

# Pleasanton Weekly

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» 17



VOL. XIII, NUMBER 28 • JULY 27, 2012

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**NEW**  
SECTIONS



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**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$4,000,000**  
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**MARK KOTCH**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$1,699,000**  
Country French in Castlewood! Custom built home 5bd/4ba, 5217+/-sf home, 33,840+/- sf lot. Views, Great yard. 700+/-sf guest house. 22 CASTLEWOOD DR

**MARK KOTCH**

**BY APPT**



**DANVILLE \$1,425,000**  
Country Living, Private gated driveway on 5.18+/-acres. 4bd/3.5ba. Hardwood floors, 1bd/ba on main floor. Back yard with pool, spa and gazebo. 6650 JOHNSTON RD

**MOXLEY TEAM**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$1,299,000**  
1 ACRE LOT! Updated kitchen offers dinette area, breakfast bar, granite counters, recessed lighting & opens to family room. This single story offers a private well, pool & room to expand!! 3623 CAMERON AVE

**MOXLEY TEAM**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$765,000**  
Court location; this home sits on a spacious lot w/beautiful landscaping. Kitchen offers eat-in kitchen & opens to the formal dining area. Rear yard offers pool, spa & separate gated grassy area. 3314 HUDSON CT

**TIMOTHY MCGUIRE**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$749,000**  
4bd/2ba, 'Gatewood' model, 2,112+/-sq.ft, Pebbletec pool, new roof, windows and paver patio front and back, walk to schools and parks. 2449 CRESTLINE ROAD

**TIMOTHY MCGUIRE**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$749,000**  
4bd//2ba, 2,167+/-sq.ft 'Holiday' model on a 9,050+/-sq.ft lot, new roof, windows, carpet, paint, texture and private backyard. 5063 BLACKBIRD WAY

**ROSEMARY DUTRA**

**BY APPT**



**LIVERMORE \$729,000**  
2 homes,1 lot!3bd/2,5ba,2023+/-sf main house,custom drapes,wet bar,new appliances, back deck & more. Back house w/side patio,kitchen & indoor w/d and more! Truly a Must See! 1102 DANA CIR

**KIM OTT**

**BY APPT**



**LIVERMORE \$489,000**  
Beautiful home, 4bd/2ba, vaulted ceilings, granite counters, light and bright. Nice yard for entertaining. Possible side yard access. 5649 WISTERIA WAY

**MOXLEY TEAM**

**SUN 1:00-4:00**



**DUBLIN \$466,500**  
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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## Got an idea? The SBA can put you in business

By JEB BING

Elizabeth Echols grew up in the East Bay and earned her law degree at Stanford University, where she also served as editor of the Stanford Law Review. Recognized as a "Mover and Shaker" by Business Week magazine, she's now the regional administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), putting her economics and political science talents to work in helping startup businesses here in the Tri-Valley and throughout the West get their enterprises moving with adequate financing and hands-on advice.



Elizabeth Echols

In addition to developing new programs to help small businesses, she also is the federal agency's listening post here and in the Silicon Valley where many high tech ventures are under way or just getting started.

She talks about the three "Cs" that affect small businesses: capital, counseling and contracts. Two new programs especially cater to the creative software, engineering "cloud-based" technical entrepreneurs here in the Valley. One is called the Innovation Investment Fund, which is designed for early stage companies that might be between "friends and family" in terms of acquiring the initial capital they need at the early stage. Through this program, the SBA can give these startups a needed financial push until the larger venture capital firms take an interest. Echols also has launched the Impact Fund, which targets the early birds hoping to bring products and services to market in the clean energy fields. Yet another program, called Small Business Innovation Research (or SBIR), works with small businesses already engaged in federal research and development projects to help them expand into related commercial markets.

Echols said the SBA's goal is to make sure at least 23% of all government contracts go to small business, a group she identifies as manufacturers with fewer than 500 employees but much smaller numbers when it comes to retail,

service and construction operations that could also handle government needs. That translates into roughly \$100 billion a year in contracts from the government, which is by far the country's largest procurer of everything from paperclips to jet airplanes.

Many of those who win a federal contract are small businesses such as hundreds in the Tri-Valley who have become key providers. The SBA also has 14,500 counselors around the country who work with Echols' and other regional offices, almost all volunteers who have succeeded in starting their own businesses or are retired and have the time and interest in what Echols called "giving back." Counselors for budding entrepreneurs in our area come through SCORE, a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. Silicon Valley SCORE in San Jose handles Pleasanton, and Echols urged anyone with "that next great idea" to call (408) 453-6237 to see if they're eligible for help.

As part of helping entrepreneurs, Echols said the SBA has just re-launched its popular small loan Advantage program, which provides a streamlined application for participating in the agency's capital loan program. The new program has increased the amount of financial help to \$350,000 and has been opened to all lenders, including banks and nonprofits. Re-launched just six weeks ago, the number of loans guaranteed for startups and emerging businesses already exceeds the total number of loans provided in the first 16 months of the last similar program, which offered less funding.

In partnership with Veterans Affairs and the Defense Department, the SBA also has just launched a new program to help returning military men and women transition back to civilian life. Echols said 250,000 are now leaving the military every year and she will work with military groups, such as Pleasanton Military Families, to introduce them to entrepreneurship. It's a four-part program that will identify the leadership and professional skills they've acquired in the service and help them develop action plans for using them in new businesses here at home. So far, Echols said, the percentage of returning vets who succeed as entrepreneurs through this program is far greater than the rest of the population as a whole. ■

## About the Cover

Pleasanton woodworker Susan Yager has been building birdhouses for 18 years, with many on display in her front and back yards. She also restores heirloom furniture. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli. Design by Lili Cao.

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## Do you think the Penn State sanctions were too harsh?

### Chris Johnson

Student

I don't think it's very fair to the players, and it will just kill the program. If I was a football player, I wouldn't want to go to school there.



### Peggy Ackley

Dietician

No, I don't. What they covered up is pretty horrible.



### Paul Truex

Life scientist

I don't think they were harsh enough; they should've given them the death penalty. There was a complete loss of control of the athletic department. If it was OK for SMU back in the day for simple ethics violations, it definitely should apply to Penn State.



### Chris Murphy

Teacher

They were not severe enough. The only reason that the sanctions weren't worse is because our society has a misalignment of priorities, and we place a higher value on college football than college itself. College football should be a club activity. Paterno knew his legacy would be tarnished, so he covered up an awful crime. They deserved the death penalty.



### Ivan Robles

Roofing

It seems like they will just end up hurting a lot of students, staff and athletes that really had nothing to do with the crime.



—Compiled by Kerry Nally

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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## DIGEST

### Pooches ready to Parade

The 1st Wednesday Street Party taking place Aug. 1 will feature the popular Pooch Parade up and down Main Street. Pooches assemble at Lions Wayside Park on First Street at Neal for registration and judging of costumes beginning at 5:30 p.m. Trick judging is at 6:30 p.m.

The parade alongside the 1st Wednesday booths begins at 7 p.m.

Dogs ages 4 months or older can be entered in any or all of the seven categories at \$10 per entry. Proceeds benefit the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers. Go to [www.trivalleyguidedogs.org](http://www.trivalleyguidedogs.org).

### USF opens campus

City representatives and educators will officially open the University of San Francisco's new Pleasanton campus Tuesday at 6120 Stoneridge Mall Road. Classes are already in session, "but it's time for a special ribbon cutting ceremony," said Anne-Marie Devine, the university's senior director of Media Relations.

The campus has six completely wired classrooms, a staffed library and computer lab open during the week and on Saturdays as well as administrative and advising offices, a multipurpose room, student lounges, private faculty offices and a faculty lounge.

Classes at the USF Pleasanton campus are mostly held nights and weekends for adults who want to complete their bachelor's degree or earn a teaching credential or a master's degree. Academic programs are offered through the School of Management, School of Education and School of Nursing and Health Professions.

### Oh, that aching back

Four out of five people will experience lower back pain sometime in their lives. To address this problem, San Ramon Regional Medical Center is giving a free community seminar, "Innovations in Diagnosis and Treatment of Back Pain," from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 8, on its campus at 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon.

Spine surgeon Hieu Ball will discuss the diagnosis and treatment of back pain, including spinal stenosis, degenerative disc disease and sacroiliac joint disease. He will explain that a dull or aching back may cause numbness or "pins and needles" in the legs, calves or buttocks.

Space is limited and reservations are required. Call (800) 284-2878 or go to [www.OurSanRamonHospital.com](http://www.OurSanRamonHospital.com).

## Three incumbents announce candidacy for school board seats

Election could be cancelled if no challengers file by Aug. 10 deadline

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

All three incumbent Pleasanton school board members have confirmed they will seek reelection this fall as their terms expire, although only Valerie Arkin and Chris Grant had filed paperwork with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters by press time Wednesday afternoon.

The filing deadline is Aug. 10 for the Nov. 6 election, although if no other candidates emerge, the election would be cancelled. The district authorized an election at one of its final meetings of the year.

The school board faces continued tough budget decisions in the coming year as the state grapples with deficits that have severely affected California school districts, including

Pleasanton's.

Arkin was elected to her first term on the School Board in November 2008. Her priorities are to improve and maintain the excellent academic programs, ensuring that all students are given the opportunity to reach their maximum potential and fiscal responsibility.

"I consider the best interest of kids in every decision I make. During these challenging economic times, we have to work even harder to maintain our excellent schools with reduced funding from the state," Arkin said, adding that she worked with employees, parents and the community to find ways to keep important educational programs for the children.

"We could not have maintained our excellent

educational programs without the support of our employees, parents and community. I appreciate the sacrifices and hard work of teachers, classified staff, administration, parents, businesses and others in the community," she said. "Being fiscally responsible and accountable to the public is vitally important in the role of a governing board member."

Arkin has been a member of the community for nearly 20 years, and was board president in 2011. She has advocated for maintaining and enhancing reading interventions, additional AP and advanced courses, music and the arts, having a student board member, and providing

See **SCHOOL BOARD** on Page 8



STEVEN F. KELLY

### Presenting perfect pairings

Castlewood Country Club chef Tracy Flores pours winemaker Garry Rodrigue's 2009 Cabiovese, Livermore Valley, which was paired with her wild game burgers to take first place in the Classic Pairing category at last week's Taste of Terroir 2012 Pairing Competition held at Pleasanton's Palm Event Center with 16 gourmet food and wine pairings and more than 550 guests to enjoy them. The burgers contain buffalo and lamb seasoned with fresh local herbs, St. Andre cheese honey truffle aioli and arugula micro greens on a soft roll. The event, a fundraiser for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, is held each July and includes a decadent dessert room.

## Shadow Cliffs issues water warning

'Do not swallow water,' advises Park District

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The beach at Shadow Cliffs has posted warning signs about the water quality but it's not bad enough to close the swimming area, which has been popular during the recent high temperatures.

Testing at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area on July 16 showed enough E. coli in the lake near both the left and right lifeguard chairs to warrant a yellow light warning on the Park District website, [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org).

"It's actually just slightly elevated levels in there but this is not unexpected in the summer season," said East Bay Regional Park District spokeswoman Emily Hopkins.

The water is tested for E. coli and fecal matter weekly April through October and twice a month November through March, Hopkins

said. Swimming is allowed year-round.

"There is an increased health risk for swimming and wading. Bacteria results do NOT meet the State Health Standards," states the website.

The beach would be closed if conditions worsen, and a red light warning would be given. If the water quality improves, the beach will receive a green light to indicate bacteria testing results are within the State Health Standard Limits.

"Beach water contact may cause illness," the warning explains. "Do not swallow water. Shower and towel dry after water contact. There is always some risk with beach water contact. Water quality conditions can change at any time."

For more information call (510) 544-2328. ■

## Murder-suicide led to death of Pleasanton woman, daughter

'We don't know what her state of mind was,' police say

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Police say it's unlikely anyone will ever know what led a mother to shoot her daughter, then shoot herself at their Stacy Court home in the early evening hours of May 7.

Investigators have been working for more than two months on the deaths of Amy Burton-Freeman, 36, and her 13-year-old daughter Ainsley Freeman. Much of that time was spent waiting for lab results, according to Pleasanton police Lt. Jeff Bretzing.

"Forensic evidence that we now have access to leads us to conclude that Amy shot and killed her daughter, Ainsley, then killed herself," Bretzing said in a news conference last Friday. "We don't know what her state of mind was or what she was going through."

The forensic evidence included an analysis of the handgun used in the double shooting, he said.

"Testing of the gun, the types of wounds, the location and nature of those wounds ... the firearms, specifically testing those," Bretzing said.

Christopher Burton, Amy Burton-Freeman's husband, was never a suspect, Bretzing said.

"He's been cooperative throughout the entire investigation," he said. "At this point there's no evidence anybody else was involved."

Police and the FBI were called by Burton-Freeman about a month before the shootings. She suspected her daughter had been in communication with an older man over the computer; the investigation turned up a 16-year-old boy in Kentucky.

Bretzing said FBI agents in Kentucky re-interviewed the boy and determined he was not involved.

Two handguns were recovered at the scene of the shootings. They'd been purchased out of state and were never registered in California, but Bretzing said failure to register them is not a crime.

Bretzing said the long wait to release information See **MURDER-SUICIDE** on Page 8

## TAKE US ALONG



**City of Lights:** Mohammad Rahimzada, Vanessa Brüning, both 22, along with Kyle Schempp, 21, traveled to Paris to see the Eiffel Tower in January.



The Amador Valley Band has been invited to perform at the prestigious Fiesta Bowl this winter.

## AVHS band chosen for Fiesta Bowl

Summer fundraiser will help expenses to Arizona

**By JAMIE ALTMAN**

Band members in Pleasanton high schools are known for their dedication, devoting hours to training during the school year and attending 12-hour practices in the summer.

For the Amador Valley Band, the hard work has paid off; it has been invited to perform in the 2012 Fiesta Bowl Band Championships at the University of Phoenix Stadium from Dec. 26-Jan. 1.

The Fiesta Bowl is a "very established and very respectable band event," according to Jonathon Grantham, who has been the band director at Amador Valley for 10 years.

The national competition, which includes bands from 44 states, offers a prestigious title to the winning team. Contenders are chosen based on how they compete during the previous year's fall season.

"The Amador band hasn't really competed on a national level

before, so it's exciting that this is finally happening," Grantham said.

Because the event is so renowned, the band sees it as an honor just to be invited to compete. Even if it doesn't win, the experience is the most important part.

However, due to financial issues, the opportunity could be in jeopardy, said band family members, so they have come together to organize multiple fundraisers throughout the summer to gain publicity and earn money.

Every Tuesday night from 4:30-9 p.m. in the Amador Valley parking lot, the band members are working in conjunction with food trucks. The events include music and socializing, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Fiesta Bowl funds.

Additionally, the band is putting on a "Thanks a 1000!" appreciation night in order to honor

Grantham's 10 years at Amador. The date is still being determined and will be announced at [www.amadormusic.org](http://www.amadormusic.org) when it is decided. Admission will be \$100 per person.

The band is also hosting the FORE Music Scramble Golf Tournament at the Castlewood Country Club. The event, planned for Monday, Sept. 10, includes a putting contest, prizes and a Fiesta bar. Check-in is at 10:30 a.m., with tee-off at 12:30 p.m.

Straight donations can be made to the band's nonprofit organization, Amador Friends of Music. Find information at [www.amadormusic.org](http://www.amadormusic.org) or call 699-7921.

Although band families have raised a portion of the funds, the Amador Band would still appreciate any form of help from the community in order to allow these hardworking band members to attend this once-in-a-lifetime experience, said supporters. ■



## Castlewood Country Club

Meet, Play, Relax, Return.....



### Tennis Open House — Saturday, August 4

Juniors - 4:00-5:00pm | Adults - 5:00-6:30pm

Are you interested in learning the game of tennis? Have you played tennis in the past but just didn't keep up with the game? Then grab a racquet and come on out to the Castlewood Courts on Saturday, August 4 for a Tennis Open House event!

This evening is part of a grassroots initiative by the USTA to introduce new players and reintroduce old players to tennis. Our fine Castlewood tennis staff will be on hand to assist new players with correct techniques and answer any questions you may have about the game. They will also be on hand to offer pointers for those who are a little rusty.

We will also have the ever-popular "hit for prizes" game if you like a challenge! And we can't host an event without a few goodies from the kitchen so we'll be serving up some beer and light hors d'oeuvres. Castlewood Membership Director, Jami Rodriguez, will also be available during this event to answer any questions you may have about the Club and membership options.

*If you're interested in joining us  
call the Tennis Shop at (925) 485-2265 to RSVP.*

## Nebraska man sentenced in sexual abuse of 13-year-old girl

Crossed state lines after meeting online, snuck into her bedroom 'almost nightly'

**By GLENN WOHLTMANN**

A man who traveled from Nebraska to meet up with a 13-year-old Alameda County girl was sentenced July 20 to 25 years to life for the ongoing sexual abuse of the underage girl.

Todd Tackwell was 35 when he met the victim, who was 13 at the time, through an Internet chat room. He was busted by a Pleasanton police officer who grew suspicious of the relationship between the two during a traffic stop.

Pleasanton police Officer Matthew Kroutil broke the case on the afternoon of July 23, 2010, when he stopped Tackwell's pickup truck because it had a cracked front windshield. The victim was in the passenger seat.

Kroutil suspected something was wrong after questioning the pair. He separated the two and contin-

ued questioning. Over the next several days, the girl revealed that she'd been in a sexual relationship with the defendant since early 2010, when Tackwell moved to the Bay Area.

She told police she met the defendant in an Internet chat room in October 2009, and that he was 35 and living in Nebraska. The two communicated almost daily until January 2010 when he moved to California.

Sexual contact began immediately, first at her mother's home in San Jose and then at her father's in unincorporated Alameda County. The relationship escalated quickly, with the defendant entering her bedroom through a window on an almost nightly basis and continued until Kroutil made his traffic stop.

After the defendant was arrested,

another woman came forward in Lincoln, Neb., and told police she was the victim of similar conduct by the defendant for two years when she was 14 and 15 years old. The woman, now 22, flew from Nebraska to testify at the trial.

A jury in April convicted Tackwell for continuous sexual abuse of a 13-year-old, along with a burglary enhancement for repeatedly breaking into the girl's home to have sex with her.

He also may face federal charges along with similar allegations that surfaced in Nebraska after the case broke here.

Tackwell told police that the day before his arrest, he'd been notified of an indictment against him following an investigation by Homeland Security into a child pornography distribution case dating to 2008. ■

## Felony charges dropped against Pleasanton man

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

A Pleasanton man embroiled in a bitter custody battle has had criminal charges against him thrown out of court.

Brian Lancaster had five charges dismissed for lack of evidence, according to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

"The D.A. told the judge they were going to dismiss all the charges in the interest of justice," Lancaster said Tuesday after the charges were dropped.

Lancaster, 36, was arrested Jan. 16 by Pleasanton police Officer Tim Martens after a traffic stop for an expired registration. That led to a search of his car, and Martens's report says his search turned up 2.5 grams of "a white powdery substance" that tested positive for methamphetamine and a pipe.

Lancaster has refuted that evidence since his arrest, and he filed a claim — a precursor to a lawsuit — against Pleasanton in June asking for in excess of \$1 million.

"Pleasanton police Officer Tim Martens and other unknown officers improperly obtained confidential information, improperly used and disclosed false and confidential information and made illegal search, seizure and arrest based on use of improperly obtained information and falsified evidence," Lancaster states in his claim.

The court Tuesday dismissed charges of possession of methamphetamine, paraphernalia possession and two weapons charges that stemmed from a subsequent search of the house Lancaster shares with his father.

"The Department of Justice raided my house. Lesley Regina faxed the DOJ all kinds of nonsense (stating) that they must start an investigation of me," Lancaster said. "Lesley (Regina) had told them that I had assault weapons, all kinds of weapons there."

Regina, a San Ramon family law

attorney, has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor charge that she illegally received confidential information. Her alleged co-conspirator, Alameda County Sheriff's deputy Ryan Silcocks, also has pleaded not guilty to two misdemeanors, for illegally accessing information and for illegally furnishing information.

Lancaster said he's one of the people singled out by Regina. Although she doesn't represent his ex-wife, Lisa Secord, Lancaster has documentation he claims show the two were in communication.

He said it's his belief that Silcocks was running his name through national crime databases.

Also dismissed Tuesday was a charge of driving on a suspended license, even though Lancaster admits he was doing so.

Lancaster, who was on probation for a three-year-old case of petty theft, also had that probation ended.

"This took the biggest weight off my shoulders, ever," Lancaster said.

The charges against Lancaster and their dismissal are the latest in an ongoing battle between the Pleasanton resident and Secord, who is now remarried and living in Washington state.

Lancaster said he's seeking to overturn a Washington state restraining order, which he said was granted because of the charges against him.

He said he's also looking into the possibility of criminal charges against Secord for placing a GPS tracking until on his car.

Despite the dismissal of charges and the battle between the ex-couple, which includes the hiring of a private investigator and allegations of domestic abuse — which were dismissed — Lancaster admits he's not without fault.

"Basically, I screwed up. I had an affair," he said. "She's still angry." ■

## BART station body ID'ed

BART police say woman apparently jumped

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Alameda County Coroner's Office have identified the woman whose body was found in the brush last week near the East Dublin/Pleasanton BART station parking structure as Joy Ann Grammatica, 48, of Livermore.

A coroner's report says the death was due to "multiple blunt force trauma" consistent with a jump from the parking garage.

"At this point, it is being treated as a suicide until we find evidence otherwise," an Alameda County Coroner's Office spokesman said.

BART police Officer Era Jenkins said investigators are searching for possible witnesses and are looking for video footage from the area.

She said BART detectives are considering all possibilities, including the possibility of a jump, as

well as an accidental fall or a push from the parking structure.

"We look for witnesses, we ask for witnesses to come forward — we just look at all possibilities," Jenkins said, explaining that the coroner's office, not BART police, makes the determination of cause of death.

A BART police lieutenant said someone called police about a body in the bushes around 12:30 p.m. July 19. The body was discovered just feet from the large BART parking structure on the Dublin side.

A LinkedIn profile page lists Joy Grammatica as an implementation manager at Verizon in the San Francisco Bay Area and shows she had been with the company since 2006. Grammatica's father, Calvin Marquis, died on July 17, according to an obituary published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. ■



## SHOP, DINE AND EXPERIENCE WHY THESE MERCHANTS WERE VOTED #1

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<b>Borg Fence</b> 575 Boulder Ct., Pleasanton, 426-9620	<b>Best Deck and Fencing</b>
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<b>Carpetland</b> 4299 Rosewood Dr # 100, Pleasanton, 847-0866	<b>Best Carpet / Flooring Store</b>
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<b>Workbench True Value</b> 1807 Santa Rita Rd. Ste. N, Pleasanton, 846-0660	<b>Best Hardware Store</b>
<b>Zen Pilates &amp; Fitness</b> 3059 Hopyard Rd. Ste. C, Pleasanton, 600-7800	<b>Best Personal Trainer</b>

## SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from Page 5

more outreach and communication to the public.

She was involved in the hiring of Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi, serving as liaison between the search firm and the rest of the board, and has been on the Strategic Plan Committee, the Budget Advisory committee, the Board Policies Committee, the Audit Committee, the city of Pleasanton/School Board liaison committee and the Hacienda Task Force.

Arkin is a delegate with the California School Boards Association and recently completed her Master's in Governance Training through the California School Board Association.

In making his reelection announcement, Grant said his desire to continue on the School Board is "rooted in his passion for public education and his numerous years of service to Pleasanton schools." Grant has served more than five years and twice as school board president and is the longest-serving

member currently on the board.

Grant said he has extensive governance experience and a long record of Pleasanton community involvement. He is parent of three children in Pleasanton schools and senior vice president of corporate development and investments for Kaiser Permanente.

During his time on the school board, the district increased academic test scores, added new science specialists at each elementary school, increased academic intervention programs in reading, science and math, and maintained important art, music and athletic programs, he pointed out.

"Over the past six years, our School District increased API test scores by 25 points to 906, ranking Pleasanton schools among the best in the state," Grant said. "The

addition of full-time science specialists to every elementary school has resulted in California standards scores increasing to 90% proficiency or advanced in science, up from 76% in 2007.

"I firmly believe that Pleasanton schools can continue to excel and perform at the top in state despite



Valerie Arkin



Chris Grant



Jamie Yee Hintzke

a challenging California budgetary situation."

Like Arkin, Grant credited partnerships with teachers, staff and the community.

He also noted that "97% of Pleasanton students pass the California High School Exit Exam on their first attempt in 10th grade, making

Pleasanton the envy of many surrounding schools.

"Pleasanton has excelled in math, with a 99% proficiency rate in seventh-grade algebra 1 and 157 students taking geometry in eighth grade, one year ahead of schedule with 100% proficiency scores on the CST," Grant said.

In her announcement seeking reelection, Hintzke, who served as clerk of the school board in 2010-11, said that she has pushed for greater district transparency, tight financial control and accountability, greater public involvement in district decisions, advocating for reading intervention programs and improved methods to better serve the needs of all students.

In addition, during her current term, she had a major role in hiring the new school superintendent.

Hintzke said her priorities are "to ensure that students reach their full potential, strengthen communication and school/parent partnerships, continue to ask the hard questions about fiscal accountability, and push for answers and transparency, and to ensure that PUSD

employees work in a supportive and collaborative environment."

"The parents and students of Pleasanton deserve trustees who have a deep understanding of our schools and the challenges facing them," she added. "I believe this is my greatest strength as a candidate."

A Pleasanton resident for nearly 40 years, Hintzke attended Pleasanton public schools and has two children in the district. From 2009-12 she served on the Alameda County School Boards Association as the vice president of education.

For the last two years, she also has been a trustee on the Tri Valley ROP Board and is currently that board's president. In 2012, she also completed the Masters in Governance training program.

Prior to taking office in 2008, Hintzke was active in the Parent Teachers Association at Alisal Elementary and Harvest Park Middle schools as well as the Pleasanton PTA Council. She served on several PUSD Committees as well as the California State PTA Board of Managers.

Hintzke is employed by Alameda County as a Community Relations Coordinator, working on a youth center project due to open January 2013.

"I look forward to the privilege of serving again to continue to do what the public has elected me to do: focus on our student's learning, policies and keeping an eagle eye on the budget," she said. ■

## MURDER-SUICIDE

Continued from Page 5

tion had to do with the backlog of cases at the county crime lab.

"We were working very closely with the Alameda County Crime Lab," he explained. "They're very busy — this isn't the only homicide they're working on in the county. Really, it has to do with the availability of their equipment and their ability to process our evidence."

There have been 63 homicides in Oakland this year alone. ■



Amy Burton-Freeman



Ainsley Freeman

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# Business News

Edited by Jeb Bing, jbing@pleasantonweekly.com

## FLEET FEET SPORTS WOMEN'S 5K RUN/WALK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2012

**WHEN:** Registration/check-in begins at 6:30 a.m.; race starts at 8 a.m.

**WHERE:** Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd, Pleasanton

**ENTRY FEES:** \$35 pre-register; \$40 at packet pickup or race day registration.

**ENTRY INCLUDES:** t-shirt, chip timing, post-race refreshments including chocolate from OCHO Chocolates, and one raffle entry.

**REGISTRATION/INFORMATION:** www.fleetfeetpleasanton.com

**EARLY PACKET PICK UP:** August 11th, 10am-4pm, at Fleet Feet Sports – 234 A Main St., Pleasanton.



## Sandia's 'lab-on-disk' could make medical tests faster, cheaper for patients

SpinDx technology offers quick blood work results with just a pin prick

Researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore have developed a lab-on-a-disk platform that they believe will be faster, less expensive and more versatile than similar medical diagnostic tools.

Lab officials are seeking industry partners to license and commercialize the SpinDx technology, which can determine a patient's white blood cell count, analyze important protein markers, and process up to 64 assays from a single sample, all in a matter of minutes.

"In a doctor's office, time is money," said Anup Singh, manager of Sandia's biotechnology and bio-engineering department.

"Patients have become accustomed to an initial visit, some tests, samples that are sent off to a far-away lab, a wait of a week or more for results, more tests and charges every step of the way," he said. "With SpinDx, you can see results before you even leave the office."

According to Singh, the technology advances in SpinDx have profound implications for patient care. Heart attacks, strokes, infections, certain cancers and other afflictions could be detected days or weeks sooner than they are today, with no new burdens placed on patients or their doctors.

The SpinDx platform has several advantages:

- Small sample size: Patients merely have to provide a pin-prick sample of blood.
- Ease of use: The device uses a spinning disk, much like a CD player, to manipulate a sample. The disks contain commercially available reagents and antibodies specific to each protein marker.
- Custom applications: Singh envisions a "plug and play" approach whereby the physician chooses among a "cardiac disk," "immune disk" and similar options. Inexpensive technology: The disks — the crux of the technology — cost pennies to manufacture.
- Quick response time: Results can be delivered to the physician's computer in 15 minutes.

"We envision medical personnel



RANDY WONG

Sandia's Ulrich Schaff holds a prototype SpinDx, a portable instrument that can determine a patient's white blood cell count, analyze important protein markers, and achieve results from other tests in a matter of minutes.

using SpinDx routinely," said Greg Sommer, the Sandia researcher who spearheaded development of the project.

"Instead of standard blood panels and costly lab tests, a SpinDx disk would be processed right in the office while the medical office staff is gathering routine data like temperature and blood pressure," Sommer said.

The platform also has homeland security and food processing applications.

The device could be the most accurate method available to detect the botulinum toxin, said Sommer. Caused by the bacteria *Clostridium botulinum*, the botulinum toxin is one of the most toxic substances known — a minuscule quantity can deliver a lethal dose. But despite scientific advances, laboratory mice remain the only reliable way to test for botulism.

"The mouse bioassay is primitive, but remains the gold stan-

dard due to its sensitivity," Sommer said. "Our SpinDx botulinum assay vastly outperformed the mouse bioassay in head-to-head tests, and requires absolutely no animal testing. Plus there are a lot of cost and speed advantages."

While botulism is quite rare — only about 145 cases are reported in the U.S. each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — the lethality of the toxin makes it an attractive candidate for bioterrorism.

"A very small amount in the food system could harm a lot of people," said Sommer.

Sandia's goal, Sommer said, is to create a handheld, point-of-care device that can be used in the field by emergency responders.

SpinDx's ability to process many substances also makes the device relevant for food safety testing. About 15% of botulism cases are food-borne. In 2007, 14 people in seven states contracted botulism from chili sauce due to faulty manufacturing equipment at a food plant in Georgia.

The Sandia team made improvements to the assay that enabled it to handle thick, viscous food substances. Collaborators at the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided high-quality botulinum antibodies that bind with high affinity, enabling higher sensitivity.

"Food processing plants are looking for something that can be integrated into their assembly lines," said Sommer. "Our device will be suitable because it's fast, inexpensive and simple to operate."

The team is developing a deployable prototype to run the assays, with the goal of a fully integrated, automated device for field testing.

"We've done most of our testing in a bench top setting, where we spin the sample on the disk and then read it out on a microscope," Sommer explained. "The next step is to automate those processes and get the system into users' hands. SpinDx has a lot of potential for so many applications." ■

## Symposium set for Tuesday for small business owners

Experts to offer free counseling in finance, marketing, other business needs

The East Bay Small Business Initiative will hold a free symposium Tuesday, July 31, to help owners and operators of small businesses.

Jim Horan, president and chief executive of The One Page Business Plan Company, who has written a book by the same name, will be the featured speaker.

A wide range of experts in small business resources, such as financing, marketing, planning, employee recruitment and training, will be available during the symposium to offer help and guidance for participants.

The event will include four interactive breakout sessions with

resources matched by business age and needs, including startups, young, growing and maturing businesses.

The symposium will be held from 7:30 to 11 a.m. in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hotel Shattuck Plaza, 2086 Allston Way, in Berkeley. ■

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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Planning Pleasanton's 'last frontier'

The 23-member East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force will hold its first meeting next Thursday to begin a two-year planning process for Pleasanton's last frontier in terms of commercial, residential and recreational development. Officially approved and given its marching orders July 17 by the Pleasanton City Council, the task force's mission will be to look at the largely empty 1,000 acres east of Valley Avenue and stretching along Busch Road and Stanley Boulevard to the Livermore city limits, well east of a quarry road that eventually will become an extension of El Charro Road from I-580 to Stanley. The site, which will include man-made lakes and trails, is larger than Hacienda Business Park.

The composition of the task force is indeed disparate, with its members including Planning, Housing and Parks and Recreation commission members, developers, property owners and five "at large" representatives, each appointed by one member of the City Council and one by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. Neither Hosterman nor any council member is on the task force.

Although large in terms of numbers, the task force is similar to one Pleasanton has had before in planning the 1996 General Plan, the Vineyard Corridor, the Callippe Preserve golf course area, and most recently the affordable housing land use plan for the Hacienda Business Park. The General Plan task force and its more than 200 members spent nearly three years developing the plan; the East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force has an 18-month timeframe, but most believe it will take longer to produce a plan that satisfies everyone and can be adopted. When completed, it will determine how Pleasanton's east side can best be developed over the next few decades.

The east side land use plan also will provide Pleasanton with ample room for meeting the state's affordable housing requirements, which could number in the hundreds of new high density apartment units. In the council's recent action of rezoning 75 acres to meet legal and state requirements for current obligations, it was clear that few property owners want more high density housing in the established parts of the city and certainly none on hillsides. The east side tract now under consideration has no homes or apartments with its main landowner the Pleasanton Garbage Co., whose aging transfer station will likely be rebuilt at a location at the far eastern edge, beyond Cope Lake, which lies in the middle of the site, and probably bordering on Livermore. Although quarry activities have mostly ceased in Pleasanton, they are expected to be active on the Livermore side for another 20-30 years.

The members of the task force and their interests are: Jennifer Pearce and Kathy Narum from the Pleasanton Planning Commission; John Casey, Housing Commission; Brad Hottle, Parks and Recreation Commission; Colleen Winey, Zone 7 Water Agency; Pat Costanza, Kiewit, and Steve Dunn, Legacy Partners.

Neighborhood representatives are Erin Kvistad, Ironwood; Robert Russman, the Village at Ironwood; Nancy Allen, Danbury Park; Heidi Massie, Autumn Glen and Heritage Valley; and Kellene Cousins, Mohr-Martin. A representative from the Stoneridge Park neighborhood has yet to be chosen.

At-large representatives and the elected representative who appointed them are: Bob Shapiro, appointed by Hosterman; Mark Emerson, by Councilman Matt Sullivan; Ken Mercer, by Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio; Karla Brown, by Councilwoman Cindy McGovern; and Brock Roby, by Councilman Jerry Thorne.

Next Thursday's meeting will be held in the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street at 6:30 p.m. with subsequent meetings to be held on the first Thursdays of every month through at least 2013. ■



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

## LETTERS

### 'Occupy' farmers market

Dear Editor,

Isn't there anything we can do to take back our peaceful, bucolic farmers market? A mob of proselytizing zealots has taken over the Main Street entrance to the market. The shouting, haranguing and carrying of giant

signs are ruining the market experience for buyers and sellers alike.

I am in favor of anyone having a table and quietly offering their views to those who are interested. However, this assault on our senses has got to cease. I really doubt this is "what Jesus would do."

Becky Petersen

## "DO YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?"

Daven Sharma, CPA and CFP® is offering a FREE financial education seminar for young adults (age 15+) on Saturday, July 28th at the Pleasanton library at 10:30 AM. Encourage your kids to attend and learn how to manage their expenses and save for the future.

To register, send email to **Frankie@[daviscopas.com](mailto:daviscopas.com)** or call **925-400-8333**.



Daven Sharma

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FURNITURE RESTORER ALSO CREATES SPECIAL BIRDHOUSES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Birdhouses adorn the Pleasanton back yard of Susan Yager, who restores family heirloom furniture through her business, Labor of Love. She has been building birdhouses for almost two decades, and each season she cleans and rehabilitates those that have been used by birds to build their nests.



**By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

If it's wood, Susan Yager knows how to fix it. When she sees a bird, she wants to build a wooden house for it.

What started as a small birdhouse industry in her home 18 years ago has grown and evolved into a thriving furniture restoration business, but she still makes birdhouses for relaxation.

While working for 20 years in the food service industry managing catering teams — and building birdhouses for fun — Yager often went to estate sales and flea markets with a friend.

"I gravitated toward wood and furniture and things that needed restoration," Yager recalled.

When she and her husband separated he left behind the table saw he had used to cut the patterns for her birdhouses.

"If someone gives you lemons, you learn to make lemonade," Yager mused. "If someone

But usually Yager is so busy renovating other people's furniture that her own has to wait; she was recently balancing 15 projects.

"I work seven days a week," she said. "This business was built from an ad in the Pleasanton Weekly. I wanted to get myself out there, but in a classy way. Plus I wanted to target my area where I live.

"I've built a client base that way, then by referrals."

She keeps people involved in the restoration, sharing photos of each stage of the process on the Internet for clients to look at and share with other family members.

"At my last catering company, I learned a lot about business," Yager said. "It sparked my creativity, for instance, turning a warehouse into a ballroom, and everyone appreciated us. I got thanked every time I went to work."

When she was injured and had to leave the physical demands of catering, she wanted to

"Don't take things to the dump," she advised. "Re-purpose them."

In her home, an old wooden ironing board serves as a sideboard in the dining room. An old birdcage holds a plant in the back yard.

"I love to figure things out," Yager said. "For every problem there is a practical, logical solution."

"Another part of the business that is really special is going into their homes and them sharing their stories," she added. "Or they come into my home. It's a really personal business. Every client is a new friend."

She continues to make birdhouses, which are popular as gifts. She also make birdhouse-type mailboxes, planters, keyholders and bird feeders.

"Birdhouses are very homey," Yager said. "They bring fuzziness to people's hearts. Plus birds nest in them. You get to watch until the nests have baby birds."

Wednesday Street Parties to talk to people about them.

Her new "giant line" has houses 28 inches high, and 14 inches wide and deep.

"These are 'birdhouse statements,'" she said with a laugh. "I've incorporated some of the exposure I've had to antiques — hand carvings and embellishments — and decorated them with antique hardware, and things that are very unusual. I wanted something that is really unique."

She uses recycled wood, sanding and finishing it to look refined, she said. She uses pocket-hole joinery, screws and glue, and covers the screw holes with buttons so they last.

"I've gotten so many compliments on my carpentry," Yager said. "It's rustic in a very refined way. One of my antique clients came through and saw one and said, 'My goodness, this isn't for any old bird, it's for a very classy bird.'"

"I take pride in the quality of my workman-



Yager is an expert at "re-purposing" items, such as the ornate double doors that lead from her back patio into her side yard, alongside an old chest of drawers and a hanging mirror. She became interested in woodworking when she and her husband separated and he left behind a table saw. "If someone gives you lemons, you learn to make lemonade," she said. "If someone gives you a table saw, you learn to make sawdust."

gives you a table saw, you learn to make sawdust."

"I love tools, I like the empowerment that I feel," she said. "I can do anything that needs to be done."

She took a woodworking class through the city of Pleasanton to get started. At first she wanted to redo her kitchen cupboards, but one improvement led to another, until today not only the kitchen is redone but she's installed five-panel doors throughout the house. The door to her office is solid oak with a reeded glass center, as traditionally have graced professional offices. Her front door is a 100-year-old Victorian she refinished.

pursue a new career that would likewise spark her creativity and please clients. She has found it with her furniture business and named it Labor of Love.

"It's a business of the heart," Yager said. "I want to preserve memories. I get tears — and hugs."

She is aware that the old pieces people bring her to restore are worth much more than their replacement value.

"I love that I can see potential in every single piece," she said. "As the business evolved I was doing more and more repair work. People would say, 'I was going to take this to the dump but I thought I'd try giving it to you first.'"

Her front and back yards have dozens of the little houses.

"I've noticed they use three nesting materials: animal hair, string and cloth, and twigs," she said. "Every spring and summer I rehabilitate them or the birdhouses fall apart. The weather gets to them. I've had some 18 years.

"I build them for longevity, with a removable bottom and vented roofs," she continued. "They are an environmentally friendly production. When wood starts to swell and separate, nails loosen, so I use screws."

Her birdhouses are carried at the Berry Patch on Main Street and Angela in downtown Pleasanton, and Yager is there during the 1st

ship," she said. "Where else do you get such value for your dollar? Or someone who will stand behind their merchandize?"

Yager knows many people who already have birdhouses they love, but they aren't well made and begin to fall apart, so she is also in the business of birdhouse restoration.

But creating new birdhouses is a type of joy in her life, she said.

"I have so much work and I'm passionate about my work but it's not always fun because it's always challenging and sometimes physically challenging," she explained. "Birdhouses are not physically challenging and I can use my creativity. There are no limits." ■

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

## Inner beauty pageant **empowers teen**

National Miss Teen Raven Delk works to raise girls' self-esteem

By JAMIE ALTMAN

In a world filled with superficial physical beauty, Raven Delk strives to redefine the meaning of true beauty and what it means to be a pageant girl.

Delk, a Pleasanton resident going into her junior year at Amador Valley High, was named National American Miss Junior Teen on Nov. 20 at the National American Miss Pageant. She had won the California Junior Teen crown last summer.

This pageant focuses on inner beauty, as opposed to the typical beauty contest that bases winning on bikini figures and other physical traits.

"I am definitely not a perfect person," Delk, 16, admitted, "but accepting your flaws is a huge part of being a confident person. After the pageant, the judges said that they picked me because not only did I do a great job, but I was natural with it and not too 'pageant-y.'"

Delk's main goal throughout her reign as Miss California Junior Teen and then National American Miss Junior Teen has been to instill the confidence that she has to other girls her age.

"I think the biggest way that I have made an impact is with my platform, which is raising self-esteem in girls," Delk said. "I've loved talking to girls all around the country about my platform and doing public speaking."

She described a "zero-makeup, inner beauty" day where she and the other state queens wore no makeup and encouraged the contestants to do the same.

"We wanted to show them that nobody is perfect, and that pageantry isn't all about

having perfect hair and makeup and looking amazing all the time," she said.

As National American Miss Junior Teen, Delk has traveled more than 23,000 miles this year, attending other state pageants and being featured in photo shoots. A highlight was receiving a Certificate of Recognition from the California Legislature and Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan.

"Not only do I feel like a more independent and responsible teenager, but I have also learned the importance of community service and how much joy volunteering brings me."

**Raven Delk**

National American Miss Junior Teen

The pageant also emphasizes giving back. "Having this title has really given me the extra push to help out in the community and do more charity work," Delk said.

She accomplished this by hosting a toy and card drive for the Ronald McDonald House and volunteering at many organizations, including Kids Against Hunger, the Special Olympics and Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

As active as she is with her pageant duties, Delk has an even busier life at home.

Last year, she was the sophomore class vice president, co-captain for the junior varsity cheerleading team, involved in the leadership and choir classes, and worked part-time at the English Rose Tea Room downtown. She took three honors classes and finished the year with only one B plus and the rest A's.

"Time management has definitely been a lesson that I've had to learn this year," she said. "Sometimes I have to make sacrifices — like not being able to cheer at the big Amador vs. Foothill game because I was in Texas — but it has really shown me what my priorities are and how to balance them."

After winning National American Miss Junior Teen, Delk said that her life has generally remained the same: The most important things to her are still her education, church and family.

People haven't been treating her differently either.

"I think it's because I don't act any differently than I did before," she explained. "I don't act like I'm some big deal, so people don't treat me like it."

Delk will give up her California Junior Teen crown at the end of July, and her National crown in November. She says she has complete faith that the next state queen will do the title justice, just as Delk hopes she has.

"It's been such an honor representing the state of California and the city of Pleasanton," she said.

Delk believes the whole experience has been humbling because of everything she has gained from it.

"I knew that I wanted to make an impact on the lives of others, but I didn't know how much of an effect the experience would have on me," she said. "Not only do I feel like a more independent and responsible teenager, but I have also learned the importance of community service and how much joy volunteering brings me."

Delk has had to learn how to keep her priorities straight and to not develop "a big head" about winning the California and National titles. Whenever she feels stressed about being too busy or not being able to do her best, she goes back to her roots and remembers why it was she won: because she is not perfect.

"Every time I go onstage, my mom says that she is crossing her fingers, praying that I won't trip because she knows I can be a total klutz," Delk said with a laugh. "One time, I made it all the way to third period with my boots on the wrong foot!"

Delk loves the Disney Channel and has every song from "High School Musical" memorized; the judges laughed for 30 seconds when Delk told them this during an interview.

"Honestly," she said, "I think that's why I won."

In Delk's eyes, she didn't win because she was the tallest, skinniest or most beautiful, but because she remained true to her values and to herself.

"I just wanted to be myself and not do the typical 'word peace' speech, because that's not what pageants are about. Pageants are about empowering girls to be who they are — and to have confidence in that." □



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Raven Delk gets help from her friends with her junior class vice president campaign. (l-r) Hannah Moreno, Sarah Wadsworth, Delk, Annie Wayne and Megan Sensiba.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delk is overwhelmed with happiness as she is named National American Miss Junior Teen.

## 'Oklahoma!' more than OK

Purty girls and dancing fellas bring high spirits to the stage

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Tri-Valley Rep's production of "Oklahoma" does exactly what entertainment is supposed to do — transport us to another world, in this case the Oklahoma territory in 1906, on the threshold of statehood. The talented cast, directed by Kendall Tieck, delivers an enjoyable musical tale whose main characters face the challenge of admitting they love each other while dealing with a farm hand named Jud Fry (Robert Sholty), who is a nasty piece of work and completes the love triangle.

The production begins peacefully: Shortly after dawn Aunt Eller (Mary Gimeno) sits churning butter in the front yard of her farm. Cowboy Curly (Josh Milbourne) struts onstage, looks around appreciatively and expresses his happiness in song, "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning." He is there to ask Aunt Eller's niece Laurey (Katie Potts) to that evening's box lunch social.

Sparks fly between these two, igniting not just the stage but the audience, which has no trouble loving these characters and their topnotch voices. But the couple resort to teasing rather than admitting their feelings, and, to punish Curly, Laurey accepts a ride to the social with Jud Fry, who is obsessed with her.

Another love story soon takes centerstage as the delightful Ado Annie (Morgan Breedveld) flirts with both the bedazzled cowboy Will Parker (Will Peifer) and the Persian traveling peddler, Ali Kakim



ROBERT SHOLTY  
Curly (Josh Milbourne) urges Laurey (Katie Potts) to visualize a surrey with a fringe on top.

(Rick Costello). "I'm Just a Girl Who Can't Say No," Ado Annie explains to Laurey. This situation leads to many a laugh as Will tries to get permission from Ado Annie's dad to marry her, Ali tries to extricate himself from the romance before it ends in marriage, and Ado Annie can't say no to kisses from either.

One song follows another, moving the story forward, a first for musical theater when it opened on Broadway in 1943, the premier collaboration by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein. Choreographer Kevin Hammond has developed fun and clever ensemble numbers with plenty of action and comedic moves. In a change of tone, a moving finale to the first act is a long ballet sequence, part dream, part nightmare, as Laurey appraises her two suitors.

Act Two starts out with a song and dance number called "The Farmer

and the Cowman," a good-natured comparison of ways of life in the territory. The title song "Oklahoma" is another rousing production by the entire ensemble. Laurey and Curly finally both declare their love although Jud is a force that threatens to disrupt the happiness until the dramatic climax.

Hopefully this Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production will continue to draw full houses as it did Saturday on opening night. Musical Director Jo Anne Fosselman leads a 14-piece orchestra that keeps everyone's toes tapping and, when appropriate, softens to accompany the fine voices onstage. In addition to the familiar signature number "Oklahoma," it was surprising about how many of the songs were recognizable.

The escapism of the theater was surely needed even more during war-time when the play opened. Seventy years ago, "Oklahoma!" was an immediate hit on Broadway — as it was at the Bankhead Theater on Saturday night. ■

### Slice of Americana

**What:** "Oklahoma!"

**Who:** Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

**When:** 8 p.m. Fridays/Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 5

**Where:** Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore

**Tickets:** \$27.50-\$37.50; call 373-6800; www.trivalleyrep.org

## 14 Scouts earn Silver Pins

Pleasanton Girl Scout Troop 30787 members, who just finished the eighth-grade at Harvest Park Middle School, were presented their Silver Award Pins on June 5 after completing more than 40 hours of work on their own Silver Award Projects. The Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette Scout can earn, and the projects covered many community needs, including helping preschools, animal shelters, cancer societies, recycling programs, special needs organizations and local food pantries.

"These girls are 14 of the most incredible girls one could ever meet," said Barb McKenzie. "I feel so privileged to be their troop leader."

Pictured are (front row, l-r) Anna Borchers, Megan Doi, Jessica Rieble, Miriam Halim, Tayler Clopton, Katie Gray, Amanda McKenzie and Nicole Melo, (back) Rebecca Holley, Megan Holt, Cami Weinstock, Annaka Green, Becky Bland and Katie Borg.



## Eagle Scout Ian Peters

Ian Peters has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, after 125 hours of service on his project of planning and building a memorial garden area and installing a bench at his church, Trinity Lutheran. Ian, the son of Scott and Chris Peters, began Scouting with Cub Scout Pack 938 at Vintage Hills and earned the rank of Arrow of Light, the highest award in Cub Scouting. He continued with Troop 948 sponsored by CenterPointe Presbyterian Church.

In addition to earning 33 merit badges, Ian held numerous leadership positions including Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. He is a member of the Order of Arrow and attended National Youth Leadership Training. He participated in two 50-miler High Adventure Training activities, hiking 80-plus miles in Philmont, N.M., and a 50-mile canoe/kayak trip down the Sacramento River.



## Pleasanton teen is 'Legally Blonde' at Ohlone

StarStruck Theater paints Elle Woods in a pink positive light

By JAMIE ALTMAN

Reese Witherspoon brought Elle Woods to life in the 2001 movie, "Legally Blonde." Broadway then resurfaced the popular story in 2007 as a musical. Starting tonight, StarStruck Youth Performing Arts is presenting "Legally Blonde: The Musical" at Ohlone College, to run through Aug. 11, and starring Pleasanton resident Amy Tilson-Lumetta as Elle Woods.

The musical, like the movie, begins with sorority president Elle Woods getting dumped by her boyfriend Warner. Since he is attending Harvard Law School, he declares he needs a more "serious" girlfriend. Elle, obsessed with pink and with a seemingly unrealistic positive outlook on life, does not fit this description.

She sets out to change Warner's opinion as she applies and is accepted into Harvard Law in the hopes of proving to him just how "serious" she can be.

"Being Elle has been absolutely wonderful," said Tilson-Lumetta in an email. She noted that although she has been in other productions, this has been her hardest role so far. "Elle is so different from me," she explained.

Directed by Lori Stokes, the musical focuses on young people finding their identities and what it means to remain true to oneself.

"At first I judged Elle by her bubbly pink exterior," Tilson-Lumetta said. "But then I started to see her for the amazing and complex person she is. She is determined, driven, fearless and positive."

At first completely lost in a world that does not value the color pink or visualize her as the queen bee, Elle gradually begins to make a name for herself at Harvard (and not just because of her fuzzy pink pens and scented printer paper). She thrives as a law student and gains confidence in something more than her appearance: her intelligence.

Tilson-Lumetta described the empowering message in the closing number of Act One, when Elle finally discovers her full potential and realizes, in song, that her life has become "So Much Better."

"I think that's another message of this show: Dream big," Tilson-Lumetta said. "Elle has this fearless driven quality, this mindset that she can and she will achieve anything if she puts her mind to it."

Tilson-Lumetta loves playing Elle because of all her layers: She's perky, bubbly and seemingly unaware on the outside, but on the inside, she has a caring heart and a smart, driven mind.



Pleasanton resident Amy Tilson-Lumetta stars as Elle in the StarStruck Youth Performing Arts production of "Legally Blonde" opening tonight in the theater at Ohlone College.

"Elle has helped me grow so much," Tilson-Lumetta said. "(She has helped me) break past the boundaries of my comfort zone and cultivate the confidence that Elle has — into me."

Tilson-Lumetta calls participating in this musical "one of the most rewarding experiences" of her life.

"It's awesome working with such talented directors and cast mates," Tilson-Lumetta said. "The environment is so warm and encouraging; I think all our hard work is really paying off. It's because we want to be there, we want to work, and we want to be great."

In that sense, she and the rest of the 50-member cast in "Legally Blonde: The Musical" — which also includes Pleasanton teens Sarah O'Brien, Charles Platt, Patrick Maravilla, Julia Brunelli, Angela Yamarone and Uma Paranjpe — are not so different from Elle. They all have dreams, goals and the ambition to be their best; being blonde, legally or not, has nothing to do with it. ■

### More than Blonde

**What:** "Legally Blonde: The Musical"

**Who:** StarStruck Youth Performing Arts

**When:** Thursdays-Sundays through Aug. 11

**Where:** Jackson Theatre, Smith Center, Ohlone College, Fremont

**Tickets:** \$22-\$28; www.starstrucktheatre.org; (510) 659-1319

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# Community Pulse

By Glenn Wohltmann, gwohltmann@pleasantonweekly.com

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Internet frauds net more than \$14,000 from residents

Two Pleasanton residents reported being victims of Internet fraud last weekend, with one taken for more than \$10,000 in fraudulent credit card charges.

That report came in at 3:03 p.m. July 21 from the 1600 block of Ramblewood Way. The resident said two online purchases totaling \$10,850 had been made and only discovered when she examined her credit card bill.

In the second, reported at 1:52 p.m. July 22, a woman in the 3800 block of West Las Positas Boulevard reported being defrauded after wiring \$3,200 to buy an Acura through Craigslist. So many people have been defrauded through the popular online site that Craigslist now runs a scam warning on the auto sales portion of its site, advising people not to wire money.

### In other police reports:

• Six people were arrested over recent days in four felony shoplifting cases.

Gabriel Rodigari, 23, of Alameda was arrested at about 6:58 p.m. July 19 for felony shoplifting and probation violation for taking clothing worth about \$780 from Nordstrom at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Christian Michael Ruge, 22, of Dublin, was arrested for felony shoplifting at about 3:27 p.m. July 20 at Kohls in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive. Ruge was arrested for stealing clothing worth \$24 from Kohls, with burglary tools — in this case, a pair of pliers — to commit the crime, which elevated the arrest to felony status.

Two women and a juvenile girl were arrested around 5:27 p.m. July 22 in a credit card fraud at Nordstrom. Janesses Figueroa Moreno, 21, of Fairfield was charged with felony shoplifting, grand theft and forgery; Angela Marie Baca, 21, of San Mateo was arrested for presenting false identification to a police officer; and an unnamed 17-year-old was arrested for misdemeanor theft. The three used a debit card

to charge \$596.50 in clothing. The card's owner was contacted and said the trio did not have permission to use it.

Christopher James Diehl, 23, a transient, was arrested at 5:47 p.m. July 24 at Wal-Mart in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive on a charge of felony shoplifting in the theft of a bicycle worth \$135 and miscellaneous other items.

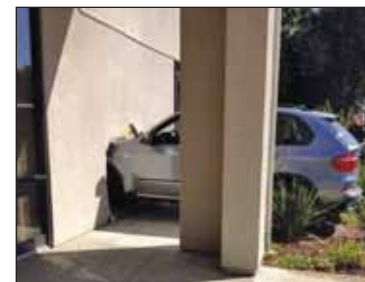
• A commercial burglary at Extra Space Storage in the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road netted perfumes and other miscellaneous items valued at \$11,719. A lock to the storage unit was cut; the burglary was reported at 2:42 p.m. July 21.

• Stereo equipment valued at about \$4,000 was stolen from a car in the 6100 block of Homer Court between 8:30 p.m. July 18 and noon July 22. A \$1,500 stereo, a \$1,500 amplifier and a \$1,000 subwoofer were reported stolen; a door lock was punched to gain access.

• A \$1,500 laptop and \$100 briefcase were reported stolen in an auto burglary between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. July 17 at 24 Hour fitness in the 4700 block of Willow Road.

• A \$500 scale was reported stolen in a commercial burglary at the Dublin San Ramon Services District between 5 p.m. July 6 and 7 a.m. July 18.

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



MARIA POPP

### Bank crash

A late-model BMW SUV apparently attempted to give the Bank of America a drive-through lane on Sunday, July 21. Police say the car jumped the curb and ran into the rear of the building; no cause has been determined, and no charges have been filed.

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### July 17

#### Theft

- 12:11 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft
- 3:56 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court; grand theft

#### DUI

- 10:37 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Sutter Gate Ave

### July 18

#### Theft

- 8:10 a.m. in the 4400 block of Pleasanton Avenue; identity theft
- 11:58 a.m. in the 5900 block of Laurel Creek Dr; mail theft, vandalism
- 12:19 p.m. in the 5900 block of Laurel Creek Dr; mail theft, vandalism
- 1:58 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft

#### Driving with marijuana

- 1:31 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Del Valle Parkway

### July 19

#### Sexual exploitation of a minor

- 10:03 a.m. in the 3200 block of Northampton Court

#### Theft

- 10:18 a.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road; embezzlement
- 1:50 p.m. in the 400 block of Pine Hill Lane; identity theft
- 7:58 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Rd; felony shoplifting

#### Burglary

- 3:54 p.m. in the 3700 block of Kamp Dr
- 6:58 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Auto burglary

- 11:13 p.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive

#### DUI

- 1:50 a.m. in the 4400 block of Sutter Gate Avenue
- 11:08 p.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and St. Mary Street

### July 20

#### Theft

- 9:33 a.m. in the 700 block of Summit

#### Creek Lane; identity theft

- 2:17 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; felony shoplifting
- 7:34 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 10:03 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Battery

- 11:11 a.m. in the 3900 block of Promenade Way
- 1:37 p.m. in the 2800 block of Victoria Ridge Ct; battery, petty theft

#### Possession of false identification

- 9:24 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive

#### Auto burglary

- 2:44 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 1:50 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Alcohol violations

- 9:40 p.m. in the 2100 block of Cascara Ct; public drunkenness, resisting arrest
- 10:40 p.m. at the intersection of W. Angela St and Augustine St; DUI

### July 21

#### Theft

- 3:03 p.m. in the 1600 block of Ramblewood Way; grand theft, identity theft
- 7:16 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Burglary

- 2:42 p.m. in the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

#### Public drunkenness

- 2:01 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Ray Street

### July 22

#### Theft

- 1:52 p.m. in the 3800 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; forgery
- 5:27 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Rd; forgery, grand theft, theft, felony shoplifting, false representation of identification to a police officer

#### Auto burglary

- 4:53 p.m. in the 4700 block of

#### Willow Road

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:52 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- 6:36 p.m. at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Chestnut Way; driving with marijuana

### July 23

#### Theft

- 11:20 a.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive; grand theft
- 2:35 p.m. in the 4100 block of Denker Drive; grand theft
- 3:32 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Pleasant Hill Road; theft, vandalism

#### Auto burglary

- 9:27 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- 6:44 p.m. in the 6100 block of Homer Court

#### Vandalism

- 3:42 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 11:16 a.m. in the 4500 block of Fisher Ct; paraphernalia possession
- 10:17 p.m. in the 3500 block of Old Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 11:40 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

### July 24

#### Theft

- 9:51 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft
- 10:47 a.m. in the 5400 block of Black Avenue; grand theft
- 12:56 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 3:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

- 4:50 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; felony shoplifting

#### Burglary

- 10:55 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

#### Public drunkenness

- 8:21 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julie Nichols (front) with teammate Kristin Hedstrom will compete in the Women's Lightweight Double Scull Rowing competition at the 2012 Olympic Games.

## Going for the gold

By NICOLE DOI

One month ago, Pat Nichols had planned to attend the Queen's Jubilee Celebration being presented by the Daughters of the British Empire at the Castlewood Country Club on July 28. She now has different plans.

On July 28, Pat Nichols will be cheering on her daughter Julie Nichols as she competes in the Women's Lightweight Double Scull rowing competition at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Julie Nichols, who grew up in Livermore, began rowing in 1996 as a member of the UC Berkeley rowing team. Although she was a lightweight rower, she was able to make the varsity rowing team at Cal. Since then she has become a competitive rower making an impact on national and international waters.

For the past nine years, Julie has been a member of the United States national team. This year she won the lightweight double sculls at the 2012 National Selection Regatta, finished fourth in the lightweight double sculls at the 2012 Samsung World Rowing Cup II, and finished sixth in the lightweight double sculls at the 2012 Samsung World Rowing Cup I.

Julie and teammate Kristin Hedstrom from Boston, Mass., secured their place on the Olympic team with their fourth-place finish at

the second World Cup held in Lucerne, Switzerland.

"Julie's dad and I were able to cheer Julie on from California by watching the live streaming of the races at 2 or 3 a.m. each day," said Pat Nichols. "Family members in Australia were also watching, so there was a lot of celebrating when Julie and Kristin qualified for the USA Team and we knew that they were going to the Olympics."

Nichols trains with the California Rowing Club in Oakland under Coach Dave O'Neil. To prepare for the Olympics, Nichols and Hedstrom have been training more than eight hours a day for the past year.

"Julie and Kristin are excellent partners for each other and have worked very well together to make this the fastest Lightweight Double in the USA. This is the only Lightweight event for women in the Olympics so it is a very competitive field," said Pat Nichols.

From July 28-Aug. 4, the two women will be competing for Gold at London's Eton Dorney, a six-lane 2,000-meter flat-water course.

"Of course, all the athletes going to London want to win a gold medal and they will give it their very best effort. As parents you support and encourage but all the praise goes to the athlete. To be an Olympian requires tremendous

## Pleasanton Seahawks go to Olympic Trials

Hometown swimmers make big splash in Omaha

By NICOLE DOI

As the youngest competitor in the 200 Individual Medley Final at the 2012 Olympic Team Trials for swimming, Celina Li, a Pleasanton Seahawk, finished sixth overall.

"I just wanted to make it to finals and have fun. I wanted to give it everything that I had and hold nothing back. I didn't want to say 'what if I tried harder?'" said Li, a student at Foothill High School.

The trials took place June 25 thru July 2 at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Neb. The eight-day swim meet featured over 1,500 swimmers, including swimming legends Michael Phelps, Dara Torres, Natalie Coughlin and Ryan Lochte.

Four Pleasanton Seahawks qualified for the meet: Catherine Breed, Allison Brown, Celina Li and Nick Silverthorn.

For Celina, Nick and Allison, Olympic Trials was a new experience.

"The kids are used to the normal pre-race anxiety, but trials provides a completely different type of anxiety," explained Sea-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pleasanton Seahawks (l-r) Celina Li, Nick Silverthorn, Catherine Breed and Allison Brown qualified for Olympic Trials, which took place in Omaha, Neb., June 25-July 2.

hawks coach Steve Morsilli.

"The first day I was a little bit nervous. It can be really intimidating walking out to all of the bright lights. It got a lot better as the meet went on," said Celina.

Morsilli has been taking swimmers to trials every four years since 1988.

"I would have to say the highlight for me is taking kids who have never been to trials. It's a very different atmosphere, and I enjoy preparing them for it," said Morsilli.

The Seahawks had a busy eight days, as each swimmer was entered in several events. Celina competed in the 200m and 400m Individual Medley, 100m and 200m Breast, and the 100m and 200m Butterfly. Catherine swam the 100m, 200m and 400m free. Allison raced the 200m, 400m and 800m free and the 200m and 400m I.M. Nick competed in the 200m and 400m free.

"The swimmers all came to

the meet with individual goals in mind. Going all best times was the ultimate goal, but they all came up with goals outside of that as well," Morsilli said.

With 10% of all swims being best times, the Seahawks performance was better than the average; 45% of their times were improved.

With fast times and big races, the Olympic Trials was an exciting meet for the Pleasanton Seahawks.

The excitement at Omaha was also felt here in Pleasanton, as many tuned in to watch local swimmers compete for a spot on the Olympic team.

"I've always watched the Olympic Trials with serious USA pride, but this year watching girls who I had swam with in high school compete for a spot on the London team, my excitement level increased significantly. For them to be competing at such a high level was such an amazing thing to watch," said Rachel Usedom, a Foothill High School graduate. ■

## Sports awards on TV30

The second annual TV30 Tri-Valley Sports Final Player of the Week Awards Event honoring outstanding high school athletes from the Tri-Valley is currently airing on TV30. The event took place at the Robert Livermore Community Center on May 31 and featured guest speaker former NFL running back for the Oakland Raiders, Napoleon Kaufman.

The ballroom was filled with families who watched as 35 outstanding athletes received their awards at the special ceremony and reception, along with superintendents, principals and coaches from Tri-Valley high schools.

During the program a video of each student's winning play was shown and students were presented with their awards. Individual interviews with the Players of the Week, parents, coaches and principals are included in the show.

The show will be aired through August. For days and times, visit [www.tri-valleytv.org](http://www.tri-valleytv.org). DVDs are available for purchase on the website.

A regular show on TV30 is Tri-Valley Sports Final, which covers team and individual sports with exciting footage and commentary on high school sports in the Tri-Valley. ■



George "Dr. B" Baljevich, co-host of TV-30's Tri-Valley Sports Final, with Foothill High football player Griffith Gates.

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4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, 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](http://www.redsmokegrill.com).



**Share your local sports news & photos**

Send a jpeg to [Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com) of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

Author Visits

**CREEPY KOFY MOVIE TIME BOOK SIGNING** Meet No Name and Balrok del Cavo, hosts of the TV show Creepy KOFY Movie Time, for the "World Premier" of The Creepy KOFY Movie Time Comic at Heroes and Villains Comics. Meet the creators of the comic and show personalities during this very special event. LIVE 105 is broadcasting during the event. 12-3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 4. Heroes and Villains Comics, 264 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-399-5352. [www.heroesvillainscomics.com](http://www.heroesvillainscomics.com)

Concerts

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK** Pleasanton Downtown Association presents live concerts throughout the summer from 7-8:30 p.m. Fridays at Lions Wayside Park at the corner of First and Neal streets. Modern/Alt Rock by Finding Stella on July 27 then come back Aug. 3 for Jazzy Rhythm and Blues by Burton & Co. Visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

Events

**FARMERS MARKET** Visit the Pleasanton Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday, on East Angela Street between Main and First streets. The Farmers Market is open every Saturday, year-round, rain or shine, to provide the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, sold by the very farmers that planted, nurtured and harvested the crop.

**FAST & FURIOUS FESTIVAL** The event is an all-day wellness and lifestyle festival designed to bring the world of cycling and running together in one place while highlighting the charm of downtown. Proceeds from the event will be donated to ALS TDI. Sunday, Aug. 5 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Free festival admission. Fast & Furious Festival, 830 Main St., Pleasanton. 407-3130. [www.fastandfuriouspleasanton.com](http://www.fastandfuriouspleasanton.com)

**FREE CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK** Axis Community Health invites you to a free car seat safety event to get your car seat checked or replaced at no cost to you. The event is from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 11, at Axis Community Health, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Call or email by Aug. 3 to schedule an appointment or drop by the day of the event. Call 201-6082 or email [ecordova@axishealth.org](mailto:ecordova@axishealth.org). Visit [www.axishealth.org](http://www.axishealth.org).

**JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS CHILDREN'S & MATERNITY CONSIGNMENT SALE** Back-to-school time is here and it's time for moms to clean out and cash in on their children's outgrown and unused clothing, toys and equipment and to have some fun & shop for all weather at significant savings. The event is from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 4; and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 5, at The Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Building C, Pleasanton. Call 916-320-1127 or visit [www.jbfsale.com](http://www.jbfsale.com).

**LINENS CRYSTAL AND CHINA** Come to the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop Furniture and Home Store to view a wonderful array of estate quality linens, crystal and china. Get an early start for fall holiday entertaining. 10 a.m.-6

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Humans or animals?

Wood-carved bunnies by Stan Peterson are part of the Harrington Gallery's whimsical summer exhibit, "Humanimals and Such," of paintings and sculpture that depict humans, animals or incongruous combinations of both, through Aug. 25. Other featured artists are Julie Alvarado, William Charuhas, Michael Cutlip and Rebecca Haines. The gallery is located inside the Firehouse Arts Center; hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; for one hour prior to each Arts Center performance and during intermission. Donations are appreciated. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave. in downtown Pleasanton.

p.m., Aug. 3-4. American Cancer society Discovery shop, 1991 L Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. 925-462-7374.

**ST. CLARE'S HOSTS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** Join St. Clare's to celebrate National Night Out 2012, when people across America gather to send a powerful message about neighborhood unity, safety, and police-community partnerships. 5-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 7. Free. St. Clare's Episcopal Church (Parking Lot), 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. (925) 462.4802. [www.stclarespleasanton.org](http://www.stclarespleasanton.org)

Exhibits

**WHEREVER THERE'S A FIGHT** Learn about the stories of California's unsung heroes and heroines at the new exhibit: "Wherever there's a Fight," at the Museum on Main Street, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. The exhibit is based on Elaine Elinson and Stan Yogi's book "Wherever there's a fight: how runaway slaves, suffragists, immigrants, strikers and poets shaped civil liberties in California." Admission is free, donations are appreciated. The exhibit will be open from July 25-Sept. 9. The Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays 1-4 p.m. Call 462-2766.

Film

**CARS 2** You are invited to enjoy the free movie "Cars 2" at dusk, Thursday, Aug. 2, at Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., Pleasanton. The film is rated PG. Please do not place blankets or chairs on the lawn area prior to 10 a.m.

Fundraisers

**BUNCO FUN** Soroptimist of Pleasanton/Dublin invite you to an afternoon of Bunco Fun. Light lunch and beverage will be served. Prize drawings. Saturday, Aug. 4 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$15 plus donation of school supplies.

Highland Oaks Clubhouse, 4530 Sandalwood Dr., Pleasanton. [www.si-pleasantondublin.org](http://www.si-pleasantondublin.org)

**FAIRLANDS PTA LEMONADE STAND** Fairlands PTA/Go Green are sponsoring a Lemonade Stand to raise funds to build an Outdoor Ed Classroom at the school, from 2-5 p.m., Sunday, July 29. Stop by for a 50-cent drink and to learn about this great project! Pleasanton Meadows, 3798 Fairlands Drive, Pleasanton, CA. 925-462-9443.

**PLEASANTON/TULANCINGO ANNUAL BBQ** Everyone is invited to the annual community BBQ for the Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association, with Tony Macchiano's Lickety Split BBQ Dinner, no-host bar, great live and silent auctions, music and dancing under the stars. 5:30-11 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 11. \$30/person Ivy Glen BBQ Area; Pleasanton Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. 925-462-2767. [ptsca.org](http://ptsca.org)

Health

**HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED 'WALK WITH A DOC'?** "Walk with a Doc" is a unique walking program that allows you to spend time walking with a doctor, giving you the opportunity to have questions answered by local physicians. Walk for your health at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 25. Free event. Pleasanton Sports Park, 5800 Parkside Dr., Pleasanton. 925-225-0500. [www.walkwithadoc.org](http://www.walkwithadoc.org)

**WOMEN'S 5K AND FITNESS FESTIVAL** Fleet Feet Sports is hosting a Women's 5K Run/Walk and Fitness Festival by Health Unlimited on Sunday, Aug. 12. Entry includes T-shirt, chip timing, post-race refreshments including chocolate from OCHO Chocolates, and an entry into the drawing. For registration and information visit [www.fleetfeetpleasanton.com](http://www.fleetfeetpleasanton.com) Race starts at 8 a.m. \$35 pre-register; \$40 on race day Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton. [www.fleetfeetpleasanton.com](http://www.fleetfeetpleasanton.com)

Kids & Teens

**U7/U8 BOYS SOCCER CLINIC** Ballistic United is offering a free soccer clinic for U7 and U8 boys on July 27 and on Aug. 3 at the Aquatic Park (Amador Valley Community Park). 4-5:15 p.m., Saturday, July 27. 4301 Black Ave., Pleasanton. [www.busc.org](http://www.busc.org)

Lectures/ Workshops

**CALIFORNIA AUTISM INSURANCE FUNDING SEMINAR** A free seminar on California Autism Insurance Funding is being hosted by the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD). Registration is required at <http://centerforautism.com/insurance-seminar.aspx>. This seminar will provide the most effective ways to access coverage for the behavioral health treatment of autism. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 4. CARD, Inc., 3738 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 200, Lafayette. (818) 345-2345, ext. 270.

**WORKSHOP ON CARING FOR LOVED ONES WITH DEMENTIA** The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is presenting nationally renowned dementia care expert Teepa Snow at a free hands-on Do's and Don'ts Workshop. The workshop is 6-8 p.m., Monday, Aug. 13, at the California Center at Pleasanton Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr., Pleasanton. A select number of seats are available. Preregister at [www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1094077](http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1094077).

On Stage

**'HAMLET'** The Livermore Shakespeare Festival presents Shakespeare's "Hamlet" outdoors from July 12 through Aug. 12 at Concannon Vineyard, 4590 Tesla Rd., Livermore, in partial repertory with "The Merry Wives of Windsor." Tickets \$25-\$39. Call 800-838-3006 or visit [www.livermoreshakes.org](http://www.livermoreshakes.org).

Seniors

**END OF LIFE SERVICES** End of life services are mystifying to most people. Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services simplifies this process by providing information that families can understand. They provide convenient, comprehensive solutions for all end of life services at affordable prices. The lecture is from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 31, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Call 931-5365 or visit [www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org](http://www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org). Free.

Sports

**BOCCE TOURNAMENT** Entries are being accepted for the fourth annual Community-wide Open Bocce Tournament on Aug. 11 hosted by Buon Tempo Italian American Club. All skill levels welcome. Event is limited to 12 four person-teams; only three openings remain. Entry deadline is Aug. 3. 8:30 a.m. \$40 per team. Adobe Park bocce courts, 20395 San Miguel Ave., Castro Valley. (510)727-9296.

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## 115 Announcements

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CL Speaker Meeting- Monday July



**Moms/Daughters- \$ Stanford**  
Stanford University's Psychology Department is currently seeking mothers with a history of depression and their 10 to 14-year-old daughters for a paid research study at Stanford. Following a 20-30 minute phone screening interview, eligible participants will be asked to come to Stanford University for up to 3 sessions, each lasting approximately 3.5 hours. Eligible pairs will be compensated \$40/hour and researchers will schedule sessions at your convenience: evenings and weekend sessions are available. For more information, please email or call Maria Lemus at mood@psych.stanford.edu or (650) 723-0804.

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# Marketplace

Employment/Help Wanted

## Childcare Providers Needed!

Family Support Services of the Bay Area is looking for creative and energetic people to provide short-term care in the homes of children with special needs in the Tri-Valley area. \$9.25-\$10 per hour  
Call Francesca at (510) 834-2443 x 3027  
[www.fssba-oak.org](http://www.fssba-oak.org)

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10 yrs. Experience in Lawn Care  
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With 6 month contract, 7th month is FREE

To advertise in the Marketplace call Karen Klein at 925.600.0840 x122 or email [kklein@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:kklein@pleasantonweekly.com)

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Barbie: a heart of solid gold

Barbie's beauty isn't just skin-deep; she has a solid gold heart, and more love and patience than we've seen in a long time. Barbie has quickly become an extra-special favorite of the TVAR shelter volunteers, so TVAR is hoping to speed the process of placing her in a loving forever home by featuring her as the "Pick of the Litter," which means her adoption fee will be sponsored by TVAR, and her new family will receive three in-home sessions with a professional dog trainer. Plus, Barbie will be sent to her new home with a bed, leash, collar, food and toys. She's been spayed and vaccinated, so she's ready to go home today. Watch her video at [www.tvvar.org/RP\\_AdoptMe.asp?aid=12129](http://www.tvvar.org/RP_AdoptMe.asp?aid=12129) or come meet her in Kennel B5 at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin.



## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### Alamo

**5 BEDROOMS**  
**16 Garden Estates Ct \$1,554,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

### Danville

**3 BEDROOMS**  
**7220 Johnston Rd. \$1,948,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

### Dublin

**2 BEDROOMS**  
**3456 Palermo Way \$466,500**  
 Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

### 4 BEDROOMS

**11234 Rolling Hills Dr \$820,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

### 5 BEDROOMS

**7900 Shannon Ct \$1,095,000**  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500

### Livermore

**3 BEDROOMS**  
**523 Heligan Lane \$520,000**  
 Sat 11-5/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

**4892 Rhonda Ln \$598,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

### 5 BEDROOMS

**3030 Picholine Dr \$939,000**  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 667-2100

### Pleasanton

**2 BEDROOMS**  
**5641 San Carlos Way \$409,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500

### 4 BEDROOMS

**5802 Arthur Drive \$800,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 519-8226

**4444 Foothill Rd \$1,890,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**4264 First Street \$949,950**  
 Sun 1-4 Weiner McDowell Group 251-2585

### 5 BEDROOMS

**4116 Grant Ct \$1,699,000**  
 Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

**1368 Bordeaux Street \$1,379,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**1023 Sycamore Creek Wy \$1,490,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

### San Ramon

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**109 Barberrry Ln \$925,000**  
 Sat 3-6/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

Find more open home listings at [pleasantonweekly.com/real\\_estate](http://pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate)

## Low rates lead to more refinancing

By JEB BING

Mortgage applications increased 16.9% from one week earlier, according to data from the Mortgage Bankers Association's for the week ending July 13.

The Market Composite Index, a measure of mortgage loan application volume, increased 16.9% on a seasonally adjusted basis from one week earlier. On an unadjusted basis, the Index increased 46% compared with the previous week.

The Refinance Index increased 22% from the previous week and is at the highest level since mid-June.

"Refinance application volume increased last week to near peak levels for the year as mortgage rates dropped to a new low, driven down by growing concerns about the health of the U.S. economy," said Mike Fratantoni, MBA's Vice President of Research and Economics. "Applications for HARP refinance loans accounted for 24% of refinance activity last week, in line with the HARP share for the past few weeks."

HARP is the government's Home Affordable Refinance Program.

The refinance share of mortgage activity increased to 80.1% of total applications, up from 77% the previous week. The adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) share of activity decreased to 4.1% of total applications.

In June, the number of both purchase and

refinance applications increased the most in the West-South Central region, with a gain of 22.0% in purchase and 63.7% in refinance applications.

The region with the smallest increase in purchase applications was the New England region, growing by 9.4% while refinance applications increased the least in the Pacific region with a gain of 30.9%.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with conforming loan balances (\$417,500 or less) decreased to 3.74%, the lowest rate in the history of the survey, from 3.79%, with points increasing to 0.45 from 0.36 (including the origination fee) for 80% loan-to-value ratio (LTV) loans. The effective rate decreased from last week.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with jumbo loan balances (greater than \$417,500) decreased to 3.98%, the lowest rate in the history of the survey, from 4.05%, with points decreasing to 0.32 from 0.34 (including the origination fee) for 80% LTV loans. The effective rate decreased from last week.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages backed by the FHA decreased to 3.55%, the lowest rate in the history of the survey, from 3.63%, with points increasing to 0.44 from 0.36 (including the origination fee) for 80% LTV loans. ■

## Who's Selling in Your Neighborhood

### COMING SOON IN PLEASANTON



Rare Pleasanton downtown custom with commanding views of everywhere! 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nearly 2200 sq. ft. on a 1/2 acre. Needs cosmetic help. Will be priced in the low \$800,000s.

**Attention sellers — now is the perfect time to sell!**

Offered by



**Fred Hempy, Broker/Owner** DRE#00851294  
 (925) 437-5830 direct  
[fred@valleybrokers.net](mailto:fred@valleybrokers.net)

### 2730 SPINOSA CT, PLEASANTON — OFFERED AT \$715,000



Gorgeous home in desirable Stoneridge Place. 4 beds, 2.5 baths & approx 2051 sf living space. Hardwood flooring, granite kitchen, designer paint throughout. Community pool! Close proximity to award winning Mohr Elementary School.



**Cindy Whitehand**

Better Homes & Gardens Tri-Valley Realty

DRE#01339527

**(925) 200-4102**

[cindy.whitehand@bhghome.com](mailto:cindy.whitehand@bhghome.com)

### 4116 GRANT CT, PLEASANTON — OFFERED AT \$1,699,000



Custom home in Kottinger Ranch. 5/4 large bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4072 sq. ft. of living area. 21,000 sq. ft. premium lot with a huge side access. Custom pool and waterfall plus a 5 car garage. This home has it all!



**Mark James**

Alain Pinel Realtors

DRE#00697341

**(925) 216-0454**

[markjames@apr.com](mailto:markjames@apr.com)

To advertise contact Andrea Heggelund at (707) 363-1934 (cell) or [aheggelund@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:aheggelund@pleasantonweekly.com).

Initiatives: Who's Selling in your Neighborhood, Buying and Selling (Aug. 17), and Pleasanton Life 2012-13 (Sept. 21).



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3530 Welch Creek Rd Sunol



bd 3 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 3,964 \$1,590,000

Panoramic views from every room, Serenity and nature awaits for you at this fabulous estate home. Bring your horses to this beautiful 22+ acre estate and or great property for the car enthusiast. Great drive and location. Endless possibilities for this estate.

2055 Valley Oak Rd Pleasanton



bd 4 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 4,839 \$2,250,000

Golden Eagle Estate home on 1.12 acre lot w/ views of Pleasanton ridge & valley. Property surrounded by Heritage oaks. Aupair option, office & bonus room. Lots of upgrades, 5-car garage, pool, spa & much more. Close to BART, downtown, Castlewood C.C., shopping & more.

8012 Golden Eagle Wy Pleasanton



bd 5 ba 5(3) sqft+/- 8,585 \$3,498,000

Fabulous private custom Mediterranean in resort-like setting has it all. Porte Cachere, grand entry, gourmet kitchen, awesome theater w/ theater seating, stunning arcade & exercise rms. Vast lawns & wrap-around decks, guest house, pool/spa.

5641 San Carlos Wy Pleasanton



OPEN SAT / SUN 1-4

bd 2 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 1,400 \$409,000

Absolutely gorgeous! Just remodeled throughout! New flooring, paint, carpeting, bathrooms, etc. 2 bedrooms, plus a loft, 2.5 bathrooms, 2 car garage and a backyard! Rear yard w/patio, grass and deck off the master bedroom. Walk to downtown Pleasanton!

4264 1st St Pleasanton



OPEN SUN 1-4

bd 4 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 2,557 \$898,000

Victorian style charm with all modern amenities. Gleaming hardwood floors, crown mouldings, gourmet kitchen, maple cabinets, 3 fireplaces. Walk to Downtown Pleasanton, concerts, Farmer's Market, live the Downtown Lifestyle! Lush private yard!

Kristy and Company 925.251.2536

Mahshid Shaghafi 925.648.5340

Peggy Cortez 925.209.3451

Denise Ivaldi 925.251.2532

Weiner/ McDowell 925.251.2585

3030 Picholine Dr Livermore



OPEN SUN 1-4

bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 3,776 \$939,000

Amazing Los Olivos home! Gourmet kit w/SS, granite, big island, lg breakfast room, formal living & dining w/ recessed lights & coffered ceiling. Built-ins! Brazilian cherry flrs upstairs. Big master w/travertine tiled bath. Stamped concrete patio, extra parking.

7900 Shannon Ct Dublin



bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 4,000 \$1,095,000

One of a kind! Beautiful remodeled home on cul-de-sac, west side. Includes Private Master Suite w/2 balconies, fireplace & beverage bar, living/dining rm, family rm & game room w/full bar, Gourmet kitchen, 3 Fireplaces, pool/spa, waterfall & fire pit. Walk to schools & park.

9895 Foothill Rd Sunol



bd 3 ba 2 sqft+/- 1,984 \$1,299,000

Beautiful Home Located in the desirable town of Sunol, 3 bed, 2 bath, Updated kitchen, Original barn, Newer flooring, Just a horse back ride away from Pleasanton Ridge all this on 5+ Acres. This home has the look of Tahoe, a Must See.

5527 Sugarloaf Ct Dublin



bd 5 ba 3 sqft+/- 3,531 \$849,900

Former model on cul-de-sac. Upgraded w/ slate tile flooring in entry, family rm & kit. Custom built ins in dining & family rms. Kitchen w/ cherry cabinets, granite counters w/ full backsplash, SS appliances, large island & walk-in pantry. Large professionally landscaped yard.

4098 Wells St Pleasanton



bd 4 ba 2 sqft+/- 1,777 \$575,000

Walk tree lined streets to elementary, middle and high schools as well as aquatic center, playgrounds, grocery stores, restaurants! Charming Jensen built home is complete with updated kitchen, wood floors and private, serene backyard.

Diane Sass 925.583.2168

Kouri Miller Team 925.251.2548

Kristy and Company 925.251.2536

Frazzano Team 925.413.4511

Cindy Engel 925.251.2510

110 Radford Ct San Ramon



bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 2,496 \$769,950

Charming Deer Ridge home located on court. Large office/den downstairs could be converted to bedrm. Beautiful hardwood floors, large open floor plan w/ vaulted ceilings. Peaceful backyard w/ redwood trees & spa. Close to shopping, restaurants & award winning schools.

1935 Mantova St Danville



bd 4 ba 4 sqft+/- 3,103 \$779,900

Granite kitchen with Wolf Oven and Sub Zero built in refrigerator, Second Story is a private bedroom and bathroom.

10843 Reuss Rd Livermore



bd 4 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 4,118 \$1,690,000

Fabulous property on a 2 acre parcel surrounded by gorgeous vineyards. 4,118 sq ft single-story with large kitchen/family area. 360 degree views of 200 acres of vineyards. Front and rear courtyards, fountains and koi ponds. This is a special property.

2046 Pinot Ct Livermore



bd 4 ba 4 sqft+/- 4,340 \$1,069,000

Beautiful South Livermore Home located in the Exclusive Chardonnay Estates. This home has it all...including 4 Lg Bds, 1 Bd Dwnstrs, Huge Bonus/Media Rm, 4 Baths. Gourmet Kit and Grt Rm. Huge Priv Bckyrd with Built in BBQ. Top rated schools. Tennis Court Park.

5424 Cameo Ct Pleasanton



bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 1,614 \$424,000

Look at this price & look at the comps. Upgraded kitchen w/granite, tile floors. Custom built in in FR, master & closet organizers. Gated courtyard entry. Large 2-car attached garage w/access to interior. Nice backyard with built-in BBQ.

Jared Higgins 925.855.4178

Bonnie King 925.736.8411

Carole Cline 925.683.0488

Corey Green 925.583.2173

Wendy Emett 925.648.5353

501 Wells Ct San Ramon



bd 5 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 3,992 \$1,019,000

Hawthorne Beauty! Highlights: Travertine natural stone flooring, designer 2 toned paint, upgraded carpet, recessed lighting, plantation shutters, granite counters, GE S/S appliances, security system, bonus room w/surround sound & balcony, Casita w/HVAC & much more!!

2725 Corey Pl San Ramon



bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2,260 \$849,900

Nestled against the foothills, rarely available tri level in a development on a oversized lot backing to hillsides. Gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops and maple cabinets, large family room w/cozy fire place, hardwood floors throughout, downstrs office/4th bedrm.

6882 Crow Canyon Rd Castro Valley



bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2565 \$799,000

Wonderful custom built single level home on .97+/- acres featuring; separate living/ dining/ family rooms, eat-in kitchen, laundry room, plenty of storage, in-ground swimming pool, 4 car detached garage, plenty of mature fruit trees, circle driveway, and much more!

2337 Grosvenor Heights Ct Livermore



bd 4 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 3,490 \$1,089,000

This stunning two story custom home displays the mark of exquisite details and charm. Features include 4 bedrooms, 4.5 ba, fine stonework, designer lighting, amazing formal dining room, dramatic gourmet kitchen with custom granite.

6950 Crow Canyon Rd Castro Valley



bd 4 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 2,700 \$857,500

Pride of ownership Location-Location...Wow over 2700 sq. ft. is the main home, 4 BDR, 3.5 Bath updated kitchen wait until you see this place. All this on one acre plus an In-Law type unit a must see.

Khrista Jarvis 925.855.4065

Joe Ledesma 925.251.2559

Adam Fettes 510.329.1421

Alex Villasenor 925.385.2349

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

# WMG

WEINER MCDOWELL GROUP



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PETER MCDOWELL 925.251.2550



Phyllis Weiner & Peter McDowell

J. Rockcliff



Realtors

## YOUR HOME MIGHT BE WORTH MORE THAN YOU THINK...

IT'S CERTAINLY WORTH A CALL.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

### WALK TO DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON!

Vintage Charm with Modern Amenities; 4 large bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2557 sq.ft. with gleaming hardwood floors, crown molding, 3 fireplaces, wonderful open floor plan, private backyard filled with fruit trees, flowers and patio. Call for more info.



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# Coldwell Banker

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**CASTRO VALLEY**  
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 3743 SEPTEMBER CT  
**SOUTHWESTERN STYLE HOME \$962,000**  
6 BR 4.5 BA 3,553 Sq.Ft. Remodeled w/Permits. Kit. w/ Fam. Rm Combo & Fireplace. Hot Wtr Recirculation Sys. 925.847.2200



**DANVILLE**  
Open SUN 1 - 4 7220 JOHNSTON RD.  
**32 ACRE RANCH! \$1,948,000**  
3 BR 2 BA Peaceful dead-end road yet minutes to Blackhawk. 2 wells. Bring horses, 4-H Projects, or? 925.847.2200



**SAN RAMON**  
25 SAN BLAS PLACE  
**COURT LOCATION W/SIDE ACCESS \$519,000**  
4 BR 2 BA 2 fireplaces. Remodeled 1st flr bath. Newer baseboards. Tahoe like setting in the rear yard. 925.847.2200



**SAN RAMON**  
145 COPPER RIDGE RD.  
**CONDOS AVAILABLE PRICING STARTS IN LOWER \$300'S**  
2 bd condos, Vaulted Ceilings avail, w/Garages, Gated Community, Renovated/Upgraded 925.847.2200

**BRENTWOOD**  
6600 ARMSTRONG ROAD  
40 ACRE W/BARN \$399,950  
1 BR 2 BA 1124 Sq.Ft. Home. Trees, Outbuilding, A-2 Zoning. Possible Split lot. Kitchen updated. Got Horses 925.847.2200

Open SAT 1:30 - 4:00 1618 DOUGLAS CT  
**MISSION SAN JOSE \$898,888**  
3 BR 2 BA Walk to award-winning Mission Schools. Remodeled throughout. New Roof. Hrd wood floors. 925.847.2200

**LIVERMORE**  
Open SAT 11-5/ SUN 1-4 523 HELIGAN LANE #4  
**CONTEMPORARY LIVING \$520,000**  
3 BR 3.5 BA 2090 sqft, Plus a loft! Premium Lot w/2 car garage. Don't miss this opportunity! 925-487-2955

Retreat, 3 Car Gar, 750 sq ft Studio w/ Kit & Full Bath 925.847.2200

**DUBLIN**  
Open SUN 1 - 4 11234 ROLLING HILLS DRIVE  
**STUNNING WEST DUBLIN HOME! \$820,000**  
4 BR 3 BA Highly upgraded kit & bath. Hrdwd flrs. Huge Mstr w/Office. Vaulted Ceilings. Bckyrd w/Deck. 925.847.2200

**40970 NUNES CT MISSION SAN JOSE!! \$675,000**  
4 BR 2 BA Walking Distance to award-winning Mission schools. Hrdwd & tile flring. Skylights. Pool. 925.847.2200

Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 4892 RHONDA LANE  
**BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED HOME! \$598,000**  
3 BR 2 BA 2,023 Sq. Ft. impeccably maintained & beautifully updated sought after Windmill home! 925.847.2200

**SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY**  
Open OPEN SUN 2-5 267 STAPLES AVENUE  
**SUNNYSIDE HOME W/BAY VIEWS \$399,900**  
2 BR 1 BA Living rm, complete w/fireplace & parquet flrs. Newer gas heater/energy-saving water heater. 925.847.2200

**FREMONT**  
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 440 CHERRY MANOR  
**GREAT COURT LOCATION \$928,000**  
5 BR 3.5 BA Bed/Bath on Main Flr. Granite Counters, Tankless Water Heater, Hrdwd Flrs, Dual Pane Windows. 925.847.2200

**4141 DEEP CREEK #171 VERY NICE WELL KEPT HOME! \$57,500**  
Cooper plumbing, like new inside & out. Storage shed and rm for 2 cars under car port.

**1445 PORTOLA MEADOWS ROAD COMPLETELY UPDATED! \$420,000**  
3 BR 2.5 BA Gorgeous Kitchen w/cherry & granite, 18" tile flrs. Fam Rm w/tile flr. Fireplace. Liv Rm/ Din Rm 925.847.2200

"If you are a licensed realtor interested in joining our real estate office please contact Will Butler, Manager at 925.847.2257. We look forward to welcoming you to Coldwell Banker!"

**HAYWARD**  
2449 DEPOT RD  
**WELL MAINTAINED HOME! \$389,888**  
4 BR 2 BA 9,310 Sq Ft. Lot. Lrg Eat-In Kit. Formal Dining rm, Inlay Hrdwd Flrs, Laundry Rm, Fireplace 925.847.2200

**PLEASANTON**  
1541 WHISPERING OAK WAY  
**BEAUTIFUL HOME \$949,000**  
4 BR 3.5 BA Granite Counters, Lg Bdrms & Master w/

PLEASANTON 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

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DRE# 00882113  
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**HIDDEN OAK**

**PENDING**

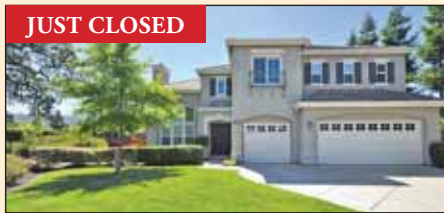


**1010 LAMB COURT, PLEASANTON**

Former model home, upgraded throughout, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2029 sq. ft. Built in 1999. Premium 3654 sq. ft. Corner lot. Upgraded contemporary kitchen, adjacent family room, formal dining & living rooms, wood burning fireplace, two car garage, walk to downtown (1 minute walk to main street). Crown molding throughout, dual pane windows downstairs, triple pane windows upstairs (most), upgraded carpeting, dual zone heating & air conditioning, ceiling fans/lights in all bedrooms, two inch wood blinds in kitchen & family room. **OFFERED AT \$649,000**

**BRIDLE CREEK**

**JUST CLOSED**



**5206 SELENA COURT, PLEASANTON**

Check out this double sized lot (.56 acre). Premium private court location for this quality built Greenbriar home (2000), includes 4 bedroom (1 down), 3 baths, and bonus room. Beautiful professional landscaping with in-ground pool/spa in this expansive private backyard including multiple sitting areas, adjacent beautiful Heritage Oak tree, elevated right viewing deck. Upgraded gourmet kitchen, with granite counters, marble heated flooring and stainless appliances. Comprehensive audio/video system included. Three car garage. Great home for entertaining! **OFFERED AT \$1,399,000**

**CUSTOM HOME**

**PENDING**



**6513 ARLINGTON DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

Enter this secluded .56 acre estate through the long, private driveway! This mostly single level custom home includes an upstairs spacious second master suite. Five bedrooms, three full bathrooms, and two half bathrooms. Approximately 4003 total square feet, large remodeled kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Expansive rear grounds with views of open space and Pleasanton Ridge, includes ten person spa, built-in fireplace, expansive lawn area and stamped concrete & brick patios. Great home for entertaining! Three car garage with adjacent bonus room. **OFFERED AT \$1,169,000**

**PLEASANTON VALLEY - "BIRDLAND"**

**JUST SOLD**

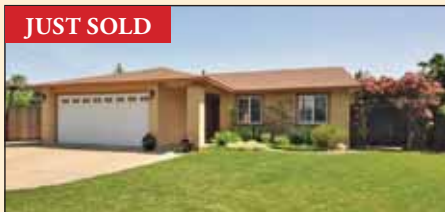


**2449 MINIVET COURT, PLEASANTON**

"The heart of Birdland" Location, location, location! Quiet court is walking distance to Woodthrush Park, all levels of schools, two shopping centers, Aquatic Center & Sports Park! Premium .28 acre lot (12,125 sq. ft.). Single level-4 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms with 2112 sq. ft. "Gatewood" model in excellent condition. Granite countertops in kitchen. Remodeled master bathroom. Expansive front yard with private gated courtyard. Beautifully landscaped! Large backyard, great for entertaining, with in-ground pool/spa & finished deck! **OFFERED AT AND SOLD FOR \$819,000**

**LIVERMORE**

**JUST SOLD**



**5598 BERWIND AVENUE, LIVERMORE**

Highly upgraded single level home on premium cul-de-sac, 9927 square foot lot! Three bedroom, two bathrooms, with approximately 1500 square feet. Upgraded kitchen and bathrooms, wood flooring and new carpet. Large park-like private rear yard with extensive custom stamped concrete work and custom patio overhead structure with fan. Spacious grass areas, Side-yard access and separated storage area with spacious shed. **SOLD FOR \$425,000**

**VALENCIA**

**SOLD**



**5019 RIGATTI CIRCLE, PLEASANTON**

Newer upgraded Valencia home. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2321 Sq. Ft. Downstairs bedroom/office (5th). Spacious master suite. Large family room with built-in entertainment center. Formal dining room. Modern gourmet kitchen has granite counter tops, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances. Community amenities include Club House, Greenbelt, Playground, Pool/Spa, and Tennis Court(s). Close to Owens Plaza Park, BART, & 580/680 access. **SOLD FOR \$825,000**

**SUNOL**

**SOLD — REPRESENTED BUYER**



**680 KILKARE ROAD, SUNOL**

Most beautiful — shows like a model home. Best kept secret in the Bay Area. Five acres of woods, Sinbad Creek, close to town, 680, Pleasanton & Fremont. Excellent schools, iron fenced yard for play and pets, water fall, fire alarm, surround sound, work area in garage. Bedrooms have doors to outside. **SOLD FOR \$1,095,000**

**OAK MANOR**

**SOLD**



**819 OAK MANOR COURT, PLEASANTON**

As soon as you enter you will be impressed with the unique elegance. Gorgeous custom home on private .62 acre lot. Approximately 4,541 sq. ft., four bedrooms (two master suites) plus office/wine room and bonus loft area and 5.5 bathrooms. Quality, high end equipment and finishes throughout. Gourmet kitchen with granite slab counters and stainless steel appliances. Hardwood floors. Oversized four car garage. Beautifully landscaped Tahoe-like grounds with mature trees. Two minutes to Castlewood Country Club. **SOLD FOR \$1,550,000**

**PLEASANTON 900 Main Street**



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**John Manos**

**7005 Corinth Ct. – Dublin – \$456,000**  
TRADITIONAL SALE! Spacious Tri-Level in need of paint, flooring and updating. Some deferred maintenance, makes this an excellent investor property. Corner lot, Court location, walking distance to Schools K-12, Easy access to BART, I-580/680.



**Adam Golden**

**5522 Crestridge Ter. – Dublin – \$799,000**  
Fantastic opportunity. This home backs to open space. Desired floorplan within Dublin Ranch. Full bed and bath on main level. Large kitchen with center island that flows nicely into the family room. Landscaped backyard that is perfect for entertaining.



**Kelly Franco**

**1026 Laguna Creek Ln. – Pleasanton – \$1,435,000**  
Elegant luxury home in sought after Pheasant Ridge. Dynamic marble accent entry/rotunda, gourmet kit, granite slab counters, ss appls, hardwood floors, designer carpet & custom built-ins throughout. Master suite w/ fabulous bath. Lush backyard landscape w/ gorgeous views. Backs to open space/trail.



**Rosie Yandell**

**5117 Liveoak Ct. – Pleasanton – \$799,000**  
Spectacularly upgraded home. Kitchen with free-form granite island, high-end stainless appliances & gas cooktop. Gorgeous engineered wood floors, newer windows, decorator paint colors, lower level wheelchair accessible. Two master suites each with own upgraded bath. Huge yard and side yard access.



**Bill Wells**

**5656 Sonoma Dr. – Pleasanton – \$459,950**  
Townhouse style home with updated kitchen & baths — granite counter tops in both. 2BR + den/office, plantation shutters, beautiful tile entryway, laminate floors in LR/DR, inside laundry, newer central air & water heater. Great location — walk to downtown Pleasanton & park. Easy access to 680.



**Cindy Whitehand**

**2730 Spinosa Ct. – Pleasanton – \$715,000**  
Gorgeous court location with designer paint touches throughout. High ceilings and an abundance of windows. Granite counters & full backsplash, light cabinets huge ss sink! Beautiful hardwood flooring & tile flooring throughout. Ceiling fans in all rooms. Close to community pool and park!



**Adam Golden**

**9733 Thunderbird Dr. – San Ramon – \$799,000**  
Nicely updated home with one full bedroom and bath downstairs. Massive lot with pool and spa and tons of entertaining space. 4 additional bedrooms and two more full baths. Gated front courtyard and 3 car garage. Walking distance to schools and community parks.



**Cindy Gee**

**337 Yearling Ct. – Pleasanton – \$2,149,000**  
Gorgeous executive custom in Oak Tree Farm boasts an open floorplan. Great location! Highly upgraded, cherry cabinets, wood floors, wine cellar and bar! Office with fireplace/patio. Sparkling pool and private yard! 5 bed, 4.5 bath, huge granite island/kitchen opens to expansive family room and much more!!



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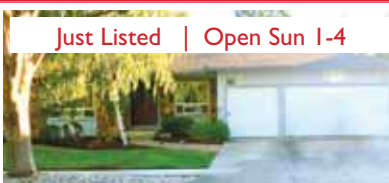


Altamar Meadows in Livermore  
1810 Sqft / Lot Size 11,316 Sqft  
Pool/ Large Lot/ Side Yard Access/ Court  
Location. Call for a Showing. **\$585,000**

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**Danielle Peel**  
925.998.9692 DRE #01293873  
**Cristin Kiper Sanchez**  
925.580.7719 DRE #01479197  
homes@peelsanchez.com | www.PeelSanchez.com



Just Listed | Open Sun 1-4

5802 Arthur Dr., Pleasanton  
4 bed/2.5 bath, 2185 sq. foot on .20 acre Walk to parks, schools, grocery - Parkside single story with gorgeous pebble tech pool, completely remodeled kitchen, crown molding, Milgard® windows, wood floors.  
**Offered at \$800,000**



**Donna Garrison**  
925.980.0273  
**Susan Schall**  
925.519.8226

www.FabulousProperties.net



New Listing

3266 Novara Wy, Ruby Hill  
Beautiful home of 6,450 sq.ft., 5 BR, 5.5 BA, office & bonus, quality architectural detail throughout, pool/spa and views from this golf course lot. Located on one of Ruby's most sought after cul-de-sacs.  
**Offered at \$2,750,000**



**Fran & Dave Cunningham**  
925.202.6898  
www.RubyHill.net

DRE #01226296 DRE#00930892



PENDING!

3395 Manchester Cmn  
Stunning Townhome  
Updated Throughout!  
3 Bed / 2.5 Bath  
1,586 SqFt



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

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



Open Sun 1-4

4444 Foothill Road, Pleasanton  
4 BR and 2.5 BA. 3507 +/- sq. ft. Absolutely Stunning! Completely rebuilt in 2005, this custom, single story home offers a view from every window, including Mt. Diablo and the surrounding hills. Beautifully updated throughout with fantastic gourmet kitchen. Huge 2.26 +/- acre lot includes an entertainer's backyard with pool and spa.  
**Offered at \$1,890,000**



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



64 Castlewood Dr, Pleasanton

Castlewood beauty with views of the Tri-Valley, 4 bedroom, 3 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 fireplaces, built to entertain with natural stone patios with granite. Call for a private showing!  
**Offered at \$1,650,000**



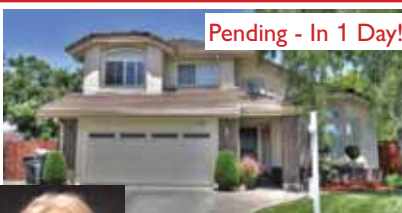
**Colleen McKean**  
REALTOR® DRE #00868205  
925.847.8880  
www.colleenmckean.com



15903 Paseo Largavista, San Lorenzo  
This completely remodeled 1537 sq ft, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is absolutely charming! Includes step-down family room addition, hot tub, and kitchen remodeled with granite. Stainless steel appliances, frig stays, recessed lighting, gas stove, shutters, maple cabinets, double-paned windows, wood-burning fireplace, central heating & A/C. **Offered at \$370,000**



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



Pending - In 1 Day!

3031 Boardwalk, Pleasanton  
Park like backyard, huge lot with beautiful pool and spa. Gorgeous Brazilian floors on 1st floor. Call for more details!  
**Offered at \$739,000**



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



Open Sun 1-4

1023 Sycamore Creek Way, Pleasanton

Gorgeous Sycamore Heights home with 5bd/5.5bths. Gourmet kitchen, private backyard. Minutes to 680.  
**Offered at \$1,490,000**



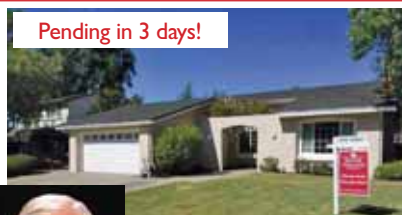
**Joan Sakyo**  
REALTOR® DRE #01084350  
925.989.4123  
www.joansakyo.com



6917 Sunnyslope Ave., Castro Valley  
Fabulous Views & Beautiful Home. If you're looking for fabulous views and a beautiful home, this is it! Completely remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home with granite counters and travertine tile in the baths. 1.51 +/- acres includes additional buildable lot with sale! Open floor plan & plenty of light. End of the road private location.  
**Offered at \$649,950**

**Natalie Kruger**  
925.847.7355  
www.krugergroup.com

**Lisa Sterling**  
925.980.9265  
www.krugergroup.com



Pending in 3 days!

2703 Corte Bandera, Pleasanton  
Curb appeal! Must see 4 bedroom 2 bath home in popular Del Prado; quick access I680S/ I580W. Great backyard; corner lot in a court. Exterior just painted with new flooring throughout. Both baths remodeled with tile, vanities and fixtures - walk to pool/ cabana.



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



Open Sun 1-4

1368 Bordeaux, Pleasanton

Truly One of a Kind! Unique 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home w/ 3,864 sq ft. Home features an amazing custom gourmet kitchen with premium appliances, 2 master suites, an office, playroom and beautifully landscaped private backyard. Walking distance to Vintage Hills Elementary School. Part of the Kottinger Ranch HOA w/pool, tennis courts and walking paths.  
**Offered at \$1,379,000**



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



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"We are enjoying home ownership for the first time and are so grateful that we found our KW Agent to help us. Their insight, excellent negotiations, and knowledge of the Tri-Valley was amazing! Thank you for being there for us during the entire process."

— Janice & Ryan Spuller



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