in sales for the 52 weeks ending Jan. 29, 2011. Comparable store sales for the 2011 fiscal year rose 5% on top of 5% and 6% increases in fiscal 2010 and 2009.

"Sales for both January and the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011 were well ahead of our expectations as our wide assortments of compelling name-brand bargains continue to appeal to today's value-focused consumers," said Michael Balmuth, vice chairman and chief executive officer.

"Juniors, Shoes and Children's were the strongest merchandise categories during the month, while Florida and the Mid-Atlantic were the top performing regions," Balmuth added.

The company also announced that its board of directors recently approved a 27% increase in the quarterly cash dividend to \$.14 per common share, payable on March 30 to stockholders of record as of Feb. 17.

"Our strong financial position and anticipated future cash flows allow us to continue to enhance stockholder returns through both our dividend and share repurchase programs," Balmuth said. "The higher dividend announced today represents the 18th consecutive annual increase since our dividend program was initiated in 1994."

"In addition, we are pleased to report that during 2011 we repurchased a total of 11.3 million shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$450 million," he added. "We expect to complete as planned the remaining \$450 million repurchase authorization in fiscal year 2012."

Based on January sales and margin results, the company is raising its profit forecast for the 13 weeks ending Jan. 28 with earnings per share now estimated to be in the range of \$.84 to \$.85. These projected results would represent a 22% to 23% increase over the \$.69 for the 13 weeks ending Jan. 29, 2011.

For the 52 weeks ending Jan. 28, 2012, earnings per share are estimated to grow 23% to 24% to \$2.85 to \$2.86, up from \$2.31 for the 2010 fiscal year ending Jan. 29, 2011. All share and per share figures reflect the company's recent two-for-one stock split. ■

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Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Managing Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli, Ext. 111

Online/Community Editor

Jessica Lipsky, Ext. 229

Reporter

Glenn Wohltmann, Ext. 121

Contributors

Jay Flachsbarth

Jerri Pantages Long

Kerry Nally

ART & PRODUCTION

Lead Designer

Katrina Cannon, Ext. 130

Designers

Lili Cao, Ext. 120

Kristin Herman, Ext. 114

ADVERTISING

Account Executives

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Ad Services

Cammie Clark, Ext. 116

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Kathy Martin, Ext. 124

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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

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

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

To honor its 115th anniversary, PTA needs to tackle school funding

Last week, the Pleasanton PTA Council celebrated PTA Founder's Day, marking the 115th anniversary of the national organization and also honoring its three founders that included Phoebe Apperson Hearst, whose Castlewood estate still overlooks Pleasanton and Hearst Elementary School which was named for her. The celebration also served as a reminder of the substantial role that the PTA has played locally, regionally and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of children and families.

For Jodie Vashistha, Pleasanton PTA Council president, Founders Day was a perfect time to renew her organization's dedication to the purposes of the PTA that was defined by its founders more than a century ago. As she said at the celebration, it is a time to reflect and take pride in the PTA's many accomplishments and to renew PTA members' commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

Locally, celebrating the PTA and renewing the commitment of its supporters comes at a time of urgent financial needs by the Pleasanton school district. Just last Tuesday, the school board painfully acknowledged the growing crisis by voting to cut 75 full-time positions from the district's payroll as it faces a \$5.4 million shortfall in the 2012-13 school year budget. With the PTA's mission to represent its members and to empower and support them with skills in advocacy, leadership and communication to positively impact the lives of all children and families, the organization's work here and throughout California must include finding the financial resources needed to keep our schools and education programs strong and effective.

The Pleasanton PTA Council began in 2003 as an umbrella group for all PTAs in Pleasanton. Besides the local and regional chapters, the state PTA plays a major role in lobbying legislators for funding increases and statewide improvements in education programs. PTA members have long been in the forefront of working to resolve those challenges. The organization has been instrumental in the passage of important laws and guidelines that we sometimes take for granted today, such as creating a separate criminal justice system for juvenile offenders, enforcing child labor laws, building kindergarten into the public school system, and supplying federally funded hot lunches that now feed more than 26 million children a day across the country.

PTA has never been shy to tackle tough issues, from talking about sex education as early as 1916 to supporting HIV/AIDS education programs in the 1980s. The organization has been there to help parents and teachers be partners in children's education. Now, with state funding for education woefully inadequate and the Legislature's inability to come together on ways to fix that, the PTA, the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in California, needs to tackle an even tougher issue. Phoebe Apperson Hearst was a recognized national advocate for a financially sound public school system. Following in her steps, the Pleasanton PTA Council, with other advocacy groups at its side, can continue the PTA's 115-year history of ensuring a quality education in financially beleaguered school districts like Pleasanton's with a strong voice in Sacramento and among voters on Nov. 6. If Phoebe Hearst were with us today, she'd be leading the campaign. ■



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

LETTERS

Nudge away from plastic

Dear Editor,

How thrilled I was to read that Pleasanton has voted in an ordinance to limit plastic bag usage and waste. I've been shopping in San Jose three times since its ordinance went into effect in January. Each time I forgot to bring bags and had to make the inconvenient decision to carry my stuff out. You can bet I'll remember next time.

For years now, I've had reusable bags sitting in the trunk of my car, and since I've never had quite enough incentive to remember, I never do. Shopping in San Jose last Sunday, I was very happy to observe lanes and lanes of shoppers unfolding their variously shaped and colored reusable bags for the cashiers and courtesy clerks to use. If it takes an ordinance to give people the nudge they need in this direction, I'm all for it.

Kisa Konrad

Council knows best?

Dear Editor,

The Pleasanton City Council has decided it knows better than we do about the choices we make for our family. We choose the right foods to feed our kids and encourage them to exercise to keep them healthy. They wear helmets on all wheeled toys and pads and protectors to play sports. We support our schools, our church and our local nonprofits. We pay taxes, volunteer our time and even recycle. Somehow in the eyes of our City Council we can do all this but we are still not qualified to choose a paper, plastic or reusable bag at the grocery store. It's no longer OK to select a paper bag at the grocery store to use for our kitchen recycling. No, the government knows best. We now must carry reusable (bacteria-laden?) shopping bags to every store we shop at in Pleasanton (which is often many in a day) or we must pay to receive one from the merchant who has already factored the price of the bag into the price of their product (and we're pretty sure the cost of the groceries is not coming down!).

Pat Shaughnessy

Choice is no longer important (at least in this situation). Our council members know what's better for our family, and yours. Their actions are overreaching. And we still do have a choice: to either ask the bagger to carry out every item of our groceries to the car, or to shop in a town next door. We may choose both.

Derek and Erin Kvistad

Don't turn away business


Dear Editor,

Councilman Matt Sullivan, alluding to Walmart, was not upfront with leasing the property. If the company did anything illegal, the laws can be used to stop such an effort. Walmart in Pleasanton wanted to expand and was denied that by our city, so it went to a grocery store site; the main contention is because it is Walmart. Walmart wants to expand business here and has done so through proper channels. Are we adverse to a business that wants to do business here?

As the shopping center owner has stated, there is over a 30% drop in traffic, some stores have closed, and others are close to leaving. Would we be better off letting that center go empty and more people lose their jobs? Who wants to live by a deteriorating business park? We would not only have more jobs at the new grocery store but at surrounding places of business. With masses of unemployment, I find it interesting that cities that complain or try to show concern about the issue make little effort to correct the situation.

I would prefer to pay for food that is affordable. By not allowing competition (capitalism), you are driving prices up here in Pleasanton, which I would say is not fair to most citizens, especially senior citizens. To get better prices, you are making people drive to other towns, which creates more traffic.

Last I heard we live in a representative republic. We vote people into office, like Matt Sullivan, hopefully to represent us and our views. If they do not, we have the ability to vote for someone else in the next election.



Valley EyeCare Center

is pleased to welcome Dr. Kala Swamynathan to our team of physicians.

Dr. Kala Swamynathan
Jonathan Savell, M.D.
Michael Gagnon, M.D.
Gina Trantacosti, O.D.
Jimmy Yip, O.D.

Nationally and internationally trained, Dr. Kala Swamynathan received her medical degree from Kilpauk Medical College in Chennai, India, and after working as a research coordinator at the Stanford University Department of Ophthalmology, took her ophthalmology residency at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis, where she was awarded the Merrill Grayson Leadership Award for best graduating resident. She is Board Certified by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. As a comprehensive ophthalmologist, she will be available to see patients in the Pleasanton and Livermore offices beginning January 17th.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE VALLEY — MUSIC, THEATER, ART, MOVIES AND MORE



It's 'Springtime in the Garden'

Newcomers Club hosting speaker from nursery

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

It must be spring, right? Not until March 20, but Pleasanton Newcomers Club is anticipating the season with a gardening expert from Alden Lane Nursery at its next luncheon to present new ideas for spring gardening and to encourage everyone to delve into their gardens.

"In the past we've done a number of things in the spring, like fashion shows," said Trish Sullivan, who plans the monthly luncheon programs along with Kathy Lee and Sharon Tietgens. "We decided this year to do something with gardening in the springtime. We'll have a gardening expert and will enjoy a nice luncheon."

Members and businesses also have donated items for drawings, with part of the proceeds going to Tri-Valley Haven.

Not all the monthly luncheons have speakers, Sullivan said.

"Some are really casual," she said. "Most people just want to get together. And sometimes their time is precious — if people have kids they may have to go to school to pick them up, or they may have to get back to work."

The spring gardening luncheon is not just for members of Newcomers, Sullivan said; prospective members can come to a couple of events before they need to join. And you don't have to be new to Pleasanton or the area either.

"Although the title is 'Newcomers,' sometimes people join who've lived here their whole lives," she explained.

Sullivan joined when she moved here five years ago. Her children were grown so it was a good way to meet people and explore the area. She's moved around a lot, she said, and always joined newcomers' groups although some have their members join an "encore" group after a few years.

Pleasanton Newcomers Club members are women, she noted, although activities often include spouses and friends. On Sunday evening, the Newcomers took over Vine Cinema in Livermore for an Oscar Night with the Academy Awards viewed on the big screen.

"It was sold out," Sullivan said. "We dressed up as if we were on the red carpet."

Pleasanton Newcomers have groups for many interests — such as reading, bridge,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Every Monday morning members of Pleasanton Newcomers Club meet at Tully's downtown and walk for an hour. The club has another group that hikes in the hills each week.

bunko, poker, walking and hiking — plus host monthly coffees.

"It's good to go to the monthly coffee if you want to know more about the group," Sullivan said. "They are held the first Wednesday of each month."

They also have regular outings to explore the area. For instance, a group visited Orchard Nursery in Lafayette at the beginning of the holiday season to see its extensive Christmas decorations, then had lunch in Lafayette.

For more information on the club, visit www.PleasantonNewcomers.com or call 215-8405.

"You have to leave a message but someone will get right back to you," Sullivan said.

Or attend the March luncheon to learn more about the Newcomers — and about gardening in the springtime. ☼

Cure for spring fever

What: Luncheon with speaker on "Springtime in the Garden"

Who: Pleasanton Newcomers Club

When: 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 14 (reserve by March 9)

Where: Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton

Cost: \$26.75 (choice of five entrees)

Reservations: Call 215-8405 and leave message



'Of Coronations and Weddings'

Royal ceremony music to benefit Valley Concert Chorale

Were you not invited to Prince William and Kate's royal wedding last year? And you can't make the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration this year either?

Get a taste of these regal events at Valley Concert Chorale's March 10 benefit event titled "Of Coronations and Weddings," being presented at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore.

"This event is no ordinary choral concert," said event chairperson Bobby Jensen. "Since we are singing music from royal weddings, including Hubert Parry's 'I Was Glad,' the processional that Prince William and Kate chose for their wedding, we wanted to give our audience, rather than our 'wedding guests,' the experience of being at a real wedding."

The first half of the program will be held in the church, which will be decorated to suggest a wedding, and guests will be ushered to their seats. The "wedding party" will sing with the rest of the chorale.

This portion of the program will also feature a new commission by John Rutter, "This is the Day," and Parry's "Jerusalem," a long-time British favorite.

"Since Parry is one of Prince Charles' favorite composers, we thought it fitting that we sing his music," said Chorale Artistic Director John Emory Bush.

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, being celebrated this June as Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the coronation portion of the choral program will feature Handel's "Zadok the Priest," which has been sung at every royal coronation since that of King George II in 1727.

Guests are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall after the first half of the choral program.

"The reception will feature tasty treats that are normally found at a wedding reception including wed-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pam Grove and Marsha Sweeney are ready for the royal wedding with their fancy fascinators.

ding cake, finger sandwiches and other goodies," Jensen said. "Guests will be seated at tables and entertained by the chorale with music by the Beatles and Elton John, who also performed at royal weddings and coronations."

There will also be drawings and bidding for items, including weekend getaways, dinners, art and a basket of authentic coronation jubilee items imported from Great Britain.

Many of the chorale women will don wedding hats or "fascinators," the type of elaborate hair accessories worn at the recent royal wedding. Female guests are encouraged to join in the fun and wear hats, too, and there will be a Best Hat prize awarded during the reception. ■

Majestic treatment

What: "Of Coronations and Weddings"

Who: Valley Concert Chorale

When: 7 p.m., Saturday, March 10

Where: First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore

Cost: \$35

Tickets: Call 866-4003 or go to www.valleyconcertchorale.org

Fiery 'Tosca' opens next week

Livermore Valley Opera presenting Puccini's tale of love and murder

A tale of love, murder, suicide, a rebellion and a fiery diva are in store for audiences when Livermore Valley Opera presents Giacomo Puccini's operatic masterpiece "Tosca," opening March 10 and playing for two weekends at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore.

"Tosca" is the second opera of the company's 20th anniversary season, and is one of the most frequently performed operas throughout the world. It takes place in 1800s Rome when citizens were rebelling against the occupation by royals from Naples and Napoleon was threatening to invade. Its characters are based on real people, and its scenes are reflective of true Roman locales — matched with the dramatic and powerful arias and music of Puccini.

"There is some truth to the story of Tosca," said Elizabeth Wells, executive director of Livermore Valley Opera. "The opera takes place during a real time in history with many of the sets depicting real locations. These elements of the opera make the story that much more real for the audience."

But it is not only the historical realism of the story that makes this Puccini opera so well-loved, it is Floria Tosca herself, Wells added.

"She's a hot-headed diva consumed with jealousy and pride, whose ill-fated love for Mario Cavaradossi, considered a traitor, she must defend against a corrupt and brutal police chief Scarpia," Wells said. "Scarpia is a hideous monster of a character and Puccini's music portrays him with edgier and darker music than the romantic music usually expected of opera."

Stage Director Olivia Stapp, the

opera company's first female director, is a former diva who sang the part of Tosca more than once during her opera career, so she knows full well the power of Puccini's music.

"Tosca is a great musical masterpiece which requires heroic singing from three central characters, but it is also a theatrical masterpiece so carefully constructed that there is not a wasted second," Stapp explained.

"I love the way Puccini writes for Scarpia, the brutal police chief. The text, written by French playwright Victorien Sardou, is brilliant — creating an evil man cloaked in gentility and nobility, with gestures of an aristocrat but underneath is the foulness of perversity," she continued.

"Puccini renders this duality, and paints this intense psychological contrast with grandiloquent music."

Stapp also knows the demands placed on the singers, and their excitement for performing the arias.

"Puccini understood the almost electric force that a wonderful singer has to communicate and was able to write brilliantly for the human voice," she said.

Soprano and Metropolitan Opera artist Marie Plette is singing the title role of Tosca.

"When I was in college, singing as a mezzo-soprano, I used to sneak away to a room to sing Puccini's soprano arias," Plette recalled. "When I was told I was truly a soprano, I was so excited because it's every soprano's dream to sing the role of Tosca."

The role of Tosca's lover Cavaradossi will be sung by tenor David Gustafson, who appeared in "Die Fledermaus" in 2010. The evil Scarpia will be sung by bass baritone Phillip Skinner, a veteran singer with the San Francisco Opera.

David Gustafson

Also joining in this production are members of the Tri-Valley's own award-winning Cantabella Children's Chorus, performing as a chorus of altar boys in Act I.

The production will be sung in Italian with English super-titles. Included in the ticket price are pre-opera talks held one hour prior to curtain.

"This opera has been such a favorite for LVO audiences that we could not wait another season to bring it back so it seemed appropriate for our 20th anniversary season," Executive Director Wells said. "Puccini's masterpiece is steeped in drama and will surely touch the hearts of our audiences." ■

Fiery tale

What: "Tosca"

Who: Livermore Valley Opera

When: 8 p.m. March 10 and 17; 2 p.m. March 11 and 18

Where: Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore

Cost: Adults \$39-\$74; students 18 and younger \$10 off

Tickets: 373-6800; www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Other: Opening Night Gala dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, 4:30 p.m.; ice cream served at Sunday matinees



Marie Plette

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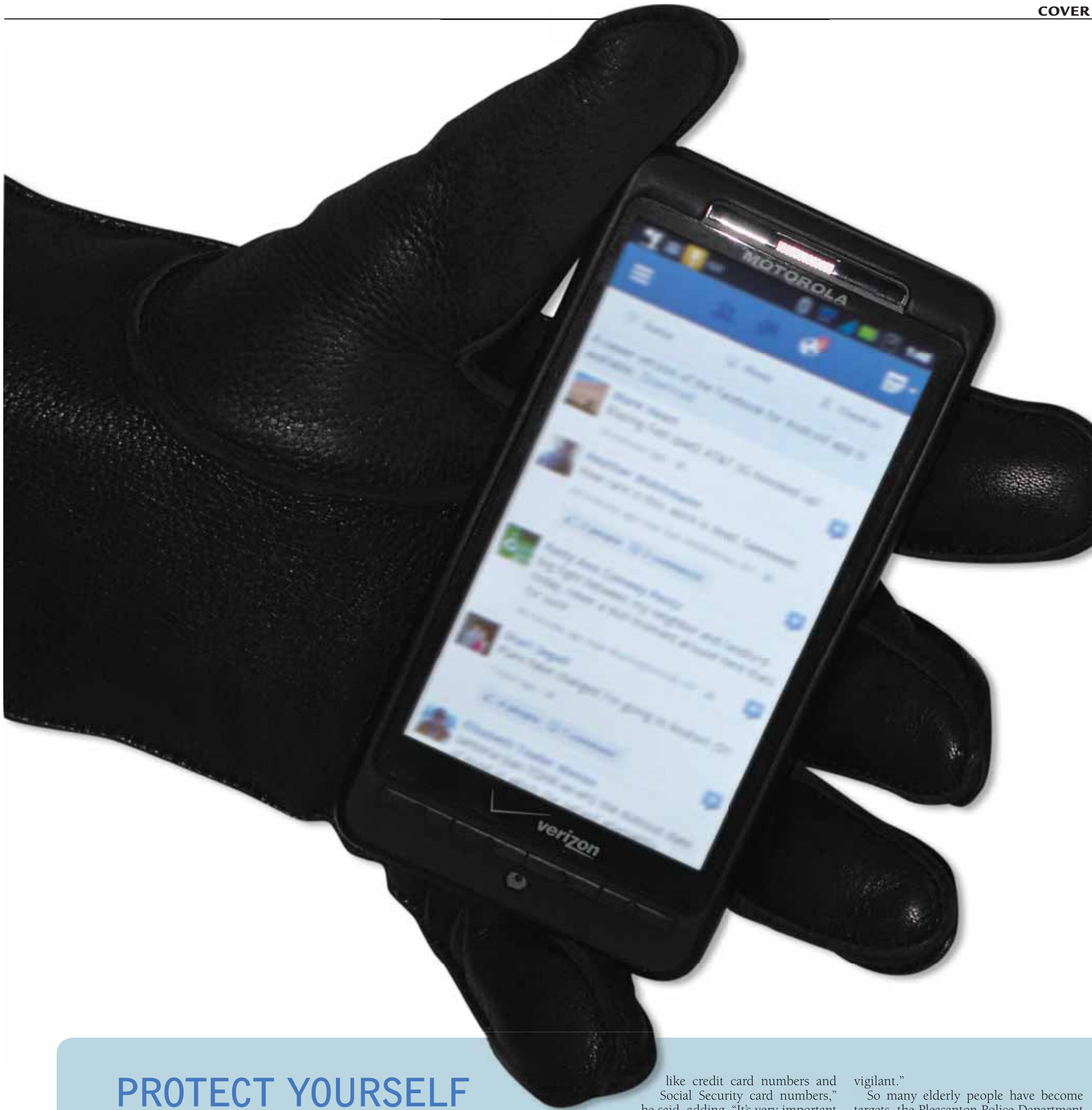
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'Art: Believe/Achieve'

This collage by Pleasanton artist Charlotte Severin is part of an exhibit of works by members of the Diablo/Alameda branch of the National League of American Pen Women at the John O'Lague Galleria in Hayward through March 30. Pen Women began in 1897 in Washington, D.C., when three well-known professionals were denied access to the Press Club based on their gender.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY FRAUD

With identity theft cases on the rise in Pleasanton, police and fraud expert Phil Blank say there are some simple things to do to cut the odds of being a victim.

Crime Prevention Officer Archie Chu

said to be sure of anyone who emails or calls.

"Never give out personal information unless you initiate the contact or you know the person or company with whom you are dealing. That includes everything,

like credit card numbers and Social Security card numbers,"

he said, adding, "It's very important to shred all of your documents before you throw them away. Basically, I would shred anything that has any personal information on it."

Chu said large amounts of data stolen by hackers could wind up overseas and in other countries.

"It could be months before that information is used," he said, urging people to check their credit regularly and to "be

vigilant."

So many elderly people have become targets, the Pleasanton Police Department did a public safety announcement on a local radio station, according to Detective Michael Rossillon. He said one common scam is to call an older person saying a relative is in trouble and needs money, and asking for a wire transfer.

"We unfortunately are seeing a rise in that," Rossillon said.

He also suggested that people cut back on the number of credit cards and bank

identity THEFT

Thieves using new technologies to steal from consumers

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

Any given week, Pleasanton police respond to between five and 15 reports of identity theft. On Feb. 27, for example, two people were arrested at Motel 6 with items linked to identity theft — document-making equipment, credit cards not in their names, fictitious drivers licenses, fictitious registration tags, computer equipment and computer disks (see police bulletin, page 14).

During the week of Feb. 14-21 alone, there were five reports of theft or attempted theft of information or fraudulent charges on an account.

Pleasanton public safety Officer Archie Chu said identity theft — using someone else's name and account information to buy items for themselves — has been on the rise in the last few years.

"There are more people who shop online, that's part of it. People go onto a website that isn't really well known and they don't know what kind of security that's on the site. That's one way they can get your identification," Chu said.

One reason for the spike, according to Pleasanton Detective Michael Rossillon, is that the California Penal Code was expanded by Gov. Schwarzenegger to include a wider range of crimes.

"We're quite inundated with the 530.5 section, which covers all identity theft," Rossillon said. "It's pretty lucrative and it's hard to catch these criminals."

He said another reason the crime is so popular is the low penalty involved: California's code allows for a sentence of up to a year in a county jail and fines.

But a large part of the ongoing increase is that thieves are becoming more and more devious in obtaining information and making charges. Javelin Strategy and Research, a Pleasanton-based company that provides information for banks and others, just released a report that outlines some of the new ways thieves are getting stolen information.

Phil Blank, Javelin's managing director of security risk and fraud, who also serves on the Pleasanton Planning Commission, said new technology is giving fraudsters more ways of

getting and using personal information.

"What we're seeing is a redirection of identity theft and identity fraud," Blank said. "Fraudsters go where the money is, and with the proliferation of mobile devices we're seeing increased risk of fraud."

He said people with smart phones are more likely to be victims, because users are lax about security on their phones.

"In fact, smart phone users experience a fraud rate of 6.6% compared to 4.9% for all consumers; 4.9% of all consumers were victims of identity theft — that's one in 20. The fraudsters are seeing smart phone users as a new, fertile landscape," Blank said.

"Many smart phone owners don't have password protection on their screen. Many smart phone owners don't have what we call 'remote wipe' software installed on their phone. What this does -- if I were to lose my phone, I could log on online and erase everything on my phone, even though I don't have it in my possession."

In addition, he said, many people keep personal information that makes it easy for thieves.

"It depends on the phone," Blank said. "Some people do banking on their phone. Some phones cache information."

That means some phones keep data in their memory to make it easier to access information in the future.

"Lots of times, in that cached information is secure information," Blank said. Even innocuous information like the name and phone number or email address of a person's mother can help out a potential thief.

Javelin's report shows smart phone owners have higher incidents of fraud and more money is stolen than average. It notes that "smart phone owners who suffered from fraud had a mean fraud amount of \$1,547 and a mean consumer cost of \$329, compared to \$1,513 and \$354 respectively of all fraud victims."

Beyond that, the report says smart phone owners who are fraud victims are 25% less likely to know how their information was stolen. The report indicates that may be due to owners' "affinity for technology."

Smart phone users who click on new applications may open themselves up to thieves. Those who install apps on their phones have a fraud rate of 6.8%, and people who frequently install new apps are 14.9% more likely to be fraud victims, the report said.

Blank described a scam in China, where smart phone users installed what was supposed to be a security application. Instead, he said, it installed a program that would wake up at 2 a.m. when most people are asleep and dial premium SMS numbers — similar to a 900 number — multiple times.

"It would hang up your phone and then it would erase the log of those phone numbers," he said. "You didn't realize it until you got your bill."

People who use Facebook or LinkedIn are also at higher risk. Blank explained that a clever fraudster can use those sites to learn date of birth, where someone went to high school, and through checking out a person's friends, can learn the name of an uncle — leading to the maiden name of his or her mother. That's all information a bank would want if a thief wants to transfer money.

Blank said an "astonishing" number of people accept Facebook invites from people they don't know, opening themselves up to fraud.

Hackers have been downloading bulk files from sites that, over the last year, included CitiBank and Lucky, to name just two. People whose information is stolen usually get what Blank called a breach letter. Those letters generally tell a consumer that they have nothing to worry about.

Not so, Blank said.

As of 2011, he said, "you are nine-and-a-half times more likely to be a fraud victim than anyone who has never received a letter."

That's up from six times more likely in 2010; four times more likely in 2009; and three times more likely in 2008.

"These are very, very, very important items in the industry," Blank said. "Consumers believe these letters. They think everything is going to be fine."

Account takeovers — in which a thief will get personal information and change a password blocking the owner from accessing her

or his account — have seen a 12.6% increase since 2010.

Although most fraudsters prefer to go online or use a phone, some still brave surveillance videos and store security to make their illegal purchases in person. Pleasanton saw at least three such arrests in 2011. In one, Jennifer Rose Marie Shewmake, 23, tried to use a forged credit card at Fred Meyer Jewelers in the Stoneridge Shopping Center around 2:13 p.m. July 20. She was charged with two counts of forgery, theft and identity theft.

A woman was caught in the Walmart parking lot on May 23 with 67 forged Visa debit cards, along with paraphernalia needed to create more, and a false driver's license. Leona Charmaine Savoy, 36, was booked on charges of forgery in connection with the false driver's license, identity theft, counterfeiting of debit cards and modifying the magnetic strips on the cards.

The biggest local case took place last March 9 when an employee at the Apple store at Stoneridge Shopping Center got suspicious and called police on three men. Three Mexican nationals — Oscar Romero, 34, Jose Avalos Romero, 35, and Victor Carillo Vasquez, 36 — were charged with forgery, possession of stolen property and burglary. Police said the men were buying products with forged credit cards, then shipping them to Mexico to be resold.

That investigation led Pleasanton police to a hotel room in Alameda, where detectives turned up about 75 counterfeit credit cards and a "vast amount" of merchandise purchased in Pleasanton, Hayward, Emeryville, San Francisco, Daly City and Sacramento.

There is some good news. Although the number of identity thefts is up by about 11%, according to the report, the amount stolen has trended steadily downward to \$1,513 in 2011, from just over \$3,000 in 2010. Police are catching fraudsters more quickly, too, resolving cases in about 12 hours in 2011 as opposed to 18 hours in 2004.

See the suggestions on how to protect yourself on identity theft so you don't become another statistic with the Pleasanton Police Department. ■

accounts they have, so they have fewer statements to monitor.

Blank suggested some ways to protect electronic information, including making sure there's a password needed to unlock a cell phone.

"Probably the easiest thing is to set account 'alerts,'" he said. Blank was a target of a credit fraud himself, and said an account alert blocked a charge attempted when he personally wasn't there, although thieves tried twice more to use the information they stole.

"When people get credit card numbers, they are traded quickly," he said, explaining that those numbers are often sold on the Internet. "You can set alerts on your account so that whenever there's a 'card not present' (meaning someone is trying to charge something over the phone or online) on your account, it tells you."

Rossillon suggested that people put a security freeze on their credit report, which would require a pin number from anyone trying to access that information.

Blank said to "turn off the paper," by using electronic statements whenever possible.

"A lot of this is free for consumers. They don't need to be security geeks, they just need to be educated," he said. "Learn the basics. What we don't want to have happen is for people to go online and not do it safely."

Other tips are:

■ Use an up-to-date operating system and have all of the updates and patches applied.

■ Use the latest version of your preferred browser and make sure that your browser plug-ins are also up-to-date.

■ Do not jail break your iPhone — illegal but commonly done to get around the restrictions that Apple puts in place.

■ Use an anti-virus protection package on your Android phone.

The Pleasanton Police Department has a complete list of tips, and Chu has offered to help people who have security questions and concerns. Call 931-5100. ■

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: PADR 2090, Rodney and Trina Lopez (Appellants and Applicants) – Consider an appeal of a Planning Commission's denial of a request to modify Condition No. 8 of City Council Resolution No 11-420 regarding a skylight which was part of a previously approved Administrative Design Review application for additions totaling approximately 1,118 square feet at 6114 Homer Court

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Recommendation to Allocate Community Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2012/2013
- Selection of Date for the Civic Arts Commission Annual Workshop in 2012

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Recommendation to allocate Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSG) Funds for Fiscal Year 2012/13

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consider the Inclusion of Recreational Amenity (BMX) on Zone 7 Property, Martin Avenue

Library Commission

Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- City and Commission structure
- Commission goals 2012
- Director Update

Community Meeting Notice

Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6:30 PM
Mohr Elementary School Community Room
3300 Dennis Drive, Pleasanton

The City of Pleasanton will be conducting a public meeting to discuss the status of the Staples Ranch Development and the planned construction of the Stoneridge Drive Bridge. All residents interested in the status of the Staples Ranch project are encouraged to attend. Representatives from the City and the project developers will be available to answer public questions.

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

- Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails – 1 Youth Member
- Civic Arts Commission – 1 Member
- Economic Vitality Committee – 1 representative from each of the following categories:
 - Business at Large - Business Park - Commercial Services Firm - Commercial Real Estate Broker
 - Commercial Real Estate Developer – Infrastructure - Medical Technology - Residential Real Estate Broker
- Energy & Environment Committee – 1 Member
- Housing Commission – 1 Alternate
- Library Commission – 1 Member, 1 Alternate
- Youth Commission – Representatives from each of the following categories:
 - Village High School Freshman/Sophomore – 1 Member
 - Harvest Park Middle School 6th or 7th Grade – 1 Member
 - Pleasanton Middle School 6th or 7th Grade – 1 Member
 - Thomas Hart Middle School 6th or 7th Grade – 1 Member
 - At Large Student 6th to 10th Grade – 3 Members
 - Adult Commissioner 18 years old or older – 2 Members
 - Alternate Members 6th Grade to 10th Grade – 2 Members

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

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

Applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 23, 2012.

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

POLICE BULLETIN

Two charged with making fake documents

A routine check of license plates on the morning of Feb. 27 led to the arrest of two people for having and manufacturing fake identification that could be used in identity thefts, according to police reports.

Officer Tim Martens ran a plate at Motel 6, which came back associated with a felony warrant. Martens got the room linked to the car from the clerk but when he went to the room, the man produced identification that showed he was not the man in question.

Martens, however, had a mug shot of the suspect, proving him to be a man wanted on a felony burglary charge, and a host of items in the room were linked to identity theft. Police seized fake credit cards, fictitious drivers licenses, fictitious registration tags, computer equipment and disks.

Eric Brian Emerson, 39, of Martinez and Alicia Marie Miles-Coffman, 30, of San Ramon were taken into custody just before 10 a.m. Both were charged with possession of document-making equipment with the intent to manufacture deceptive identification, manufacturing deceptive identification, manufacturing false government documents and possession of fraudulent DMV documents. Police have said identity fraud is a growing problem in Pleasanton (see cover story, pg. 12).

Emerson had an active burglary warrant, and Miles-Coffman was also charged with paraphernalia possession in connection with a hypodermic needle found in a makeup bag.

In other police reports:
• A traffic stop that might have ended with a reckless driving charge wound up with the arrest of a Walnut Creek woman on multiple felony drug charges.

Officer Mark Sheldon saw a car take the Hopyard Road onramp to Interstate 580 at a high rate of speed at about 1:17 a.m. Feb. 25. Sheldon followed the car to near the intersection of I-580 and Interstate 680, used his car's loudspeaker to ask the driver to pull over and stopped the car in the Hooter's parking lot in 7900 block of Dublin Boulevard in Dublin.

A search of the car turned up 98 hydrocodone pills, 32 oxycodone pills, 46 Vicodin pills and two morphine pills, along with 14.5 grams of marijuana.

Lori Sullivan, 57, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance for sale, possession of marijuana for sale, possession of a controlled substance and paraphernalia possession.

- Camera equipment worth nearly \$10,000 was stolen in a Feb. 21 burglary at a home in the 1300 block of Oak Vista Way. Taken was a \$5,000 D3 camera, a \$1,600 lens, a \$1,300 lens, an \$800 camera, a \$500 battery pack, a \$200 D40 camera and lens, a \$100 lens and \$100 in Polaroid film. Also stolen was a \$200 laptop, a \$20 messenger bag and a \$10 camera backpack. An unlocked bathroom window provided access in the brea- in that took place between 9:55 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

- A theft from a home in the 1900 block of Brooktree Circle netted more than \$27,000 in silver utensils. Taken was an estimated \$13,440 four-piece setting, appetizer forks valued at \$4,800, an estimated \$3,960 worth of soup spoons, specialty utensils valued at \$2,400, teaspoons worth an estimated \$2,100, \$440 worth of serving spoons, antique salt cups with spoons worth an estimated \$160 and \$48 demitasse teaspoons.

The theft was reported Feb. 20, but the occupants of the home said the silverware, which was all in a single box, could have been taken any time between midnight Aug. 23 of last year and 3:45 p.m. that day. There was no evidence of a break-in at the home.

- An auto burglary at the Sheraton Hotel in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road netted a \$1,500 apple MacBook, a \$900 IBM Thinkpad and a \$50 computer bag with miscellaneous items inside. The break-in occurred between 6:20 and 8:25 p.m. Feb. 21.

- Marc Jason Kenney, 37, with no permanent address, was arrested Feb. 25 on charges of forgery and public drunkenness. A search stemming from the public drunkenness charge turned up a counterfeit \$20 in Kenney's pocket.

- Braulio Barbosa, 20, of Livermore, was arrested Feb. 24 on a charge of possession of a switchblade knife.

Under the law, those arrested are considered innocent until convicted.

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 22

Theft

- 5:50 p.m. in the 100 block of Wyoming Street; auto theft
- 6:20 p.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft

Vandalism

- 1:59 a.m. in the 510 block of Greentree Court; vandalism, public drunkenness

Drug/alcohol violations

- 10:15 p.m. in the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

Feb. 23

Theft

- 12:31 p.m. in the 4500 block of Gatetree Circle; identity theft

Burglary

- 10:08 a.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive

Auto burglary

- 7:38 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Ave

Drug/alcohol violations

- 4:09 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and I-580; paraphernalia possession
- 5:49 p.m. in the 4100 block of Churchill Drive; marijuana possession
- 8:12 p.m. at the intersection of Las Lomitas Drive and Oak Circle; public drunkenness

Feb. 24

Theft

- 7:57 a.m. in the 6700 block of Taffy Court; petty theft
- 10:39 a.m. in the 3900 block of Empire Court; petty theft
- 1:34 p.m. in the 3900 block of Valley Avenue; identity theft
- 1:49 p.m. in the 4500 block of

Rosewood Drive; petty theft

- 6:16 p.m. in the 3100 block of Corte del Cino; grand theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 9:38 a.m. at the intersection of W. Angela Street and Main Street; paraphernalia possession
- 10:23 a.m. at the intersection of W. Angela Street and Main Street; marijuana possession
- 10:26 p.m. at the intersection of Old Vineyard Avenue and Vineyard Avenue; marijuana possession

Feb. 25

Theft

- 12:44 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Rd; forgery, public drunkenness
- 2:11 p.m. in the 1800 block of Begonia Court; identity theft
- 3:37 p.m. in the 3100 block of Thistlelown Ct; forgery, identity theft
- 4:52 p.m. in the 4000 block of Santa Rita Road; theft

Battery

- 1:01 p.m. in the 4200 block of First St

Auto burglary

- 11:21 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Vandalism

- 9:12 p.m. in the 200 block of Rose Ave

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:59 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; marijuana possession, public drunkenness
- 2:35 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Rd and Coronado Ln; DUI
- 8:07 p.m. in the 2700 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 10:08 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

Feb. 26

Theft

- 5:06 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Ct

Vandalism

- 9:21 a.m. in the 5700 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

- 10:05 a.m. in the 2500 block of Santa Rita Road

- 10:20 a.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive

- 11:07 a.m. in the 2500 block of Santa Rita Road

- 11:08 a.m. in the 2500 block of Santa Rita Road

DUI

- 12:25 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Golden Road

Feb. 27

Theft

- 4:44 p.m. at the intersection of Norton Wy and Tannet Ct; auto theft
- 8:20 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Dr; petty theft, identity theft

Possession of forged documents

- 9:52 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Auto burglary

- 6:57 a.m. in the 6300 block of Beech Ct

Feb. 28

Auto burglary

- 5:45 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 6:41 a.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Main Street; driving with marijuana
- 9:10 a.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

- 11:58 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; underage alcohol possession

OBITUARIES

William Andrew Evans

William [Bill] Evans of Pleasanton, CA, [formerly of Saratoga, CA] passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Bill was born on October 25, 1936 to William and Josephine Evans in Chicago, IL. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Mary Jo (Penny) Nichols Evans; children; Son, Bill Evans (wife Linda, daughters Mary and Kristina); Son, Michael Evans (wife Debbie, son Michael, daughter Rebecca); Daughter, Carol Kelly (husband Roland, sons Trevor, Garrett & Ryan); Daughter, Nancy Becker (husband Ron, son Grant, daughter Jordan). Brother-in-law, Fred Nichols, wife Pat & son David. He was brother to Patricia Thompson and Joyce Evans.



Bill was a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Air Force. He served in the Strategic Air Command Unit and later served in Vietnam. He logged over 2000 hours of flight time in the cockpit of B47's and C141's. He loved seeing the world from the air. He received the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service.

Bill earned his Bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and his Master's Degree from the University of San Francisco. His career after the military included Engineering & Aerospace Management positions at Lockheed, the STC (Satellite Control Center, Oni-

zuka AFB), Loral Space Systems, Ford Aerospace and then returning to Lockheed before retiring.

After retiring he enjoyed spending time with his family, particularly his grandchildren. The last few years he really enjoyed volunteering for the Niles Canyon Railroad, where he worked on restoring various old train cars. He also learned how to be a Brakeman and truly enjoyed this hobby.

He was passionate about his family and our genealogy. He traveled many times to Europe researching the family history taught English in Poland (twice) as a volunteer. He and Penny traveled extensively [19 countries in all] and enjoyed every minute of it! He had many wonderful friendships throughout his life and will be missed by many. His family is honored to have had such a loving husband, father and grandfather in their lives. He lived a life of character, integrity, honesty and honor and we are very proud of him.

His funeral service will be held Saturday March 3rd at 10:00 am at Grisom's Mortuary in San Lorenzo. A reception [with the VFW Honor Guard and 21 Gun Salute] to celebrate and honor his life, will be Saturday March 3rd at the VFW Hall in downtown Pleasanton from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. His family welcomes all who knew him to attend either or both events.

He will be laid to rest at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery on Monday March 5th with a United States Air Force Honor Guard ceremony. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation in his name to Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #6298 www.vfwpost6298.com

BIRTHS

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center.

Feb. 11

Gloria Garcia and Vicente Llanos, a girl

Feb. 17

Tanya Stewart and Oscar Garcia, a boy

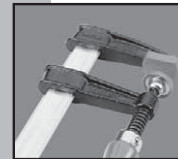
Feb. 18

Sara Ann and Arden Anderson, a boy

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COLON CANCER AWARENESS

FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



Presented by:

James Lin, MD

ValleyCare Medical Foundation
Gastroenterologist

Date: March 13, 2012

Time: 7PM

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd, Pleasanton
2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton

Colon cancer is the third most diagnosed cancer and second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Death rates in the past 10 years have decreased due in large part to early detection. The best time to detect colon cancer is through early screening before symptoms develop.

Please join us for an evening seminar led by James Lin, MD, ValleyCare Medical Foundation gastroenterologist. Dr. Lin will discuss the importance of colon cancer screening and the methods used to detect polyps/cancer. He will also cover the latest updates in screening, prevention and treatment.

We invite you to register by calling our Health Information Line at 1-800-719-9111 or visit www.valleycare.com/educationseminars.



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ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

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BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

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, 2010 and 2011. 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.

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

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.

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

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MAR. 11, 17 @ 2:00 P.M.

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ON THE TOWN • CALENDAR

Author Visits

AUTHOR FRED SETTERBERG, 'LUNCH BUCKET PARADISE' Take a look back at the mid-century California family dream with Fred Setterberg, author of "Lunch Bucket Paradise," at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 11, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This book symbolizes an era of prosperity for blue-collar Americans that may never come again. Free. Call 931-3405.

Clubs

GARDEN CLUB MEETING The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will feature Tom Bressen of Urban Farmer speaking on irrigation and low water use plants. Visitors are welcome. Thursday, March 3 from 7-9 p.m. Free. Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club Meeting, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. 485-7812. www.lavgc.org

Events

GIRL SCOUT GOLD EVENT SAFETY SMARTS Rebecca Rodriguez will be holding her Girl Scout Gold Project from 4-7 p.m., Friday, March 2 at Lydiksen Elementary School, 7700 Highland Oaks Dr. The event is a Safety Awareness Fair for all ages. Community booths include ValleyCare, Pleasanton Police, Fire Department, Herzog Insurance Agency and Esteller Martial Arts.

GNON AND COCO CABANA GNON (Girls Night Out Networking) and the Coco Cabana Restaurant would like you to join them for networking opportunities, prize drawings, socializing, good food and fun. The event is Tuesday, March 6 from 5-8 p.m. at Coco Cabana Restaurant, 4500 Tassajara Rd., Dublin. Cost \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. RSVP to gnoners@gmail.com by March 3.

Film

FOOD MATTERS "Food Matters" is a hard hitting wake-up call questioning the current emphasis in medicine on pharmaceuticals rather than nutrition. Guests from an organic subscription farm, "Farm Fresh To You," will introduce everyone to their produce and services. Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. A discussion follows the film. Saturday, March 3 from 7-9:30 p.m. free/\$3 donation IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. 462-3459.

Fundraisers

THE PRINCESS PROJECT Is encouraging women across the Bay Area to raid their closets and give their old prom, bridesmaid, or other formal dresses a good home. The Princess Project is a San Francisco based non-profit that provides new and nearly new prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who could not otherwise afford them. Drop off dresses and accessories through Saturday, March 3 at One Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton. Visit www.princessproject.org.

Health

BAY AREA BREAST CANCER FORUM ValleyCare is hosting the Bay Area Breast Cancer Forum. Hear Dr. Rishi Sawhney speak about

updates in breast cancer research and updates from the International Breast Cancer Meeting. This is a free event. Call 734-3319 to register. Tuesday, March 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. Free ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd Suite 240, Pleasanton. 734-3319.

Kids & Teens

3D GREETING CARD MAKING CLASS Learn how to make three-dimensional greeting cards. This class is for beginners and experienced paper crafters alike. Children 9 or older are welcome. Saturday, March 10 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Class Fee: \$49; Material Fee: \$20 Las Positas College Community Education, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. 424-1467. www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed

COLLEGE PLANNING College Planning Workshop for 10th/11th graders and parents. A college counselor will guide you through the college application process. Topics include: SAT/SAT II/ACT, Application Essay College Selection, Info for Athletes and College Fairs. Wednesday, March 7 from 6:30-8 p.m. Free to YMCA members; \$10 per family for non-members Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane #F, Dublin. 263-4444. www.trivalleyymca.org

SAT BOOTCAMP For juniors at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools, an SAT Bootcamp is scheduled from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., March 3 & 4, at Foothill High, 4375 Foothill Rd. Cost \$165; for each attendee, a donation of \$25-\$40 will be donated to Academic Booster Club at Foothill. Register at www.catalystprep.com. For more information, email katrina.edwards@mac.com.

SAT PREPARATION COURSE Las Positas College Community Education presents: ACE the SAT! PrepPoint's Eva Holtz, a perfect scorer, will show you how. Class schedule will be reviewed at first meeting. Not for college credit. Saturday, March 17 from 8 a.m.-noon \$189 plus \$30 material fee Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. 424-1467. www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed

Live Music

AURORA MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA The Aurora Mandolin Orchestra, with up to 30 Bay Area members, will give a free performance at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 4, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The orchestra has a varied repertoire including traditional and semi-classic Italian, Spanish, Russian, specialty ethnic and contemporary orchestral compositions. Call 931-3400 ext. 7, or visit www.auroramandolin.com.

On Stage

ONE-ACT PLAYS "Winter One Acts," written and directed by Amador Valley High School drama students, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night at Second Stage, the high school multipurpose room, 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$3 for students/seniors, \$5 for adults and available at the door.



Presidents Day Junior Tournament

Young tennis enthusiasts compete at Pleasanton park

Twenty-five young tennis players gathered at the Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park for the Presidents Day Junior Tournament, which was delayed a few days due to rain.

The tournament was divided into two divisions, Bronze and Silver/Gold, based on skill level, representing the teams of the city's Lifetime Tennis Junior Development Program.

The Bronze Division had 12 players, with six randomly set up in Flight A, and the remaining placed in Flight B. Each player played everyone in his group round-robin style to determine the top players who then battled it out in the championship match.

The top player of Flight A was Abhai Sawkar; Flight B was won by Kushal Methukupally, who both won all five of their matches in the round robin phase. In the championship match, Abhai edged out Kushal in a dramatic second set tiebreak, winning 6-2, 7-6(3).

In the Silver/Gold Division, comprised of Silver and Gold Team players from the program, players were set up in a bracket, beginning in a round of 16. Ten players contested each other in the first round with three players getting a bye. After four rounds of play, top seed Casey Guan was victorious over Sidharth Bommakanti, who was the tournament's second seed, in two sets: 6-3, 6-3.

"It was a fun day full of laughs, excitement and, hopefully, lessons learned," said tournament organizers. "A few of the players' parents came to watch and lend support to their nervous kids. One dad even bought pizza for the entire group to enjoy."

The coaches themselves had a great time, playing ping pong in the club room with players awaiting their matches.

The average age of the boys and girls was 12. The youngest player, Rory Strauch, was 7 and, although he was nervous before his first match, he received encouragement from the older players.

To learn more about the Pleasanton tennis program, go to the Tennis and Community Park, 5801 Valley Ave. at Paseo Santa Cruz, call 931-3449, or visit www.lifetimetennis.com. ■



Bronze Division runner-up Kushal Methukupally (at left), 11; tournament director Eric Nunn; and Bronze Division champion Abhai Sawkar, 14.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Silver/Gold Division singles champion Casey Guan sets up for a killer forehand. Casey is an accomplished doubles and singles champion, winning also in last year's Summer League Doubles Tournament



Silver/Gold Division runner-up Sidharth Bommakanti (left), 13; tournament director Eric Nunn; and Silver/Gold Division champion Casey Guan, 11.

PREP LINE-UP

March 2

- Boys Lacrosse: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Clayton Valley, away
- Girls Lacrosse: 6:30 p.m., AVHS vs. Davis, home

March 3

- Baseball: 11 a.m., Foothill vs. St. Ignatius, away

March 6

- Boys Lacrosse: 7:15 p.m., AVHS vs. Bellarmine, home
- Girls Lacrosse: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Acalanes, away
- Boys Tennis: 3:30 p.m., AVHS vs. Granada, away
- Boys Golf: 3:30 p.m., AVHS vs. De La Salle, away
- Softball: 3:45 p.m., Foothill vs. Newark Memorial, home

March 7

- Boys Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. College Park, away
- Baseball: 3:30 p.m., Foothill vs. Bishop O Dowd, home

March 8

- Baseball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Galena, away
- Boys Tennis: 3:30 p.m., AVHS vs. Monte Vista, home
- Boys Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Heritage, home
- Boys Golf: 3:30 p.m., AVHS vs. Granada, away
- Softball: 3:45 p.m., Foothill vs. Washington, away

March 9

- Boys Lacrosse: 7:15 p.m., AVHS vs. Acalanes, away

March 10

- Baseball: 11 a.m., Foothill vs. West Tracy, home

SPORTS DIGEST

NCS playoffs for girls

Girls basketball teams from both Amador Valley and Foothill played in the quarterfinals of the North Coast Section playoffs Friday night. Foothill lost to Berkeley, 67-41, while Amador fell to Deer Valley, 52-40.

Soccer signups

The Ballistic United Soccer Club is holding a walk-through information and registration day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, March 10, in the Hart Middle School Multi-Purpose Room. Ballistic United provides soccer opportunities for boys of all skill levels with birthdays between Aug. 1, 1993, and July 31, 2008.

At the registration, staff members will be available to answer questions about the club and its soccer programs. For more information, go to www.busc.org.



Fifth-grade champs

CCOP fifth-grade A Division boys peaked at the end of the CYO basketball season, going into a six-game winning streak that continued through the championship. "In the championship game and all the playoff games, we were never behind," said coach Kevin Nanney. "The lead was always 8 points or more — the boys were really playing at a level I have never seen before from them. It was intoxicating as a coach to see them grow like that as a team." Team members are Demetre Aaron, Tyler Nanney, Elijah Duncan, Jaden Shepard, Brandon Villanueva, Joseph Louderback, Jack Derham, Karthik Manick, Nathan Williams and Logan Stills. Assistant coach was Gerard Aaron.

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Home prices boosting affordability, sales

Home sales in West up 8.1%, although prices still tumble

By JEB BING

Housing affordability improved in most metropolitan areas due to softer existing-home prices and record-low mortgage interest rates in the fourth quarter of 2011, according to the latest quarterly report by the National Association of Realtors.

Rising sales and lower inventory created more balanced conditions, NAR added, with favorable conditions dominating across the country.

The median existing single-family home price rose in 29 out of 149 metropolitan statistical areas in the fourth quarter from a year earlier; two were unchanged and 118 areas had price declines.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said the figures reflect more home sales at lower prices.

"Sales have risen strongly in lower price ranges from one year ago, while sales at the upper end remain sluggish," he said. "More importantly, we're seeing a consistent trend of declining inventory, which means supply and demand conditions are becoming more balanced in more areas, which will

help stabilize home prices."

The national median existing single-family home price was \$163,500 in the fourth quarter, down 4.2% from \$170,600 in the fourth quarter of 2010. The median is where half sold for more and half sold for less.

Distressed homes — foreclosures and short sales which sold at discounts averaging 15-20% — accounted for 30% of fourth-quarter sales. They were 34% a year earlier.

Annual price measures, also reported this week, generally smooth out any quarterly swings.

"Broadly speaking, the very middle of the country, from the Dakotas and Nebraska to Oklahoma and Texas, has experienced very stable home price trends because of stronger job creation in those areas," Yun said.

Total existing-home sales, including single-family and condo, increased 5.9% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.42 million in the fourth quarter from 4.17

See **PRICES** on Page 21



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bd 4 ba 4 sqft+/- 3,824 \$999,950

Model Perfect! Over \$300k in upgrades, prof landsc, pebble sheen pool, prem lot, Mcnear pavers, 4 car gar, office, bonus rm, sand & finish walnut floors, cust iron banister, cust blt-ins, mill-work, crown mouldings, greatroom, hike trails, open space, top-rated school.

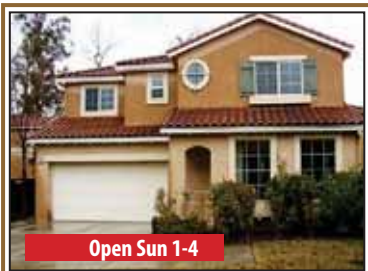
2128 Watercress Pl San Ramon



bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2,373 \$849,000

Beautiful Waterloo model with a great feel and open floor plan. Bed and full bath downstairs. Kitchen with island and wood floors opens to cozy family room with fireplace. Large professionally landscaped rear yard with terrific flagstone patio.

2194 Elsa Cmn Livermore



bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 1,911 \$464,950

Gorgeous hardwood floors, new paint, Corian counters & great court location! Light & bright! Open floorplan w/huge master! Second biggest lot in development w/ added parking space. Community pool/spa for summer fun! Convenient shopping & commuting! Regular sale!

247 East Vallecitos Rd Livermore



Lot and Land Only \$1,799,000

Build your Dream Custom Vineyard Estate Plus Tasting Room. Breathtaking views of the valley. Easy to build on desirable flat building pad. Pristine location adjacent to Sycamore Grove. Enjoy wine country living in the S. Livermore wine country!

Joe Frazzano Team 925.735.7653 The Engels 925.580.5107 Weiner/ McDowell 925.251.2550 Diane Sass 925.583.2168 Uwe Maercz 925.251.2568

7793 Peppertree Rd Dublin



bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2,240 \$629,000

Desirable Westside! Gorgeous hardwood floors, fresh paint, dual pane win & new blinds. Master suite downstairs w/private ba. Corner lot, RV access + 2 lots. Patio & backyard landscaped & exterior paint in 2010. Close to 580/680 & Bart!

6950 Crow Canyon Rd Castro Valley



bd 4 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 2,700 \$893,000

Country Colonial Charming This Gated Entrance to this Country Charming property is great. The main home is 2,700+/- sq.ft., updated kitchen and most windows are new, flooring thru out the home is newer and so much more. Cottage which is over 850 sq.ft. all on 1 Acre.

2899 Rutherford Ct Livermore



bd 4 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 3,504 \$849,000

Wonderfully location at the end of a cul-de-sac, near vineyards/ open fields. Very spacious entry way, gourmet kitchen & grand master bedroom suite. Large backyard with a private apartment/office above the garage. Live in style, and create your own country get-away.

3056 Riversbend Cir Livermore



bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2,878 \$779,950

Large executive home, possible 5th bedroom. Property has a gourmet kitchen with granite counters, stainless steel appliances, upgraded kitchen cabinets, formal dining room, master suite with marble bathroom, plantation shutters throughout. Full bed/ba downstairs.

18309 Joseph Dr Castro Valley



bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 1,748 \$479,000

Wait until you see this one! Nice spacious home located in Upper Castro Valley, in the Proctor School District. Hardwood floors thru out, updated bathrooms, newer paint, newer carpet downstairs, Open ceiling in the Living room, must see to believe!

Cathy and Kari 925.251.2554 Kristy and Company 925.251.2536 Sara Arnold 925.253.7040 Max de Vries 925.251.2514 Kristy and Company 925.251.2536

Blackhawk East
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Blackhawk West
3880 Blackhawk Rd.
Danville, CA 94506
925.736.6000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Lafayette
3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549
925.385.2330

Livermore
1983 Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

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

Pleasanton
5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925.251.2500

Orinda
89 Davis Rd.,
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

Walnut Creek
1700 N. Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.280.8500

PRICES

Continued from Page 19

million in the third quarter, and were 9.2% above the 4.04 million pace during the fourth quarter of 2010. All regions rose from the third quarter and from a year ago.

At the end of the fourth quarter there were 2.38 million existing homes available for sale, which is 21.2% lower than the close of the fourth quarter of 2010 when there were 3.02 million homes on the market.

NAR President Moe Veissi, broker-owner of Veissi & Associates Inc., in Miami, said market conditions vary widely around the country.

"Even with record high housing affordability conditions, all real estate is local," he said. "Both buyers and sellers need to be aware of what works in their local market, and Realtors are the best resource because they have unparalleled knowledge of local market conditions and options."

Metro areas with the greatest housing affordability conditions in 2011 include the Detroit-Warren-Livonia area of Michigan; Toledo, Ohio; and Decatur, Ill.

"Clearly, the Midwest has the greatest concentration of areas where home buyers have the strongest purchasing power, followed by the South," Yun said. "Metropolitan areas on the West Coast and along the Northeastern seaboard have generally higher-priced homes, which account for lower affordability."

The share of all-cash home purchases in the fourth quarter was 29%, unchanged from the third quarter. They

represented 30% of all sales in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Investors, who are drawn by bargain prices and account for the bulk of cash purchases, accounted for 19% of transactions in the fourth quarter of 2011, compared to 20% in the third quarter and 19% a year ago.

First-time buyers purchased 33% of homes in the fourth quarter, slightly up from 32% in both the third quarter and the fourth quarter of 2010.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the West increased 8.1% in the fourth quarter and are 8.4% higher than a year ago. The median existing single-family home price in the West declined 4.2% to \$205,200 in the fourth quarter from the fourth quarter of 2010.

Existing-home sales in the Northeast rose 6.3% in the fourth quarter and are 3.7% above the fourth quarter of 2010. The median existing single-family home price in the Northeast fell 4.6% to \$229,200 in the fourth quarter from a year ago.

In the Midwest, existing-home sales increased 7.0% in the fourth quarter and are 14.1% higher than a year ago. The median existing single-family home price in the Midwest declined 3.3% to \$134,100 in the fourth quarter from the fourth quarter in 2010.

Existing-home sales in the South rose 3.8% in the fourth quarter and are 9.1% above the same quarter in 2010. The median existing single-family home price in the South was \$146,500 in the fourth quarter, down 3.8% from a year earlier. ■



900 Sunset Creek Lane, Pleasanton
New on the Market!

Bridle Creek, Impeccable in and out. 4 BR, 3 BA plus office and bonus room. Approx. 3445 sq. ft. Outstanding gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, granite slab countertops, stainless steel appliances and tile flooring. Beautifully landscaped private backyard; perfect for entertaining with sports pool, slide and automatic pool cover.

Offered at \$1,289,000

For photos and virtual tours visit www.deloresgragg.com

925.989.6500

If you are thinking of selling or buying a home, call me for information on current market conditions and options available to you.

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PETER MCDOWELL

925.251.2585
925.251.2550

PWEINER@ROCKCLIFF.COM
PMCDOWELL@ROCKCLIFF.COM
CA DRE #00673849
#01361481

WMGHOMES.COM



404 Oak Lane



2128 Watercress



NOW PENDING! 971 Summit Creek



NOW PENDING! 7923 Sawgrass Ct



OPEN SUNDAY

FOUR OUTSTANDING LISTINGS!
TWO OPEN HOMES THIS SUNDAY

404 OAK LN PLEASANTON 404Oaklane.com **Open Sun 1-4**
Italian Country Villa in Castlewood, Pleasanton. One of the most wonderful and unique homes available today. Gorgeous Italian Villa with an amazing 3/4 acre wooded lot, creek, views and more. Home features authentic Italian style and design with all modern features and amenities. **\$1,598,000**

2128 WATERCRESS PL SAN RAMON 2128Watercress.com **Open Sun 1-4**
Beautifully decorated and upgraded Waterloo model in the Bridges Golf Course Community. Beautiful 2373 square foot, 4 bedroom 3 bath Waterloo model located in the sought after Bridges Golf Course community. Home features hardwood floors in family room and kitchen, soaring ceilings, full bedroom and bath downstairs, all beautifully decorated and upgraded, and situated on a 10,000+ square foot lot. **\$849,000**

971 SUMMIT CREEK CT PLEASANTON 971SummitCreek.com
One of the finest homes in the desirable Bridle Creek neighborhood! This luxurious 4,455 square foot home features 5 Bedrooms plus Library and Media Room, including a private Guest Suite downstairs. Beautifully upgraded and decorated with custom window treatments, built ins, pecan hardwood floors, and much more. Incredible backyard with pool, spa, gazebo with outdoor kitchen and sports court. This is a property you should not miss seeing! **PENDING SALE/ \$1,698,000**

7923 SAWGRASS CT PLEASANTON 7923Sawgrass.com
Truly exceptional home in gated neighborhood of Golden Eagle. This exceptional home located in the prestigious gated community of Golden Eagle in Pleasanton. Featuring a single level floor plan with approx. 4,320 square feet on a nearly 30,000 sq.ft. private lot, with four spacious Bedrooms plus Library, 3 1/2 baths. **PENDING SALE/ Call for Price**



REPRESENTING **YOUR** INTERESTS

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Alamo

6 BEDROOMS
1311 Laverock Lane \$2,694,000
 Sun 1-4 Michael Hatfield Broker 984-1339

Danville

3 BEDROOMS
292 Windstream Pl \$564,000
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

4 BEDROOMS
341 Fontaine Ct \$719,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

5 BEDROOMS
755 El Pintado Rd \$1,685,000
 Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

Dublin

4 BEDROOMS
8633 Briarwood Ln \$425,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

5 BEDROOMS
6107 Ledgewood Terrace \$930,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 667-2100

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS
2188 Mclean Place \$1,179,999
 Sun 12-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 667-2100

2194 Elsa Cmn \$464,950
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2168

4 BEDROOMS
2255 Merlot Ln \$759,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

Manteca

4 BEDROOMS
1523 Pete Court \$219,000
 Sat 12-2 PMZ Real Estate (209) 324-2579

Pleasanton

4 BEDROOMS
640 Varese Ct \$1,950,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273

5260 Ridgevale Way \$980,000
 Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

3560 Ovella Way \$1,475,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

3435 Palmer Pl \$1,149,000
 Sun 1-4 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500

2579 Gillian Ct \$1,150,000
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273

4432 First St \$979,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 260-2220

4668 Laramie Gate Ct \$789,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 918-0986

900 Sunset Creek Ln \$1,289,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 918-0986

7943 Paragon Cir \$1,389,000
 Sun 1-4 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500

404 Oak Lane \$1,598,000
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2585

5 BEDROOMS

3720 Raboli Street \$1,999,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

7235 Valley Trails Dr \$699,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

2076 Valley Oak Ct. \$2,050,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Jan Pegler 519-1455

San Ramon

2 BEDROOMS

7121 Briza Loop \$449,000
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500

4 BEDROOMS

2128 Watercress Pl \$849,000
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2585

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$225,000
Highest sale reported: \$684,500
Average sales reported: \$405,639

Livermore

Total sales reported: 24
Lowest sale reported: \$80,000
Highest sale reported: \$675,000
Average sales reported: \$357,979

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$220,000
Highest sale reported: \$901,000
Average sales reported: \$466,028

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 8
Lowest sale reported: \$360,000
Highest sale reported: \$900,000
Average sales reported: \$632,687

Sunol

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$390,000
Highest sale reported: \$390,000
Average sales reported: \$390,000

Source: California REsource

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

For marketing opportunities contact Andrea Heggelund at 600-0840 x110.



KELLER WILLIAMS
 TRI-VALLEY REALTY

“KW Associates closed 19% more units per Agent in 2011. While other Agents remain constant or retract, ours thrive!”

Source: RealTrends Data, 2011

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californiamoves.com



DUBLIN
 Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 **8633 BRIARWOOD LN**
BEAUTIFUL SPACIOUS HOME \$425,000
 4 BR 2 BA Garage converted into large Family rm. Roof approx 9yrs old. Remodeled Bath. Private Bckyard. 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
 Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 **1254 ORCHID COURT**
BEAUTIFUL 1-STORY HOME! CALL FOR PRICING!
 3 BR 2 BA Granite Counters w/tumbled marble backsplash in Kit. w/lrge island. Wood Laminate flrs. 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
 2327 VINEYARD HEIGHTS LN
BEAUTIFUL ESTATE HOME \$1,500,000
 6 BR 5 BA Backs to Vineyard Estate. Upgds-5" hand scraped maple flrs. Granite Counters/Wolf appl. 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
 Open SAT/SUN 12 - 4 **145 COPPER RIDGE RD.**
CONDOS AVAILABLE PRICING STARTS IN LOW \$300'S
 2 bd condos, vaulted ceilings avail, w/garages, gated, renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

BYRON
6600 ARMSTRONG RD. \$475,000
40 ACRES, A-2 ZONING
 1 BR 2 BA All usable, zoned for 5 acre parcels. Country Cute Home, Barns, Fenced, Central location. 925.847.2200

Open SAT/SUN 11 - 5 **5027 PASEO PADRE PKWY**
UPGRADED ARDENWOOD HOME! \$475,000
 3 BR 2 BA Tile Flrs-Kit/Bath. Granite Counters in Kit. Wood-Burning fireplace in Liv Rm. Spacious Bdrms 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON
 927 HAPPY VALLEY RD
COMPLETELY REMODELED! \$1,000,000
 4 BR 3 BA 3,361 sq.ft. living space. Gourmet Kit. w/ granite counters, SS Apps. Mstr Ste w/Spa like tub. 925.847.2200

Open SUN 1 - 4 **980 ARBOR DR**
GORGEOUS HOME! \$569,000
 4 BR 2 BA Chefs Kitchen. Granite Countertops. Dual Pane. Hrdwd Flrs. Luxurious Bath. Hurry 925.847.2200

FREMONT
4561 LEONATO WAY \$585,000
GREAT TWO STORY HOME!
 4 BR 2.5 BA Living Rm w/vaulted ceilings & fire-place. Separate Fam Rm, Kit w/brkfst bar. Lrge Mstr. 925.847.2200

Open SUN 1 - 4 **1457 MACATERA AVE #250**
MANUFACTURED HOME! \$144,900
 3 BR 2 BA Newer manufactured home. Kitchen with island, upgraded cabinets, flooring. Too many extras. 925.847.2200

5128 BLACKBIRD DR \$769,000
GREAT LOCATION!
 4 BR 2.5 BA 2364 Sq.Ft. Upgraded Kit w/beautiful cabinetry, hrdwd flrs, granite counters. Expanded Fam Rm. 510-421-2836

233 BEGIER AVE \$395,000
BROADMOOR TUDOR REVIVAL
 4 BR 2 BA Short Sale. Hardwood Floors. Remodeled Kitchen/Baths. Front porch. Great Location. Call Today! 925.847.2200

Open SUN 11 - 5 **4631 ROUSILLON AVE**
ARDENWOOD BEAUTY! \$538,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA Upgraded Kit. w/Granite counters. Dual-Door Ref. New Interior Paint. New Roof 1yr old. 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE
3586 PESTANA WAY \$339,888
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED HOME!
 4 BR 2 BA Completely Remodeled w/New Kit & Ba. Garage converted w/permits. Backyard w/out-door kitchen. 925.847.2200

SAN LEANDRO
 Open SUN 1 - 4 **942 WOODLAND AVE**
UPGRADED CRAFTSMAN \$589,000
 4 BR 3 BA Fabulous Kit. w/Granite, work island, commercial range SS, custom cabinets. Mstr Ste w/deck. 925.847.2200

2010 NOME \$250,000
MOVE IN READY!
 3 BR 1 BA Large Family Room. Covered Patio. Large backyard. Close to Freeway Access. Close to Shops. 925.847.2200



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

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OAK LANE



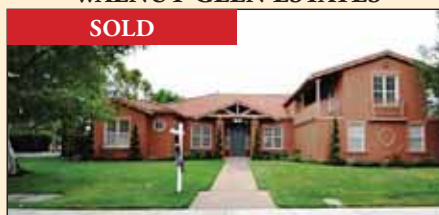
369 OAK LANE, PLEASANTON
Former Hearst Estate Hunting Lodge - "Moonlight Oaks." Private Driveway leads to 1.2 acre estate lot in premium wooded, secluded location. This is an entertainers dream home. Extensive use of quality Redwood timber. Recently upgraded, desirable single level with tastefully maintained historic charm. Panoramic views of nature and historic majestic Oaks. Approximately 3800 Square Feet with three bedrooms, three remodeled bathrooms, large gourmet kitchen, and incredible Great room with large Yosemite style fireplace and open beam ceiling. Large basement for storage and detached two-room wine cottage.
OFFERED AT \$1,549,000

OAK PARK



PENDING
247 TOMAS WAY, PLEASANTON
Completely remodeled, single level in Oak Park. Remodeled gourmet kitchen, remodeled bathrooms, newer dual pane windows, crown molding, hardwood floors, upgraded baseboards, central air conditioning, and private rear yard. Newer doors, door trim, and hardware, upgraded light fixtures and fans. Close to downtown and shopping.
OFFERED AT \$549,000

WALNUT GLEN ESTATES



SOLD
3891 PICARD AVENUE, PLEASANTON
Wow! Better than new because it is done & ready! Extensively designer remodeled, single level, plus upstairs bonus room/au pair/guest quarters! Premium corner .34 acre lot! Four bedrooms plus bonus, four bathrooms, 3588 square feet. Completely remodeled gourmet kitchen with new granite slab countertops, designer backsplash & new stainless appliances. Remodeled bathrooms with granite slab countertops, custom marble flooring & surround. New interior & exterior paint, new carpet, new Travertine flooring! Vaulted ceilings, plantation shutters, crown molding, new door hardware & light fixtures! Security alarm system & intercom! Finished three car garage! Tile roof. Professionally recently upgraded landscaped grounds with spacious lawn area & patios. Award winning Pleasanton schools! Walk to neighborhood parks!
OFFERED AT \$1,269,000

CANYON OAKS



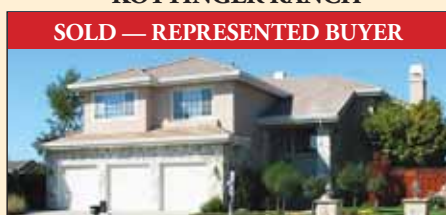
SOLD
5809 STONECLIFF VISTA LN, PLEASANTON
Newer beautiful home built in 2004. Great location, backs to open space with views of Mount Diablo, Pleasanton Ridge & surrounding open space! Three bedrooms plus loft/office, two & a half bathrooms, 2401 square feet. Custom tile flooring. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, stainless appliances. Spacious master suite. Oversized two car garage. Beautiful landscaping. Walk to new sports park & award winning Hearst Elementary, Pleasanton Middle School, Oak Hill Shopping Center & Main Street! Convenient to Callippe Golf Course & Castlewood Country Club.
SOLD FOR \$810,000

DOWNTOWN



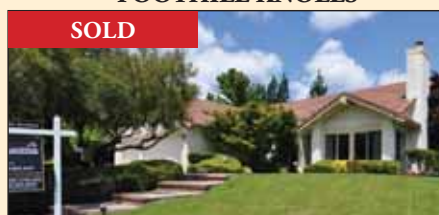
SOLD
335 DEL SOL AVENUE, PLEASANTON
Location, location, location. Desirable downtown quiet court location! Beautiful upgraded home, 5 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms with 2350 square feet. Remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, custom backsplash and stainless appliances. Newer upgraded hardwood flooring, plantation shutters, dual pane windows, newer brushed nickel hardware and fixtures. Lots of upgrades including 30 year roof. Elevated lot with private secluded tranquil grounds includes TimberTech deck, mature trees. Walk around the corner at Neal and in one minute you are at the Farmers Market and can also enjoy all the other downtown amenities! Award winning schools!
SOLD FOR \$830,000

KOTTINGER RANCH



SOLD — REPRESENTED BUYER
1348 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON
Excellent location!!! Panoramic views of surrounding hills. Backs to open space, no rear neighbors. Great condition, move in ready! Five bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 3300 square feet. Recently updated gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops! Spacious master suite with fireplace & large bathroom. Open living room, family room and formal dining room. French doors, hardwood flooring. Three car garage. Beautiful, professionally landscaped grounds include, in-ground pool, spacious deck, gazebo, large lawn areas and 135 wine producing grape vines, private vineyard! Community amenities include tennis courts & pool! Walking distance to Main Street and downtown! Award winning Pleasanton schools!
SOLD FOR \$1,400,000

FOOTHILL KNOLLS



SOLD
7863 FOOTHILL KNOLLS, PLEASANTON
Beautiful single story on private premium .35 acre lot. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, approximately 2,150 sf. 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 AND SOLD FOR \$949,000

LAGUNA OAKS



SOLD
2505 AROLLOTTA 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.
SOLD FOR \$1,300,000

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



Julia Murtagh

925.997.2411
jmurtagh@apr.com
JuliaMurtagh.com
DRE #01751854

**"Bringing Integrity
to Your Front Door"**



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REALTORS

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**If you are thinking of Selling your home,
you need to know our Spring market is already hopping.
We are seeing multiple offers on many homes!**

I have Pre-Approved buyers looking for homes in Pleasanton:

Vintage Hills
4 bedroom home,
2000+ plus, pool okay,
up to 825K

**Downtown, Birdland,
Del Prado**
Valley View neighborhood,
3/4 bedrooms,
up to 850k

**West Side, Carriage
Oaks, Vintage Hills**
4/5 bedrooms,
2800+, pool okay,
up to 1.1 million

First time buyers
Young family,
3 bedroom,
not busy street,
under 550k

JUST SOLD



**6023 STERLING
GREEN CIRCLE**
Beautiful home in the
"Canyon Oaks"
neighborhood of
South Pleasanton.
This 4 bed/2.5 bath
upgraded home
is just under 2900
sq ft. **SOLD FOR
\$815,000**

PENDING IN 5 DAYS



**1111 TIFFANY
LANE**
Charming Duet,
close to downtown,
1705 sq. ft. upgraded
throughout, built in
1985. Walk to school,
shops, parks. Call
for more details.
**OFFERED AT
\$479,000**

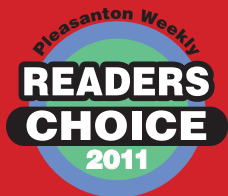
COMING SOON!

Country Fair Estates. Wonderful Stradford Model,
just under 2800 sq. ft. 4 bedroom / 3 bath.
An entertainer's delight w/nice pool in backyard.
Situated on a nice, large court near
Del Prado Park. Call for more info!

DISTRESSED SELLERS

2012 will have record numbers of Short
Sales. For those sellers, there will be
major incentives and programs to help the
transition. Please review my dedicated
website for more information or call.
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TRI-VALLEY REALTY

#1 OFFICE
IN PLEASANTON
IN VOLUME
AND SALES

Open Sun 1-4



900 Sunset Creek Lane, Pleasanton

Bridle Creek, New on the Market! Impeccable in and out. 4 BR, 3 BA plus office and bonus room. Approx. 3445 sq. ft. Outstanding gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, granite slab countertops, stainless steel appliances and tile flooring. Beautifully landscaped private backyard; perfect for entertaining with sports pool, slide and automatic pool cover. **Offered at \$1,289,000**



Melissa Pederson
REALTOR® DRE # 01002251
925.397.4326
melissapedersonhomes@gmail.com
www.melissapederson.com

SALE PENDING!



**4580 Harper Ct, Pleasanton
Pride in Ownership!**

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath one level home on a quiet court in Pleasanton. New stucco, roof, windows and almost 1600 sq ft. Beautifully updated kitchen.



**Dave & Sue
Flashberger**
REALTORS®, GRI, CRS, SRES
925.463.0436
www.SoldinaFlash.com

SALE PENDING!



Wonderful 4 Bedroom Home

One level home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and almost 2000 sq ft. Remodeled kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Formal dining and cozy fireplace in the living. Spacious master bedroom.

PENDING



3300 Araldi Lane, Dublin

In Arrivare at Sorrento in Dublin. A taste of Italy in the Dublin countryside. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath single family home with open architecture and intelligent floor plan; amazing community amenities!

Call us before going to the sales office of any new development – we will be on your side to help get what you want in your new home.

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DRE #01293873



Cristin Kiper Sanchez
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DRE #01479197

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Open Sun 1-4



4432 1st Street, Pleasanton

One of a kind! Amazing Downtown Victorian. 4 BR, 3 BA and 1791 +/- sqft. Within walking distance to all Downtown events. Updated throughout with original details, and custom enhancements. Plus 417 sqft. studio apartment above the garage and an additional basement in law unit! **Offered at \$979,000**



DeAnna Armario
REALTOR® DRE # 01363180
925.260.2220
www.armariohomes.com

Sold in 2 days!



4911 Blackbird Wy, Pleasanton

Gorgeous remodeled single level, 4 bedroom, 2 bath in popular Birdland area! Hardwood floors, maple cabinets, solar pool, top schools and close to the park! Call for pricing.



Gail Boal
REALTOR® DRE # 01276455
925.577.5787
www.gailboal.com

1641VettaDrive.com



1641 Vetta Dr, Livermore

Outstanding 5 bed (6 potential) & 4.5 ba home w/ 3500+ sq ft. 1 bed/ba downstairs. Upgrades throughout including \$27k in solar (no PG&E), new carpet, crown molding, maple cabinets, plantation shutters & great yard for entertaining. **Offered at \$914,900**



Cindy and Gene Williams
REALTORS® DRE # 01370076 and 00607511
925.918.2045
www.williamsteam.net

Open Sun 1-4



4668 Laramie Gate Ct., Pleasanton

Beautifully updated 4 BR and 3 BA home w/vaulted ceiling on a quiet court in the "Gates" neighborhood. 1 BR and full BA downstairs. Charming and spacious kitchen. Large, private backyard with tiled patio & charming grape arbor. Great schools! **Offered at \$789,000**



Ingrid Wetmore
REALTOR® DRE # 00923379
925.918.0986
www.krugergroup.com

OPEN SUN 1-4



2579 Gillian Court, Pleasanton

Single story, 3146 sqft. home, w/4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Timeless design, with cherry kitchen with stainless appliances, & private and expansive yard with built in bbq & fire pit. **NOW SHORT SALE \$1,150,000**

The Fabulous Properties Team
Cunningham • Garrison • Schall



www.FabulousProperties.net
www.RubyHill.net

Fran & Dave Cunningham
925.202.6898
DRE # 01226296 & 00930892

Donna Garrison
925.980.0273
DRE # 01735040

Susan Schall
925.519.8226
DRE # 01713497

OPEN SUN 1-4



640 Varese Court, Ruby Hill

This beautiful 5665 sq ft. French Country home offers 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, bonus room, gourmet chef's appointed kitchen, and golf course lot & views. The pool, spa and barbecue island enhance your living and entertaining experience. **Offered at \$1,950,000**

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DRE # 01713497

5994 W. Las Positas, Suite 101, Pleasanton | www.KWTrivalley.com | 459 Main Street, Pleasanton

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