

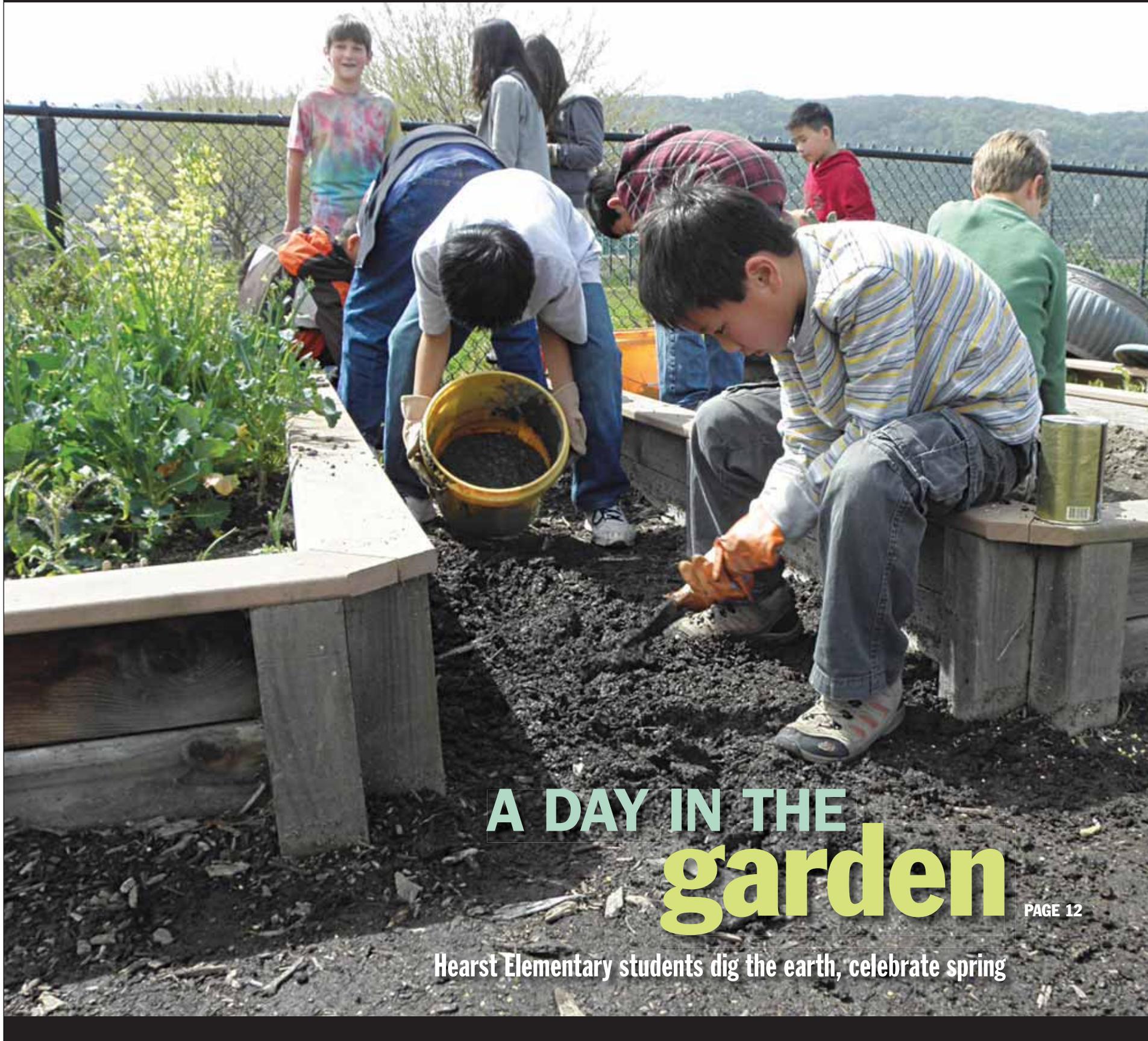
# Pleasanton Weekly

**LET'S EAT!**  
A guide to dining out  
in Pleasanton >> 16



VOL. XIII, NUMBER 12 • APRIL 6, 2012

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SECTIONS



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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Safeway making a difference here, around the country

Charitable giving is an imbedded part of business plans at most large companies, but I've never seen it flourish with such excitement and public celebration as at Safeway. The country's No. 2 grocer (after Kroger) is headquartered here and often uses its two Pleasanton supermarkets to launch not only new products but also its national, regional and local charitable campaigns, ranging from donating to Open Heart Kitchen and the Alameda County Food Bank locally to national fundraisers for breast cancer research and Easter Seals.

Its sponsorship of special events for other charitable organizations adds to its reputation as one of the country's leading corporations with a priority focus on corporate social responsibility. Here at the Pleasanton Weekly, our annual Holiday Fund benefits from Safeway's support of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, which provides matching funds to our campaign each year.

Last Tuesday, several hundred crowded into the new Safeway Lifestyle store on Bernal Avenue to join executives, employees and celebrities as the grocer launched its annual campaign in support of people with disabilities and to benefit Easter Seals and Special Olympics. There on stage just down a few hundred feet from the checkout stands were singer Avril Lavigne, two-time Super Bowl winner and 49ers legend Dwight Clark and KNBR's sports anchor Brian Murphy, who also served as the ceremony's emcee. This year's campaign got under way Tuesday and customers can join in by contributing at any Safeway checkout stand through the month of April. Over the years, Safeway's support of organizations that help people with disabilities live fuller lives has totaled over \$130 million.

When customers enter any Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Tom Thumb, Randalls, Dominick's or Carrs store through April 30, they should look for the "Behind the Scenes with Avril Lavigne" signs near each store's entrance, grab a tear-card from the sign and take it to a checkout stand



SAFEWAY PHOTO

Singer Avril Lavigne bags groceries at the Safeway Lifestyle supermarket on Bernal Avenue in competition with others who helped launch the grocer's national campaign in support of people with disabilities.

to make a \$5 donation to support services for children and adults living with disabilities. When you do that, you'll be given a coupon and code to view exclusive videos of Lavigne on tour, including her visits to Easter Seals programs for kids with disabilities. Safeway VP Larree Renda, who chairs the Safeway Foundation, introduced Lavigne at Tuesday's campaign launch to the loud applause of her fans, who later made their way to the Bernal store's poster for a tear-card to make a donation.

Also on board Tuesday was Brady Lum, president and chief operating officer of the Special Olympics. He noted that Safeway not only sponsors the annual campaigns to help those with disabilities, but it also employs thousands of people with disabilities. James E. Williams Jr., president and chief executive of Easter Seals, agreed, thanking customers and employees for helping Easter Seals make a significant difference. That generated enthusiastic waves from some 40 Safeway employees with disabilities who filled several rows of chairs in the audience.

Safeway, by the way, was just named one of the 2012 "World's Most Ethical Companies" by the Ethisphere Institute, a think tank dedicated to the creation, advancement and sharing of best practices in business ethics, corporate social responsibility, anti-corruption and sustainability efforts. These are the kind of companies that we're proud can call Pleasanton home. ■

## About the Cover

Ryan Boyden watches as his fellow students, including Andrew Li, sitting on the corner, build a pathway out of tree bark and mud in the garden at Hearst Elementary. Times may have changed, but for these students digging in the dirt remains a favorite activity. Photo by Glenn Wohltmann. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XIII, Number 12

# GIANT BOOK SALE

Book Store & Café

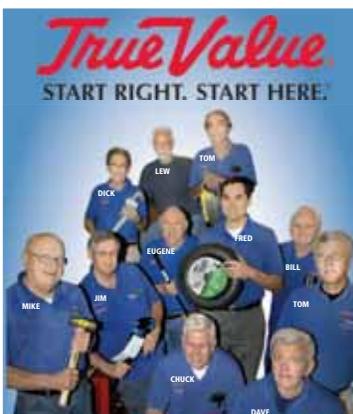
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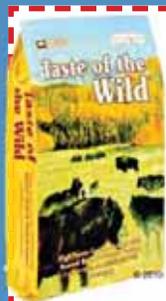
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**HERITAGE  
ESTATES**

# Streetwise

ASKED AT THE LIBRARY

## What are your plans for spring break?



**Lisa Cole**  
CEO, Cole family

Usually we head to warmer climates to soak up the sun at the beach, but this year we thought it would be fun to take the kids to San Francisco, a vacation destination right in our own back yard. We're going spend a few days hitting up Alcatraz and other tourist attractions, shopping and eating at all the great restaurants.

**Zach Stark**  
Age 5

We're going to get some Easter stuff and dye Easter eggs with my brother Nick. My favorite colors are red and blue. The bunny is going to come. We are going to do lots of fun things like go to the Giants game. I like the Sharks, too. My dad and me went to a game.



**Jeanne Wolfe**  
Stay-at-home mom

We are going to have a lot of play dates and spend time at the library. A group of moms and I are planning a big Easter egg hunt. We're all going to bring a dozen filled eggs and the kids will have a blast finding them. Afterward we'll have a potluck lunch.

**Jarred White**  
Wine pourer

My family is going to be visiting out-of-town relatives, and I have to housesit, so I get to relax all by myself. I'll probably invite a few friends over, go on my morning walks, and get some movies. I really need to rest.



**Carrie Spurlock**  
Henry's mom

We're going to have Grandma and Grandpa over for Easter weekend. My 18-month-old son Henry is their first grandchild, so we'll all enjoy watching him hunt for eggs. During the week we'll visit the library, go to the park, and relax at home. We're also house-hunting, so we'll probably spend some time doing that.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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## DIGEST

### John Laird to speak

Museum on Main is celebrating April as Earth Month by presenting California Secretary of Resources John Laird as part of its monthly Ed Kinney Lecture Series, "An Evening With...."

Laird, who was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown in January 2011, has Pleasanton ties. After raising their family in Vallejo, his parents moved to Pleasanton, and Laird's father, Ralph Laird, served as principal at Amador Valley High.

John Laird was Santa Cruz mayor from 1983-84 and 1987-88, and represented District 27 in the California State Assembly from 2002-08. On Tuesday, he will discuss State Resource issues including California State Parks, Bay Delta Conservation efforts and the Klamath River.

The event will be held at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$10 general admission; \$5 members/seniors; \$3 students/teachers at [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org), by calling the museum at 462-2766, or at the door.

### Rides for seniors

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley needs volunteers to drive seniors to medical appointments outside of the Tri Valley area, such as to Walnut Creek and Palo Alto. Drivers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle, carry automobile liability insurance, and have a clear DMV record. For more information, contact Jennifer Cullen at 931-5387 or email [jcullen@ssptv.org](mailto:jcullen@ssptv.org).

### Kitchen seeks board members

Open Heart Kitchen, which feeds the hungry every weekday and serves more than 200,000 meals annually, is seeking several board members to support the organization's efforts.

"Board directors play a very pivotal role at Open Heart Kitchen and can become integrally involved in making a big difference in the success of the program," said Board President Joan Tiefenthaler. "We are hoping to further expand the broad scope of talent on our board and encourage interested parties to apply."

Applications are available at [www.openheartkitchen.org](http://www.openheartkitchen.org). For more information, contact Open Heart Kitchen Executive Director Linda McKeever at [executivedirector@openheartkitchen.org](mailto:executivedirector@openheartkitchen.org) or call 580-1616.

### Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

## Sullivan's last stand against Walmart grocery

Councilman seeks to reverse Planning Commission OK of Neighborhood Market

By JEB BING

Pleasanton City Councilman Matt Sullivan, a long-time and outspoken foe of the business and employment policies of national retailer Walmart Corp., filed an appeal Monday against a decision last month by the city's Planning Commission to allow the company to open one of its Neighborhood Markets here.

Walmart has filed papers with the city to open its market in the long-vacant 33,160-square-foot former Nob Hill supermarket building on Santa Rita Road, near Las Positas Boulevard.

The Pleasanton Planning Commission voted 5-0 on March 19 to approve for a second time Walmart's bid. The commission's decision actually was to deny an appeal by two Pleasanton residents, Angela Joe-Willmes and Linda Martin, who contested a decision by the city's zoning administrator.

The administrator ruled that Walmart could open its market at the site since the proposed market matches the footprint of the Nob Hill store, which the city approved in 1982.

In February, the City Council voted 4-1 to accept the zoning administrator's decision, with Sullivan casting the one vote against the measure.

Council members have the right to appeal any decisions by the Planning Commission and Sullivan filed his Monday with City Clerk Karen Diaz. The simple two-page appeal form carries his signature but no reasons for the appeal are given.

More than 150 attended the Planning Commission meeting, which was held in the Firehouse Arts Center because a large crowd was expected.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said the council

meeting on Sullivan's appeal could attract the same or even a larger crowd and will likely also be held in the Firehouse Theater, which has seats for 227 people. If the Firehouse isn't available, another site will be chosen.

By law, the council must act on Sullivan's appeal within 45 days. With council meetings usually held on Tuesday evenings, Fialho said a special meeting will be called, possibly as early as April 24 if the Firehouse Theater is available. Other nights and later dates prior to the 45-day deadline also will be considered.

If the council votes to deny Sullivan's appeal, Walmart could file for operating permits at the old Nob Hill store as early as the next day. Improvements to the interior of the store that Walmart is proposing could take another two to three months, with the store likely to open in mid to late summer. ■



YOLANDA WEAVER

### Ragin' Cajun raises \$105,000

Michael Brandon, Michele Mendes, Lance Mendes, Michael Miller, Trish Cortes and Josh Cortes enjoy Mardi Gras fun at Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation's fourth annual Ragin' Cajun at the Palm Event Center. The March 2 fundraiser, which sold out 11 days in advance and had 350 attendees dressed in Mardi Gras attire, yielded \$105,000, enough to provide 1,500 treatments to cancer sufferers.

"As a recent five-year survivor, I know too well the pain cancer patients endure and caregivers go through when dealing with chemotherapy and radiation treatments," said Sandra J. Wing. "The foundation provides a means to lessen that burden and suffering with complementary therapies."

More photos by Yolanda Weaver and Bob Henry can be found at [www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org](http://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org).



BOB HENRY

## Easter morning sunrise services

Biblical event to be reenacted on shores of Shadow Cliffs Lake

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

This year's Easter Sunrise Service will be presented at Shadow Cliffs Lake by Trinity Baptist, Livermore, in a dawn celebration of the most important Christian holiday.

Pastor Dr. Jim Meek will portray Peter in a dramatic monologue, "Do you love me?"

Bob Boyd, who is organizing Sunday's event, explained that after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter after he returned to shore from fishing and asked him three times, "Do you love me?"

"I think he chose the subject to emphasize that everybody should love Jesus and that if you do he will call upon you to follow him," Boyd said.

The gates will open at 5:30 a.m. and parking fees are waived for the service.

"We'll put up chairs Saturday night," Boyd said. "Group singing will begin at 6:20, then about 6:30 Pastor Jim will, in costume, portray Peter on the beach."

"The park has given us permission to have a little bonfire, and he will be portraying Peter around the bonfire on the beach," Boyd added.

The sun is scheduled to rise at the conclusion of the monologue, he said.

Everyone is invited to attend the Easter Sunrise Service, which will conclude by 7 a.m. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available.

Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area is located at 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton. ■

## 2007 Foothill graduate among those killed in mass shooting

No word on services for local victim Grace Eunhea Kim

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Foothill High Principal John Dwyer is offering condolences to those who remember Grace Eunhea Kim, a 2007 graduate.

Kim, who had since moved to Union City, was among the seven people killed Monday morning in a mass shooting at Oikos University in Oakland, a Christian vocational school that offers nursing degrees among its courses. She was employed at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse in Newark.

On Tuesday, the Alameda Coroner's Office identified her as one of the victims. The others are: Lydia H. Sim, 21, of Hayward; Sonam Choedon, 33, of El Cerrito; Tshering Rinzing Bhutia, 38, of San Francisco; Judith O. Seymour, 53, of San Jose; and Doris Chibuko, 40, of San Leandro. The school's receptionist Katleen Ping, 21, of Oakland was also among the victims. Three other people, Dawinder Kaur, Ahmad Javid Sayeed and Grace Kirika, were injured in the shooting but survived.

"It's hard to believe that someone so young, with their whole life before them like this could be taken in such a senseless act. This is just so sad. I know you will all join me in passing on our sincerest sympathies to Grace's family and friends," Dwyer said in a statement.

The principal said he didn't have any details about a memorial service for Kim but the school will offer counseling for those grieving the killing.

"Although she graduated five years ago, she may still have connections with students still attending Foothill," Dwyer said in his statement to the Foothill community. "I know many of you will have had her as a student or knew her well. I want to extend to you any and all support that we can provide if you need help

See **SHOOTING** on Page 6



## TAKE US ALONG



**Croatia island getaway:** The Hodzic, Olney and Jeffrey families vacation on the island of Brac in the Adriatic Sea — with their Weekly.

## SHOOTING

Continued from Page 5

at this very sad time.”

Meanwhile, the gunman identified by police as One Goh, 43, has been charged with seven counts of murder for allegedly opening fire at the university on Edgewater Drive. Police said Goh is a former student who had been expelled.

District Attorney Nancy O'Malley's office has filed seven counts of murder and three counts of premeditated attempted murder against Goh, a Korean citizen. O'Malley's office also claimed a special circumstance against Goh for killing multiple people.

City officials, numerous clergy members from at least nine different religious centers, family, friends and community members mourned the massive loss at a memorial service held at Allen Temple Baptist Church in East

Oakland at 6 p.m. Tuesday night.

The pews were filled with mourners, some with homemade signs, and a throng of media members lined the walls snapping photos of the diverse congregation, many from the Bay Area Korean-Christian community.

Mayor Jean Quan, who was seated on the stage throughout the service, spoke to the crowd about the diversity of Oakland and the shortcomings of gun control.

She listed several recent major shootings throughout the state and nation, emphasizing that gun violence is not just an Oakland issue.

She acknowledged the diverse immigrant groups represented in Oakland and at Oikos, including shooting victims from Nigeria, Tibet, Korea, the Philippines and India.

For immigrants, Quan said, “Oakland is a city of dreams.” ■

## Council puts Club NEO on probation, cuts number of patrons allowed

Action follows January shooting, earlier parking lot fights

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council placed the troubled Club NEO on probation Tuesday night, ordering the Gateway Square nightclub to cut the number of patrons allowed in the club by nearly one-third and to close its two bars by 1 a.m.

The move came after a series of disturbances both inside and in the parking lot outside in December and January, including a shooting Jan. 14 that injured a Fremont patron.

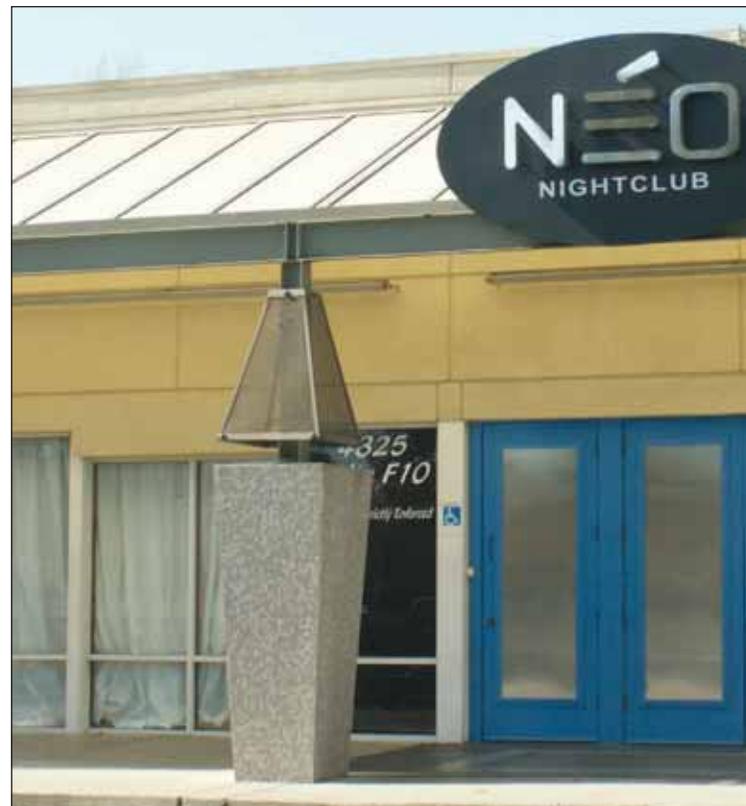
The council's decision was actually to deny an appeal by Club NEO attorney George Mull of an earlier vote by the city's Planning Commission to modify the existing conditional use permit for the club's operation.

The nightclub's attorney filed the appeal on Feb. 23 challenging the commission's decision to limit the number of nightclub patrons to 300, down from the 812 permitted in the club's conditional use permit granted earlier. The club must also close the bar at 1 a.m. daily, instead of 1:45 a.m. as previously authorized, and the council also ordered the Gateway Square parking lot to be cleaned of any glasses and cans by 2 a.m.

The council's vote to deny the appeal was 3-1, with Councilman Matt Sullivan absent from Tuesday night's meeting and Councilwoman Cindy McGovern voting against the measure because she objected to a 30-day probationary period. She said the frequency of past disturbances at the club that brought police officers to Gateway Square was so numerous that the probationary period should be much longer.

As it stands, Police Chief Dave Spiller and Brian Dolan, the city's director of Community Development, will observe nighttime activities at Club NEO during the 30-day probationary period, which started Tuesday night, and determine if the club can accept more patrons.

Although neither the council nor the Planning Commission voted not to revoke the club's operating permit entirely, for the time being, the club was ordered to provide and pay for a security staff that meets the requirements of Police



Chief Spiller and his department.

At Tuesday's council meeting, Spiller said security at the club has been spotty with inadequate staffing and no training of club employees on “intervention techniques” in the event of trouble.

“We simply don't have the resources to handle the large number of Club NEO patrons who were involved in the recent disturbances,” Spiller said.

He said his entire on-duty police force was required to be at the Gateway Square center in the late hours of Dec. 17 to quell the fights in the parking lot and the “side-show” drag racing car activities under way.

It was even worse on Jan. 17 when fights inside the club and in the parking lot had to be subdued by 10 officers from the Pleasanton force, eight from Livermore, six from Dublin, three sheriff's deputies and seven from the California Highway Patrol.

“Disturbances such as these

are highly unusual for Pleasanton,” Spiller said. “We've never had problems like these before.”

But Mull, Club NEO's attorney, told the council that these disturbances were “highly unusual” for the club, too. He said that the club suddenly started getting overcrowded in November.

“That's when postings on Facebook and other social websites made Club NEO the club of choice for African-Americans in Oakland and crowds started coming,” he said.

Mull said the club has been serving 600 or more patrons a night without problems and that restricting its allowable number of patrons to no more than 300 at a time will make the business unprofitable.

“We've put half-a-million-dollars into this club and won't be able to operate with that small of a number,” he said.

Gateway Square manager Gene Harrilenko of Alamo said Club NEO has stopped paying rent on the 10,000-square-foot of space it leases at the Chabot and Stoneridge drives corner of the center. He said that he believes there is a good possibility that the club is preparing to close.

Club NEO is owned by Diamond Pleasanton Enterprise, which received the Planning Commission's approval to increase the maximum occupancy from 643 patrons to 812 when the club's name was changed in 2010.

Diamond Pleasanton asked the commission to further modify its operating permit to provide activities for those under 21, but that application has yet to be considered.

Diamond Pleasanton Enterprises also has sued the city of Pleasanton asking the Federal District Court to set aside a city requirement affecting the type of and the volume of music it plays. That case is still pending. ■



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## Police release sketches of burglary suspects

Also photo of car used in break-in

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Pleasanton police have released sketches of two suspected burglars and a photo of the car used to flee from a morning break-in March 26, last seen speeding toward Interstate 680.

The attempted burglary was interrupted by the resident and was one of three daytime burglaries that occurred over the last week, with at least two committed by the same team, according to police reports. However, a surveillance camera picked up a shot of the car, which has now been released to the media, along with sketches of the two.

A man was at his home in the 8000 block of Regency Drive at about 11:35 a.m. when he heard his doorbell ring. He chose not to answer the door, but moments later, spotted a man trying to enter the home by forcing open a sliding window on the side yard.

"Upon being seen by the resident, the would-be burglar fled to the street and into an awaiting black, four-door sedan with two occupants," according to a news release. "The vehicle sped out of the Laguna Oaks development toward Foothill Road."

The homeowner called Pleasanton Police Department to report



the incident, and as officers were headed to the scene a driver turning onto Stoneridge Drive from Foothill Road saw the occupants of a black sedan throwing several items out of their car.

The driver lost sight of the car near I-680 but drove to the Pleasanton Police Department to report what she had seen. Officers who recovered the discarded property on Stoneridge Drive found miscellaneous items showing an address in the 800 block of Hopkins Way. When police went to that residence, they discovered the home had been broken into and ransacked.

Witnesses described the suspect vehicle in the two cases as being similar to a Cadillac DTS, with gold trim. The suspects are described as one Hispanic male and two black males, all in their mid-20s. ■



Alejandra Ahaev and her two daughters, Natasha (left) and Michelle, were the winners of the 2011 Pleasanton Weekly Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest.

## Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest

Send us your photos for prizes and fun

Mothers and daughters can be so much alike in mannerisms, personality, thoughts and, of course, appearance. With Mother's Day right around the corner, the Pleasanton Weekly again is holding its annual Mother-Daughter Lookalike contest.

If you think you and your daughter share a strong resemblance, send a digital photo to [contest@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:contest@pleasantonweekly.com) by 6 a.m., Thursday, April 26. Photos can be black and white or color, need to be in JPG format, at least 300 dpi.

Photos entered for previous contests are not eligible; only digital photos will be accepted.

The staff at the Weekly will choose the finalists, and readers will be able to vote online for which mother and daughter in Pleasanton look most alike. First-place prize is a \$100 gift certificate for Whole Foods; second-place prize is a \$50 gift certificate to Strizzi's restaurant.

Photos of the winners will be published in the May 11 edition of the Pleasanton Weekly. ■

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# Business News

Edited by Jeb Bing

## Raley's seeking union concessions to cut costs, become more competitive

Contract negotiations under way as Walmart Neighborhood Market nears approval

As Walmart appears to be successfully battling opposition from several unions and at least one City Councilman to its bid to open a Neighborhood Market grocery in Pleasanton, Raley's is seeking agreements from its unionized employees to cut health care and other benefits to stay competitive.

In an announcement out of Pleasanton, the UFCW Local 5 and UFCW 8-Golden State said that they have agreed to an extension of their previous labor contract with Raley's/Nob Hill while an independent review of Raley's financial status is under way.

The extension agreement with Raley's/Nob Hill averts a possible labor dispute with the company and allows time for the independent review to examine Raley's books. Save Mart, which owns the Lucky supermarket in Pleasanton, also has agreed to accept an independent review of its financial status.

The Solidarity Alliance partners, UFCW Locals 5, 8 and 648, have been negotiating a new contract with Raley's/Nob Hill, Safeway/Vons and Save Mart/Lucky since last summer. The companies are proposing cutbacks in employee health benefits, elimination of health care for retirees, reductions in take-home pay and other takeaways.

The previous contract for

62,000 unionized supermarket workers in Northern and Central California expired last October, but the workers have been covered by a series of extension agreements since then.

**"The decision to close the stores was made following a review by the company to identify under-performing stores and determine the future sales volume."**

Union members at stores owned by Safeway and Save Mart are still covered by an ongoing extension of the previous contract. Either side may cancel this arrangement after giving notice seven days in advance.

A week ago, Raley's refused to extend its contract with Local 5, which mainly covers about 1,700 workers at the chain's Nob Hill Foods subsidiary in the Bay Area, saying it didn't think the local was serious about reaching agreement.

Although those employees continued to work under terms of

the old contract, the move was an attempt by Raley's to ramp up the pressure on the local to make a deal.

Both locals reacted by accusing Raley's of behaving recklessly. Local 5 brought up the idea of scheduling a strike vote. Local 8, based in Roseville and covering thousands of workers in the Central Valley, vowed to stand in solidarity with the Bay Area local.

Meanwhile, the Sacramento Bee reported that Raley's is following through on its threat to close more stores as it tries to pressure its union workforce into accepting concessions. The West Sacramento-based grocer said it will close a Raley's in Rancho Cordova near Sacramento in mid-April, and plans to close a Nob Hill Foods store in Milpitas sometime later.

"The decision to close the stores was made following a review by the company to identify under-performing stores and determine the future sales volume," Raley's said in a statement.

Raley's closed its Nob Hill supermarket in Pleasanton two years ago. That building, located in the Meadow Plaza shopping center on Santa Rita Road near West Las Positas Boulevard, is where Walmart plans to open its Neighborhood Market, possibly this summer. ■

## Las Positas to offer mobile marketing course

Online course includes lectures, interaction with others

Las Positas College plans to offer a new online course, Advanced Mobile Marketing, which will be part of the college's Community Education Program.

This class is not eligible for college credit.

The one-month online course, which begins the week of June 4, will cover strategy and introduction, including types of platforms to use, how to design a campaign and how to execute and measure success.

Participants will be able to log into the course at any time from any computer. The course includes audio lectures by the instructor with slides, videos, online readings and ongoing discussion with the instructor and other participants.

Other courses in the Mobile Mar-

keting Certificate Program include Creating Cell Phone Apps for Business and Introduction to Mobile Marketing.

"Mobile marketing is such a big trend that it is becoming critical for businesses," said course instructor and mobile marketing expert Simon Salt. Salt is a blogger, writer, entrepreneur and CEO of the Marketing Communications Agency IncSlings. He speaks nationally on the topic of social media and is author of the book, "Social Location Marketing."

To register and learn more about the course, visit the Community Education website linked on the Las Positas College homepage at [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu), or contact Community Education Program Coordinator Frances De Nisco at 424-1467. ■



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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### New emergency communications system adds to public safety

Next month, public service agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, including Pleasanton, will move seamlessly into a new emergency responders' coordinated radio system that will allow instant communications across jurisdictional lines. This system will improve safety, eliminate duplication of overlapping independent systems, provide effective interoperable voice communications and enable the new East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA) to provide improved public safety services.

Instant communications among the many regional emergency responders became a priority across the country after 9/11 when so many police, fire, ambulance and other units lacked the needed urgent coordination because their vehicle and station radios didn't have matching frequencies. Here in the Tri-Valley, the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore jointly own, operate and share in the cost of an 800MHz radio communications system that was purchased in 1993. While this system has performed satisfactorily, its technology is outdated and in need of overhaul.

In early 2007, as Pleasanton and Livermore were exploring replacement and upgrade options, public service agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa counties also began exploring the feasibility of a two-county coordinated radio system. The end result of that effort was the formation of the EBRCSA, which Pleasanton joined in later that year.

Since then, the EBRCSA has been designing, installing and seeking funds to cover the cost of implementing the radio system. The mayors of the five Tri-Valley cities — Pleasanton, Danville, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon — have pitched the need for federal funding to complete the project on their annual trips to Washington, D.C. As a result of those efforts, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) announced in December 2007 that he had secured over \$800,000 in federal funding for the EBRCSA, which, with regional and city help, has now paid to finish the system and get it on air.

Although Alameda and Contra Costa counties have so far been spared the emergencies that came with the destructive tornadoes in Dallas-Fort Worth and the Colorado fires this week, we know that earthquake-prone Northern California also needs to be prepared. When major events like those take place, emergency personnel from across the two-county jurisdictions should be able to communicate and coordinate their responses.

The completion of the East Bay Regional Communications System is critically important and long overdue for the public safety agencies in both counties and the hundreds of thousands of us who live here. ■



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



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## THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

### WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

#### Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• **P11-0798, Archie G. Perlegos**

Application for Design Review approval to construct an approximately 4,232-square-foot single-story home and a 866-square foot attached garage at 5982 Kolb Ranch Drive (Lot 9)

• **P12-0054, Leon Yuan, Academic Center of Volitation**

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a heritage school for 80 Kindergarten through 8th Grade students in an existing building located at 5200 Franklin Drive, Suite 110

#### Library Commission

Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.  
Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Commission goals
- Friends of the Library presentation

#### Youth Commission

- The April 11, 2012 meeting of the Youth Commission has been rescheduled to Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 7:00 pm at Gingerbread Preschool, 4333 Black Avenue, Pleasanton, CA.

#### Parks & Recreation Commission

- The April 12, 2012 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission has been rescheduled to April 16, 2012, at 7:00 pm at the City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue.

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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

## PhotoGallery

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## POLICE BULLETIN

### Police deliver misdemeanor charge to drunken dialer

Calling 911 to order pizza led to a misdemeanor charge against a Pleasanton man on April Fool's Day.

Matthew Jason Marty, 39, was arrested at about 3:13 p.m. after calling 911 exactly 24 times, according to police reports. Police contacted Marty at his home in the 1300 block of Hopyard Road after the first five pizza delivery requests; although he appeared to be intoxicated, he apologized, but then called 911 to order pizza 19 more times in about 30 minutes.

He was charged with calling 911 for harassment.

In other police reports:

- Arron Scott Autler, 26, of Manteca was arrested at 12:32 a.m. April 2, charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of a non-narcotic substance and paraphernalia possession. A guest registry check at Motel 6 led to Autler, who turned out to be on probation. A search turned up a syringe filled with apparent methamphetamine, more than an ounce of marijuana and four half tablets of Xanax.

- Jacob Michael Perry, 20, of Livermore was arrested about 4:38 p.m. April 2 in the theft of a 1998 Oldsmobile Bravada from that city. Perry was spotted by officers in the parking lot of ValleyCare, near the corner of West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road.

- A registration check March 31 at Motel 6 in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road led to the arrest of two people. The check, at 10:18 a.m., brought police to Francisco Vargas, 24, of Riverbank, who was wanted on a felony DUI warrant for an accident with injuries. While there, police also arrested Brooke Elizabeth Saltmarsh, 26, of Danville for possession of a controlled substance.

- Quincy Hudson, 35, a transient, was arrested March 29 at about 9:04 p.m., for burglary, grand theft, possession of stolen property and theft with prior convictions. Employees of the Gap store in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road reported a missing wallet and a non-employee in the store's break room. By the time police caught up to Hudson, he'd already used a credit card from the wallet to make a purchase.

- Antony James Gastelum, 19, of Pleasanton, was arrested 10:39 March 28 on Kolln Street and charged with possession of brass knuckles.

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

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### March 28

#### Grand theft

- 6:03 a.m. in the 100 block of Wild Flower Lane

#### Auto burglary

- 3:51 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vine Street

#### Vandalism

- 10:27 a.m. in the 3500 block of Olympic Court

#### Illegal weapon possession

- 10:29 a.m. in the 1000 block of Kolln Street

#### DUI

- 9:42 p.m. at the intersection of Francisco Street and Cortez Court

### March 29

#### Theft

- 12:54 p.m. in the 600 block of Rose Avenue; identity theft

- 4:32 p.m. in the 1800 block of Brooktree Way; grand theft

- 8:04 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Court; theft

- 8:17 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; burglary, grand theft, possession of stolen property, theft with prior convictions

- 9:54 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; auto theft

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 7 a.m. in the 300 block of Mullin Court; public drunkenness
- 11:41 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; marijuana possession

### March 30

#### Theft

- 2:32 p.m. in the 3400 block of Isle Royal Court; auto theft

- 3:08 p.m. in the 7100 block of Koll Center Parkway; mail theft

#### Auto burglary

- 8:50 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 6:05 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Kolln Street; DUI

- 11:14 p.m. at the intersection of Washington Mutual Way and Hopyard Road; marijuana possession

### March 31

#### Theft

- 8:36 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; auto theft

- 3:37 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; misappropriation of property

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:51 a.m. in the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road; possession of a hypodermic needle

- 1:47 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; public drunkenness

- 2:12 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Paseo Santa Cruz; DUI

- 2:51 a.m. in the 3400 block of Stanley Boulevard; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

- 10:18 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; possession of a con-

trolled substance

- 5:04 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Arthur Drive; DUI

- 6:46 p.m. in the 4100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness

### April 1

#### Criminal threats

- 5:05 p.m. in the 5700 block of San Juan Way

#### Calling 911 for harassment

- 3:13 p.m. in the 1300 block of Hopyard Road

### April 2

#### Theft

- 7:18 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; auto theft, auto burglary

- 8:47 a.m. in the first block of Peters Avenue; grand theft

- 11:04 a.m. in the 3500 block of Touriga Drive; theft

- 5:01 p.m. in the 7700 block of Redbud Court; identity theft

- 6:24 p.m. in the 5200 block of Blackbird Drive; theft

#### Vandalism

- 7:24 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

#### Annoying or molesting a minor

- 6:16 p.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue

#### Public drunkenness

- 11:56 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

### April 3

#### Theft

- 11:19 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; identity theft

#### Burglary

- 7:22 a.m. in the 4100 block of Nevis Street

#### Public drunkenness

- 1:55 a.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive

## BIRTHS

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

- March 5, Tammy and Ben Rasmus, a girl

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## Gymnasts on top

Coach Neal Gallant, Sophie Seilnacht, Sylvie Seilnacht, Stephanie Stamates and Heather Hescher celebrate after winning the Team Champion Banner at the NorCal State Championship on March 23, in Stockton, edging out 17 competing gyms for the title. The four Level 10 girls, who train at California Gymnastic Academy in Livermore, won four Individual State Championship Titles and now move on to the Regional Championships in Las Vegas to compete against athletes from Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Northern California and Southern California in a bid to compete at the Junior Olympics National Championships in Hampton, Va. Additionally, Sylvie Seilnacht and Heather Hescher qualified for the NorCal State Team, comprising the six highest scoring athletes from the NorCal State Meet.

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Top referee

Foothill junior Kyle Wiest has been named Young Referee of the Year for 2011 by the California Youth Soccer Association-North.



Kyle Wiest

Kyle, a referee for the Pleasanton Soccer Referee Association, will travel to the Far West Regionals in Phoenix, Ariz., in June where he will referee games at the U.S. Youth Soccer regional games. There he will be competing against 13 other top youth referees for the honor of being named the region's best referee.

Kyle plays goalkeeper and forward on Foothill High's varsity soccer team. He has been a referee with the Pleasanton Soccer Referee Association since he was 12; he was named youth referee of the year when he was 14. He was recently named District 3 youth referee of the year before ultimately winning the state title for Northern California.

### Cheer Team signups

California Spirit Elite, 6800 Sierra Court, Suite P, Dublin, is holding its 2012-13 competitive cheer team signups on Saturday, May 5, with registration from noon-1 p.m. and a placement clinic from 1-3 p.m. A parent information meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 25.

Teams are open to girls and boys ages 6-18, beginning through advanced. Clinic price is \$25 for current members; \$40 for new members. For more information email [calspirit@csecheer.com](mailto:calspirit@csecheer.com) or telephone 556-1095.

## PREP LINE-UP

### April 6

■ Softball: 1 p.m., Foothill vs. Archbishop Mitty, Robertson Park

### April 7

■ Softball; Livermore Stampede at Robertson Park

■ Baseball, 2 p.m., Foothill vs. Irvington High at Concord High tournament

### April 12

■ Boys Lacrosse: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, away

### April 14

■ Boys Lacrosse: 4 p.m., AVHS vs. St. Margaret's, away

### April 17

■ Boys Lacrosse: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, away

■ Girls Lacrosse: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, home

■ Boys Tennis: 3:30 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon Valley, home

■ Boys Tennis: 3:30 p.m., Foothill vs. California, away

■ Boys Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, away

■ Softball: TBA, AVHS vs. San Ramon Valley, away

■ Softball: 4:00 p.m., Foothill vs. California, away

### April 18

■ Baseball: 4 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon, away

■ Baseball: 4 p.m., Foothill vs. California, away



## Seahawks in the zone

Jonah Cooper (11-12), Jonathan Mui (13-14), Olivia Kim (8-Under), Coach Jon Pallesen and Drew Kobayashi (11-12) from the Pleasanton Seahawks attended the Zone 2 All-Star Meet to help bring Zone 2 from teams in Alameda and Contra Costa counties to its fourth team victory in the past five years at Pacific Swimming's Zone Developmental All-Star Meet. Five Zone All-Star Teams compete, representing the five geographic zones in Pacific Swimming. This year's meet was held March 4 at Indian Valley College in Novato, where Zone 2 All-Stars scored 4,216 points to out-distance the second-place team, Zone 1-North, with swimmers from teams in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, who scored 4,074.5 points.



## Parent photographers

Send photos and sports news to [sports@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:sports@PleasantonWeekly.com) for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

## Check out your new San Ramon ER



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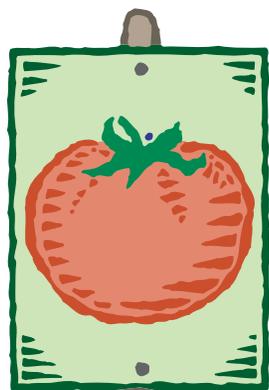




Left to right: Zachary Briggs at the worm bin, checks on salad waste from the school's cafeteria as it is broken down by worms into soil. Caeli Brooks and Ian Hood play with clay made by the students. Natural dyes were extracted from a variety of plant parts, giving teachers and parent volunteers the opportunity to talk about one of the many roles plants play in everyday life.

# A DAY IN THE garden

photos by **GLENN WOHLTMANN**



## Hearst Elementary students dig the earth, celebrate spring

Students from Hearst Elementary played and learned last week while doing some spring planting in their school garden with help from Science Specialist Kim Lounsbury and parent volunteers.

"I love gardening," said Holly Liu, a fifth-grader, as she planted spring flowers. "It reminds me of my grandpa. He's not here anymore, but I feel like he is, when I'm gardening."

The garden was designed as a place for children to commune with nature, and learn first-hand that all things are connected. Here students can take concepts from the classroom and apply them, plus it's a place where students can wander and explore at any time throughout the year.

Every week, parent volunteer Melissa Dantzig brings her chickens to the garden to share with the students. The students love when "the girls" visit, and the chickens love getting hand-delivered meals of earthworms, crickets and grains.

"If I were to choose one word that best describes my experience in the garden with the students, it would have to be 'serendipity,'" parent volunteer Pam LaCourse said. "I can't tell you how many times I come in with a plan that evolves into something else — something amazing.

"Then there are those days when a killdeer (bird) makes her nest in the middle of a main path, or a sharp-tailed snake is discovered — you have to be ready to roll with it," she continued.

"Volunteering in the garden has taught me the joy of being flexible and the wonder of our kids' incredibly intuitive observations."

Parent volunteer Farrah White agreed.

"What I love about working with the kids in the garden is that even when it's a simple fun activity, their minds and imaginations are working," White said.

"One of the girls observed while we were planting a flat of flowers, 'The roots are so long and tangled, is that because they have to reach out and grab vitamins in the soil?' It's amazing to see how they much they understand and grow through hands-on learning."

The Hearst Monarch Garden and Outdoor Classroom was started in 2006 as a place to compost food waste, after the PTA Environmental Awareness Committee adopted the Go Green initiative. It was grown to include six community garden beds, three native beds and two art centers, and it has been awarded a Distinguished Native Garden by the California Native Garden Foundation. ■



Above: Haley Roundtree in a green shirt, Daisy Eggert, Ellen Ebbers, Hailey Knapp, Jadya Y. Farrah White, Lydia Muentz, Anna Jacobson talk about the principals of planting. Car





Yearwood and Julie Wilson use their recess to meet and play in the garden. Below, l-r: Karin Flowers, Nina Bindra, parent volunteer Ly Chabrier and Holly Liu plant spring flowers.



Above: Jenny Hwang holds a chicken with Nina Bindra and Abhi Vishwasrao in the background. Below: Parent volunteer Pam LaCourse teaches gardening basics to Tobin West.



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

BY JESSICA LIPSKY

## 'MY FAVORITE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY'

Writer passed over from being a bored child to a ready hostess

Passover, the Jewish holiday commemorating the story of Exodus, begins at sundown April 6 this year — to the joy of many and the consternation of a few devout lovers of bread, which is given up for a week.

Observed for seven or eight days, Passover celebrates the story of how God helped the Israelites escape slavery in Egypt by inflicting 10 plagues upon the Egyptians and the Pharaoh. Traditionally, a family, group of families or friends will gather on the first or second night of Passover and hold a Seder, a symbolic dinner where people read the story of Passover and eat unleavened foods. During the Seder, the youngest person will ask guests questions about the holiday and children hunt for hidden Afikoman, or matzoh.

Although many Jews do not attend synagogue during the holiday and prefer to spend time with family and friends, the love of Passover or "Pesach" didn't come so easily for me.



Now it's my favorite religious holiday. But as a child I always dreaded the mid-spring celebration: Passover was a horrible holiday with bad food and way too much discussion. Everyone looked forward to finding the hidden matzoh and all the children were disappointed when the ghost of Elijah never showed. (He is supposed to announce the coming

of the messiah and a glass of wine is left for him near the door.)

My family tended to celebrate with one of three families. While I was excited to see my friends, I inevitably found myself squirming at someone's rigid dining room table waiting for the macaroons to debut.

Our Seders would consist of about 10 parts, beginning with blessings and wine (Kadeish), breaking of the matzoh, the telling of the Passover story, eating of symbolic foods and finally a meal made without yeast. During the storytelling portion of the evening, the youngest person at the table would be responsible for asking guests the Four Questions about the significance of the Seder — a task I reluctantly accepted until my younger brother learned to read.

But whenever a lack of bread caused my inner brat to rear her ugly head and complain, my parents would placate me with stories of Passovers past, where more traditional Jews wouldn't take any lip from restless children.

"Those Seders could last for hours if people were traditional," my mother told me recently. "You were fidgeting, hungry and couldn't eat anything. People wouldn't hesitate to smack you on the head and tell you to straighten up and fly right if you complained."

She later told me that crotchety uncles would ply their young relatives with rye whiskey, hoping to get them giddy about washing dozens of their mother's best china plates after a three-hour dinner.

But as the years progressed and my parents got tired of wrangling their hungry and bored children, our Seders became more of a semi-formal dinner among close friends with crazy schedules. Perhaps the solemnity of my childhood Passovers was simply to instill tradition in my eager(ish) mind, but as we got older, my parents became less serious.

One year, Maxwell House Publishers printed our Haggadah, the text from which the Passover story is told, and we stopped for a commercial break every few minutes to give thanks to our "sponsor." Because you are supposed to recline during the Seder — in fact, reclining is the answer to one of the Four Questions,



JESSICA LIPSKY

Leah Yamshon, a seventh-grade teacher at Beth Chaim Congregation in Danville, enthusiastically reads from her family's Haggadah, the text from which the Passover story is told. At left, a Passover meal of traditional and non-traditional foods includes potato latkes and tzimes.

"Why is this night different from all other nights?" — my father makes a big deal of saying, "This night really isn't different from all other nights, because we recline all the time."

While I still try to keep kosher for the week, we have pretty much given up on traditional foods.

As a result, Passover has become less of a Jewish holiday and more of a yearly gathering of family and friends. When I host Seders apart from my family — typically a rowdy affair that leaves my house reeking of potato latke oil — we're bound by a common heritage and religion, but it isn't necessarily the basis of the evening.

Last year, I hosted a Seder for seven of my friends, half of whom weren't Jewish. Even though I left work early to slave over matzoh ball soup, latkes and tzimes (a fruit casserole) and properly prepare

my house for the festivities, I didn't have a single Haggadah — much less one for each of my guests.

I convinced one of my attendees to swoop a book from her parents, our newest "sponsor" and an unintentional ode to previous Passover gatherings. For the rest of the evening, each guest took turns reading from the Haggadah in a variety of silly, drunken voices pausing only to toast to God's charity and say "Di'anu," meaning, "It would have been enough." My roommate and I agreed that the round-the-table reading would become our new household tradition.

The story of Passover is one of challenge and hope, which is easily understood by family members of all ages. My own relationship to the holiday has changed throughout the years, as has my willpower to avoid cereal and pasta. Maybe the food has just gotten better. ■

## OBSERVANCES

For those Jews who are no longer wandering the desert but are still without Seder plans this Passover, there is a wealth of Pesach activities to participate in. Beth Emek in Pleasanton will hold a Passover festival, luncheon and Shabbat morning services on Saturday, April 7. Chabad of the Tri-Valley is holding a series of services and lunches throughout the week.

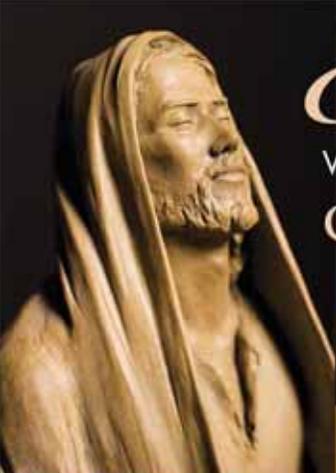


**April art exhibit**

Works by Pleasanton artists Charlotte Severin and Melanie Lacki, who painted "The Open Book," will be on exhibit during the month of April at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St. in Livermore, with a reception and a chance to meet the artists from 5:30-8 pm., Tuesday, April 24. Lacki's award-winning paintings, watercolors and oils, have been shown at national and international exhibitions in museums and galleries. Severin, also an award-winning artist whose works are in many public and private collections throughout the world, has been teaching art for more than 30 years. In this exhibit she is featuring works that emphasize texture with flowers and undersea life created on Yupo paper.



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Kasper's Hot Dogs	463-2617	Baci Bistro & Bar	600-0600
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Mission Plaza Cafe	846-2850	Nolands Cake Shop	462-3333
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## Auditions

**'OKLAHOMA'** Tri-Valley Repertory is holding auditions for "Oklahoma" at 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 16, and Tuesday, April 17, with call-backs April 19, at the Tri-Valley Repertory Theater, 1020 Serpentine Ln., Suite 101, Pleasanton. Bring 32 bars Rogers and Hammerstein standard. Accompanist provided. Call 462-2121 or visit [www.trivalleyrep.com](http://www.trivalleyrep.com). Production is scheduled for July 20-Aug. 5.

## Clubs

**TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED** The event is at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 12, at Cattlemans Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore. Guest speaker Kevin McGary, President of the Federick Douglas Foundation of California and author of the book "Instanity". \$26 for members and \$30 for guests. Call Phyllis Couper at 462-4931 or email [coupclan1962@pacbell.net](mailto:coupclan1962@pacbell.net).

## Events

**'HOP' INTO EASTER AT STONERIDGE SHOPPING CENTER** Kids and parents are invited to a family friendly Easter Photo Experience event, taking place from now through April 7 at Stoneridge Shopping Center, 1350 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton. Kids will have the chance to visit with the Easter Bunny. For more information visit [www.simon.com](http://www.simon.com).

**APRIL VIGIL AND WAR PROTEST** Pleasantonians 4 Peace is sponsoring a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 11, at Museum on Main, 603 Main St., to reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Call Cathie Norman at 462-7495 or email Matt Sullivan at [mjs7882@gmail.com](mailto:mjs7882@gmail.com).

**RABBIT ADOPTION EVENT** The event will feature rabbits and bunnies from rescue groups from the San Joaquin Valley and San Francisco Bay Area. Rabbit experts can answer your rabbit questions and help you find the bunny of your dreams. Saturday, April 7 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Dublin SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin. 415-994-6876. [www.harvest-homesanctuary.org](http://www.harvest-homesanctuary.org)

## Exhibits

**'PASSION FOR PASTELS'** Prominent Bay Area artists, including Debbie Wardrope of Pleasanton, will exhibit "Passion for Pastels" through April 14 at the Harrington Gallery, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. The exhibit features the works of widely recognized pastelists Linda Beach, Ruth Hussey, Mark Martens and Pat Suggs. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

## Fundraisers

**4TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING SILENT AUCTION** Join the tasting and auction to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Bent Creek, Big White House, AuburnJames, Bodegas Aguirre, Cuda Ridge, Les Chenes and White Crane wineries will showcase

their wines at the Purple Orchid. Live music, appetizers, drawings. Tickets are limited. Sunday, April 22, noon-4 p.m. \$25 Purple Orchid Inn & Spa, 4549 Cross Road, Livermore. 413-7788. [www.WineHike.org](http://www.WineHike.org)

**GET A CUT-FOR-LIFE** A four-hour hair cut-a-thon. No blow dry. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Baked goods also for sale. Sunday, April 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Minimum \$10 donation. Salon Saavy, 347 Division St., Pleasanton. 510-432-1240.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** Join the East Bay and Amador Valley High School fundraising campaign to support Habitat for Humanity and build homes in East Bay. Make donations at <http://habitatforhumanity-amador.ticketleap.com> or make checks payable to Habitat for Humanity East Bay and drop the at Amador Valley High School, Administration Office, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Visit [www.facebook.com/amadorhabitatforhumanity.com](http://www.facebook.com/amadorhabitatforhumanity.com).

## Holiday

**SECOND SEDER** Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will sponsor a Secular Progressive community second Seder potluck, featuring a non-religious telling of the Passover story with singing, poetry and traditional elements. Kids welcome. Reservations required. Saturday, April 7 from 5-8 p.m. \$10/adult non-member Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. 510-888-1404. [www.trivalleyculturaljews.wordpress.com/](http://www.trivalleyculturaljews.wordpress.com/)

## Kids & Teens

**2012 POKEMON SPRING REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** The Pokemon Trading Card Game (TCG) and video game Spring Regional Championships, a free event for all participants and supporters. Saturday, April 14 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Building C, Pleasanton. 206-264-8220. [www.pokemon.com/us/organized-play/](http://www.pokemon.com/us/organized-play/)

**5TH ANNUAL LADYBUG RELEASE** Visit ladybugs and find out how they can help keep your garden safe and healthy. We'll release some at the Alviso Adobe Community Park and you can bring some home for your garden. Preregistration is required. Saturday, April 14 from 2-3 p.m. \$9 resident/\$12 non-resident Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road, Pleasanton. 931-3479. [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/current-activities-guide.html](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/current-activities-guide.html)

**M.O.M.'s READING TIME** Preschoolers and their parents are invited to meet from 10-11 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Museum On Main introduces your preschooler to books and activities about the unique people, places, and events in our community. Call 462-2766 or visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org).

**THE WEB OF LIFE** From the tiniest shrimp to the biggest whale, all living things play roles in a food chain. Come play the web of life game as you learn no matter how unrelated organisms may seem,

that they're in fact connected. Preregistration is required. Sunday, April 15 from 11 a.m.-noon \$5 resident/\$7 non-resident Bernal Community Park, Pleasanton. 931-3479. [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/current-activities-guide.html](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/current-activities-guide.html)

## On Stage

**'SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL'** Non-stop journey through the infectious and soulful pop anthems and ballads that made household names of stars like Petula Clark, Dusty Springfield and Lulu. Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. Sundays, April 13-29 at TVRT Studio Theater, 1048 Serpentine Ln., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$22 for seniors; and \$20 for students. Call 462-2121 or visit [www.trivalleyrep.org](http://www.trivalleyrep.org).

## Seniors

**EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS** Learn ways to prepare yourself and your family. The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will lead this discussion and share the plans the city has in place for when the Big Earthquake strikes. Tuesday, April 10 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. 931-5365. [www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org](http://www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org)

## Spiritual

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES** Worship at 9:30 a.m. or 1 p.m., Sunday, April 8, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3574 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton, as they celebrate The Resurrection and The Life of their Savior, Jesus Christ. Learn more about what they believe at [www.mormon.org](http://www.mormon.org).

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES** Service for Good Friday, April 6 at 9 a.m. for morning prayer, noon Good Friday Liturgy and at 7 p.m. for Good Friday Liturgy with Parish Choir at St. Clare's Episcopal

Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. There will also be services on Saturday, April 7 at 8 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter with Parish Choir and services at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 8. Call 462-4802.

## Support Groups

**GRIEF WORKSHOP** The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Grief workshop is at 7:30 p.m., eight Thursday evenings, April 12-May 31 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Donation of \$15. Call Mary Haerty at 846-5377.

**INTEGRATED MIND AND BODY GRIEF SUPPORT** This comprehensive set of grief support services is offered at the Hope Hospice Grief Support Center from 5-7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Ste. 100., Dublin. Services include various forms of gentle touch as well as guided imagery, meditation and stress management. Restore the energy depleted by grief. No charge. Call 829-8770 or visit [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com).

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

**TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS AND ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS** This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m., on the fourth Monday of every month, at the Groves at Dublin Ranch in the Clubhouse, 3115 Finnian Way, Dublin. It hosts special speakers like doctors or specialists. For more information, call JoAnne at 875-0960.

## Volunteering

**AMERICAN RED CROSS** Public blood drive will be held from 1-7 p.m., Friday, April 27 at Asbury United Methodist Church, fellowship Hall, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) Sponsor code ASBURY925 to schedule an appointment.

**LIONESS SEEK NEW MEMBERS** The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at its regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. A \$2 to \$5 donation is requested. Participating in the many activities of the group is a great way to meet local people. The Lioness are a service club which helps many worthy causes in our community. Call 443-4543.

**TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS & ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS** Tri Valley Support Group for Fibromyalgia, Lupus and all forms of Arthritis meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month at Tri Valley Support, 3115 Finnian Way, Dublin. They are in need of volunteers to help. Call 875-0960.



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Pleasanton, 7060 Koll Center Parkway Suite 320, April 7th 9-5

#### 245 Miscellaneous

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### PET OF THE WEEK

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## Groups form partnership under Rockcliff umbrella

By JEB BING

Two Pleasanton real estate groups have established a partnership under the J. Rockcliff Realtors flagship, a company that has offices at 5075 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.

Joining the Rockcliff group are the Deans of Real Estate, a mother-daughter team of Cathy Dean and Kari Wahl Dean, and the Swift Real Estate team, consisting of Michael Swift, Craig Einsohn and Crystal Franks.

A major real estate firm serving the East Bay, J. Rockcliff Realtors was founded in 2007. Under the leadership of its president Jeff Sposito, the company has more than 500 sales associates and offices in eight other locations.

An award winning real estate veteran, Cathy Dean also is this year's treasurer of the Valley Real Estate Network, whose members include leading Realtors and real estate-related individuals and organizations. The group

is part of the Bay East Association of Realtors professional trade association. Her daughter Kari Wahl Dean joined the team in 2004.

Swift, who heads the Swift Real Estate team, is a broker associate who has specialized in loan modifications and short sales since 1991. He also is a founding member of the Northern California Modification and Short Sale Broker Group.

"This partnership is the definition of synergy," said Dean. "We are able to combine a depth and breadth of experience and market knowledge with top-notch technology and concierge-style customer service to help distressed homeowners make the best possible decisions."

The Dean/Swift team is offering complimentary one-hour consultation sessions to homeowners who are looking into loan modification as an option or may be considering short selling their home. ■

# J. Rockcliff



## Realtors



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<b>Dublin</b>	
4 BEDROOMS	
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<b>Pleasanton</b>	
2 BEDROOMS	
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Sun 1-4	Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200
3 BEDROOMS	
<b>263 Birch Creek Dr</b>	<b>\$549,950</b>
Sun 1:30-4:30	J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500
4 BEDROOMS	
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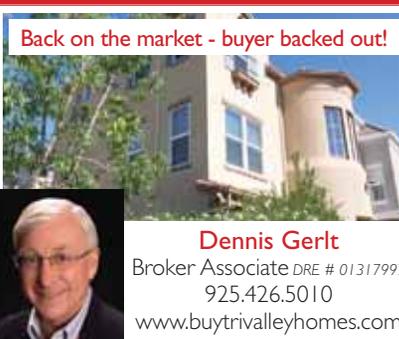
# KELLER WILLIAMS TRI-VALLEY REALTY

#1 OFFICE  
IN PLEASANTON  
IN VOLUME  
AND SALES



**5574 Corte Sonora, Pleasanton**  
Enjoy this 5 BR, 3 BA, approx. 2,535 sq ft home with an easy walk to downtown. This home combines a wonderful, convenient location with fantastic amenities. Open, bright and spacious, this home beams with beauty, inside and out. Take a dip in a sparkling private pool or walk to one of the many nearby parks. **\$799,950**

**Lisa Sterling & Natalie Kruger**  
DRE # 01012330 and 01187582  
925.980.9265 925.847.7355  
www.krugergroup.com



**Back on the market - buyer backed out!**

**5999 Hillbrook Place, Dublin**  
Must see! Pride of ownership shows throughout this great 3 bedroom 3.5 bath home built in 2005! While close to shopping and freeways, it is located in the quiet Roxbury neighborhood. It sits just across the street from open space and gently rolling hills. **Priced at \$490,500**

**Dennis Gerlt**  
Broker Associate DRE # 01317997  
925.426.5010  
www.buytrivalleyhomes.com



**Coming Soon**

Beautiful home in desirable Mohr Park Estates. Light & bright with over 3,000 sq ft of living space. 3 BR plus loft, 3.5 BA, includes open floor plan, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, remodeled kitchen with granite counters and a large backyard.

**Melissa Pederson**  
REALTOR® DRE # 01002251  
925.397.4326  
www.melissapederson.com



**3300 Araldi Lane, Dublin**  
\$549,000 • Represented buyer

**3429 Beecham Ct, Pleasanton**  
\$465,000 • Represented both buyer and seller

PEEL SANCHEZ



**Danielle Peel**  
925.998.9692 DRE #01293873

**Cristin Kiper Sanchez**  
925.580.7719 DRE #01479197  
homes@peelsanchez.com | www.PeelSanchez.com



**SOLD**



**New Price**

**1734 Terra Ct., Ruby Hill**  
French country elegance w/luxurious guest house. Approx. 7,000 sq.ft., 6 BR, 6.5 BA, bonus, exec. office, backyard w/pool/spa, vineyards. **Offered at \$2,868,000**



**Fran & Dave Cunningham**  
925.202.6898  
**Donna Garrison**  
925.980.0273  
**Susan Schall**  
925.519.8226  
www.FabulousProperties.net

www.RubyHill.net



**Newly Updated**

**640 Varese Ct, Ruby Hill**  
Fresh new touches in this beautiful 5665 sq ft. French Country home offers 4 BR, 4.5 BA, bonus room, gourmet kitchen, golf course views, and pool/spa. **Offered at \$1,950,000**



**Fran & Dave Cunningham**  
925.202.6898  
**Donna Garrison**  
925.980.0273  
**Susan Schall**  
925.519.8226  
www.FabulousProperties.net

www.RubyHill.net

"Like" Pleasanton Valley Neighbors on Facebook



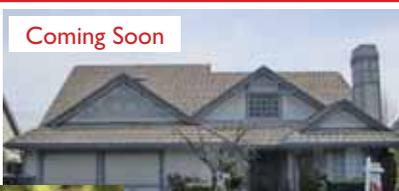
**JUST LISTED**  
20891 Almaden Road  
4 Bedrooms  
3 Full Bathrooms  
2,888SqFt, 1 Acre Lot  
Call for Details



**Mike Chandler**  
DRE#01039712  
925-426-3858  
MikeChandler.kwrealty.com



**Jill Denton**  
DRE#01804876  
925-998-7747  
JillDenton.kwrealty.com



**Coming Soon**

**4925 Monaco Drive, Pleasanton**  
5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 3106 +/- sq. ft. Great location within walking distance to historic downtown. Kitchen/Family Room. Updated Kitchen with granite counters, Formal Dining and Living Rooms. Hardwood Floors. Upper deck with views of Mt. Diablo. Custom details throughout. 7046 +/- sq. ft. lot. Traditional sale.



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



**SOLD**

**3263 Vineyard Ave., #139, Pleasanton**  
You can't judge a book by its cover... must go inside. Looks like a single, but is a double with vaulted ceilings. Built in 2002, new decorator paint inside & out. 2 BR 2 full BA. Clean ready to move into.

**Dorothy does it again... SOLD**



**Dorothy Broderson**  
REALTOR® DRE #01779623  
925.963.8800  
KottingerRanchNeighbors.com



**1641 VettaDrive.com**

**1641 Vetta Dr, Livermore**  
Outstanding 5 BR (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, and more. **Offered at \$899,000**  
www.williamsteam.net



**Cindy and Gene Williams**  
REALTORS®  
DRE # 01370076 and 00607511  
925.918.2045



**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



**Coming Soon**

**Stunning Vintage Heights Home!**  
Chef's Dream Kitchen with slab granite counters, gourmet 6 burner gas stove and high end stainless steel appliances. Beautiful open beamed ceiling in the family room, cozy fireplace overlooking the deck and garden. Plush carpet, tile entry, new paint and 3 car garage!



**Dave & Sue Flashberger**  
925.463.0436  
www.SoldinaFlash.com



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**Andrew Greenwell**  
Team Leader/CEO  
AGreenwell@kw.com

## Amazing Agents... Doing Amazing Things

"We received multiple offers after listing our home with our KW Agent. With their extensive knowledge and attention to detail, we closed the deal quickly. Thank you for making the sale of our home such a positive experience."

— Chris & Joan Thomas, Pleasanton

