

Pleasanton Weekly

Pleasanton waterskiers excel at Western Regional Championships » 18



VOL. XIII, NUMBER 32 • AUGUST 24, 2012

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fall means football

EVERY WEEK IS TOUGH IN THE EAST BAY ATHLETIC LEAGUE

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BY APPT



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MARK KOTCH

BY APPT



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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

DOUG BUENZ

OPEN SUN 1-4



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PLEASANTON \$1,459,000
Spectacular home, beautifully designed, ultimate cooks kitchen, 4bd+office+bonus, distressed hardwood floors, situated on a 1/3+-acre lot backs to vineyards with sweeping views! 1315 MONTROSE PL

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

MARTA RIEDY

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$1,262,000
Beautiful Ponderosa Legacy, single story in Livermore Wine Country. Gourmet kitchen, 4bd/3.5ba, new outdoor kitchen, sunken patio w/fireplace, backs to olive grove, no rear neighbors. 3034 DANIELLE LN

LINDA FUTRAL

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$949,000
South Livermore 4bd/3ba, 3798+/-sf on large private lot. Showcases spiral staircase, skylights, bonus room. Granite counters in kitchen. Bedroom/Full bath downstairs, amenities galore! 1444 MILAN COURT

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OPEN SUN 1-4



SAN RAMON \$885,000
Stunning 4bd plus bonus room in premium cul-de-sac location, custom features throughout, large private backyard and more! 135 FALLBURY CT

MOXLEY TEAM

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$595,000
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LESLIE FAUGHT/KAT GASKINSAT & SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$549,000
REGULAR SALE! Court location, Open floor plan, high ceiling, recessed lights, cozy fireplace, wood/tile/laminate floors, raised paneled doors, central heating and air, covered patio. 3136 WEYMOUTH COURT



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



JERRY PENTIN

Rotarians join four members of the Pleasanton City Council after Sept. 24-30 was proclaimed as Pleasanton North Rotary Week to recognize the club's 25th anniversary.

Cabs, fences, Rotary at City Council

Anyone who thinks Pleasanton has become too big for small town concerns needs to spend a night or two at a City Council meeting. Long before council members can turn to "agendized" issues for their meetings, which are held the first and third Tuesdays of the month, a section at the top of their agenda holds the meeting open to the public when anyone can approach the council to make comments.

Last Tuesday, for an hour before council members could start on another three hours of discussions over high density apartments, a new agreement with the local firefighters' union and pension reform, speakers came one after another to the lectern. In larger cities, most of these speakers and their topics would be shunted to an alderman or ward representative. Pleasanton is still small enough, however, so that council members make sure there's ample time available for these public comments.

These so-called "down home" remarks came from frustrated cab drivers who want the council and police to help keeping "foreign" taxis from other cities out of their Pleasanton stalls at BART and other locations. A woman said she was told to slice off the top of her backyard fence to the allowable 6 feet in height although it's been that way for the 41 years she's lived there. Workers who have been locked out of their jobs at Castlewood Country Club, some speaking in Spanish, urged city leaders to help them get their jobs back.

Cathe Norman, who with her husband Fred frequently attends council meetings to share their anti-war views, read the names of 58

soldiers from around the country who had been killed in Afghanistan since the council's last meeting on July 17. Another speaker, with a private-service television camera and cameraman taping his remarks, warned the council about a new group, called the One Bay Area Plan, which he said was part of a United Nations-organized plan to do away with municipal governments, such as the Pleasanton City Council.

Fortunately for council members and those of us who cover these meetings there are more festive moments when people and organizations celebrate. Tuesday night, the council proclaimed the week of Sept. 24-30 as Pleasanton North Rotary Week. Reading the proclamation, Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio said the action was in recognition of the chapter's 25 years of service to the community. The club's president Tina Case accepted the proclamation on behalf of the 57-member chapter with quite a few of the members there to join in the obligatory photo (above).

The club was honored for raising nearly \$1 million since it was founded in 1987 for 23 projects including local programs helping veterans, needy families, students and seniors. It backed ongoing efforts by Rotary International to eradicate polio and to deliver safe drinking water to remote communities in Southeast Asia. Through its own initiatives, the club has distributed more than 5,600 wheelchairs in 11 Latin American countries since 2002, installed modern medical equipment at a hospital in Afghanistan, and it has maintained on-going support to the El Oasis Orphanage in Mexico.

Cook-Kallio said the city's Pleasanton North Rotary Week designation will boost promotional efforts for "A Starry Night," the club's annual charity event Sept. 29, at Casa Real in Pleasanton. More information can be found on the event's website at www.astarrynight.org.

About the Cover

Jamirr Holland, carrying the ball for Foothill High against Amador Valley, is a junior this year and one of the top all-around athletes in the league. Photo by Hatch Graham. Design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XIII, Number 32

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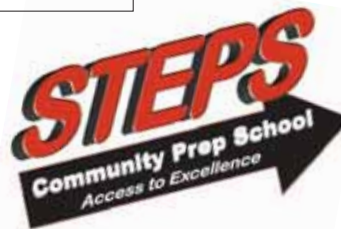
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Streetwise

ASKED AT VARIOUS WALK THROUGH REGISTRATION SCHOOL SITES

Are you ready to go back to school?



Emily Haskell
Sixth-grader

I am ready. I have all my school supplies organized, and we went shopping for new clothes. I'm really excited to be at a new school.

Justin Fulmer
Sixth-grader

Yes. I went shoe shopping, and since I'm in the laptop program, I have my laptop all ready to go. I'll miss sleeping in, but I'm looking forward to starting school.



Annika McCarty
Fourth-grader

I'm feeling ready because I'm really excited to learn new things and meet new friends at school. I have Mrs. Peters this year, and I'm really happy because she's so nice. We are going back-to-school shopping this week, and I'm looking for lime green clothing.

Hollie Traylor
Ninth-grader

I just moved here from Lodi where the last day of school is in May, so I'm definitely ready. I'm a little nervous to start a new school, but I joined Amador's water polo team and I'll meet people that way. I just need to go clothes shopping with my mom and I'll be all set.



Loren Curry
Eighth-grader

Yes. I'm excited to see all my friends. I'll miss sleeping in, though. I still have to go back-to-school shopping this week, and then I'll feel totally ready.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Bird tests positive for virus

The first bird in Alameda County to test positive for West Nile Virus this year was detected last week, according to the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District. The crew found the dead crow in Livermore on Thursday after someone called the West Nile Virus hotline and reported the bird in the area, said district manager John Rusmisl, and testing showed the bird was "acutely positive."

"We predict that the Tri-Valley area, being the warmest part of the county, will be the focus of West Nile Virus infections this year," Rusmisl said.

He advised residents to get rid of outside standing water and to avoid being outdoors at dusk and dawn, wear DEET insect repellent and dress appropriately in buggy areas.

Ranchers fete soldiers

Five active duty soldiers that have been awarded the Purple Heart or decorated for valor in Afghanistan or Iraq were in a parade along Pleasanton's Main Street yesterday afternoon, before going to the Rao Ranch on Mines Road for a barbecue and some hunting. The procession was scheduled to include more than 100 Warriors' Watch Riders and an airborne Huey Helicopter.

The event was arranged by the Purple Heart Outdoors Tour, whose sole purpose is to organize hunting and fishing events for active duty Purple Heart recipients or for those who have received commendations for valor.

This is the fourth time for this event with participation from Fields Livestock Co., N3 Cattle Co., Patterson Ranch, Marciel Ranch, Walker Ranch, Koopman Ranch and Rao Ranch.

Classic cars and more

The Goodguys 26th Flowmaster West Coast Nationals three-day show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds starting today will feature the Western Engine and Model Exhibition with hand-crafted, scale model piston driven miniature engines that work and run just like those that power life-size cars, ships and motorcycles.

The Goodguys shows draw more than 3,000 classic cars, hot rods, muscle cars and over 70,000 people to the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. General admission is \$18; children from 7-12 are \$6. Fairgrounds parking is \$8. For more, visit www.goodguys.com or call 838-9876.

New contract with firefighters calls for hefty hike in pension contributions

Still, critics want Pleasanton to move faster, more aggressively in cutting public workers' pension liabilities

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday to consider and possibly ratify a new contract with firefighters in the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department that calls for them to begin paying 9% of their benefit costs starting next July.

The proposed contract was reviewed in detail at a public hearing last Tuesday, bringing heated responses from long-time critics who argue that the Pleasanton government needs to enact greater reforms to the city's growing employee pension obligations.

The new contract, negotiated by City Manager Nelson Fialho and Local 1974 of the International Association of Firefighters union, which covers LPFD's unionized employees, would cut the city's costs by more than \$1 million when

fully implemented. The full cost reduction would be \$2.13 million, shared equally by Pleasanton and Livermore who operate the LPFD under a joint powers agreement.

Until recently, and for about 10 years, firefighters and other Pleasanton city employees contributed nothing toward their CalPERS pension program after the city agreed to cover all costs in lieu of lowered wage increase demands. As benefit costs increased over the years, this agreement proved to be unsustainable, leading to contract changes that public employees, police and now the firefighters unions have accepted.

Since September 2010, the firefighters' union members have been contributing 2% of their pension costs. Once this new contract is ratified, they will contribute an additional 4% for a total

of 6%, with the full 9% contributed rate kicking in next July 1.

The proposed contract, which includes a two-tier pension-retirement formula affecting firefighters hired after it takes effect, was discussed in detail during a two-hour-long City Council meeting Tuesday in what was called a "sunshining" session. Council members reviewed the specifics of the contract with outside consultant John Bartel, president and chief actuary of Bartel and Associates, who has reviewed and helped draft union contracts for Pleasanton for years.

He said a provision of the new contract changes the retirement formula from 3% of the most recent year's salary for those who have reached 50 years of age to 3% of the three highest years of earnings at age 55.

See **CONTRACT** on Page 8



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Getting oriented

Freshmen Nate Cook and Nicole Dziedzic, both 14, talk with Nicole's mom, Sue Dziedzic, about their upcoming classes at Foothill High School, at its walk-through registration earlier this week. It took the three about a half hour to register, and both freshmen were able to sign up for the classes they wanted. Classes begin Tuesday, Aug. 28

Labor judge rules in favor of locked-out Castlewood workers

Country club could appeal decision

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Castlewood Union members admit it may be a long fight, but for now, they've won a victory in what an administrative law judge has ruled was an illegal lockout.

Judge Clifford Anderson of the National Labor Relations Board recommended that the NLRB order Castlewood to reinstate the locked-out workers and pay them two years of back wages and benefits.

"We don't have an exact number, but we do know that the wages they were getting paid a year was \$ 1.7 million so presumably for the past two years it would be about \$3.4 million," said Sarah Norr, union organizer for UNITE HERE Local 2850, which represents the workers. However, Norr said, Castlewood could deduct the wages those workers earned

elsewhere, so that would likely be a much lower figure.

The issue is far from being settled. Castlewood could ask for a review of the ruling-- the equivalent of an appeal -- which would go to the NLRB in Washington D.C. That could take another year or two.

Castlewood manager Jerry Olsen said club officials hadn't decided on their next steps.

"It's premature to really know what we're going to do. There's a number of options and our board of directors is meeting to discuss the options," Olsen said.

That meeting is "unscheduled at this time," he added.

During the appeal time, the local NLRB could require Castlewood to reinstate the

See **CLUB** on Page 8

Swalwell protests against Stark for kids' SSI benefits

Pleasanton school board member joins in criticism of congressman

Congressional candidate Eric Swalwell, a Dublin City Councilman, said that if elected he will support closing a provision in the Social Security law that grants benefits to children of a parent eligible for Social Security, but still working and collecting a salary in excess of the earning cap.

Last week it was reported that some or all of the minor children of Congressman Pete Stark (D-13th) receive Social Security benefits. They are eligible because Stark, at 81 years old, is entitled to Social Security payments in addition to his Congressional salary.

Swalwell said that Stark's \$174,000 annual salary precludes him from collecting Social Security payments as he earns more than allowed under the earnings cap in the law. His children are still eligible for Social Security benefits because their father is eligible to collect the benefit, even if he makes too much money to collect his own check.

However, Lowell Kepke of the Social Security Regional Public Affairs Office, told the Pleasanton Weekly that it is not correct that high earnings would preclude an 80-year-old from collecting Social Security retirement benefits.

"If an individual is over full retirement age, which would be 65 for an individual who is now 80, and 66 for current retirees, that individual can work and earn without limit and still collect full retirement benefits," Kepke said.

Swalwell also said that in addition to his annual Congressional salary, Congressman Stark, ranking Member of the Ways & Means Committee, is worth an estimated \$27 million, making him one of the wealthiest people in Congress, and in the country.

"Every person should receive the benefits to which he or she paid into and is entitled," said Swalwell. "But, just because it's legal, doesn't make it right. The purpose of granting Social Security benefits to children of retirees

See **SWALWELL** on Page 8

Civil rights fights on display

Museum highlights state's struggles to keep people free

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Museum on Main's current exhibit makes it clear that the fight for freedom, although it has a long history in our state, is still ongoing.

"Wherever There's a Fight: The History of Civil Liberties in California" goes back to the battle against slavery in the mid-19th century and works its way to the current campaign for marriage equality.

The exhibit poses questions and gives historic examples of the fight for liberties:

■ Who is free?

- Who can own land?
- Who is an American?
- When do we have the right to bear arms?
- Whose habits can be banned?

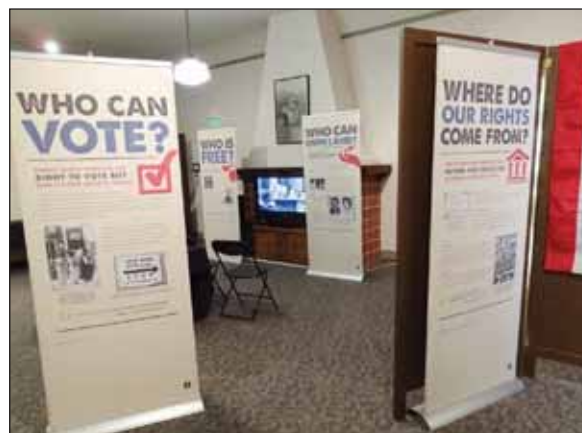
This last section notes that protecting the public's health can push some people into corners, for instance, California's increasingly strict laws against smoking in public.

Videos air struggles including Martin Luther King Jr. leading marches, and House Un-American Activities Committee hearings during the Cold War, which led to

the blacklisting of thousands of teachers and government workers wrongly accused of disloyalty and the imprisonment of Hollywood writers and directors who refused to answer questions.

One section called "Do you remember" lets visitors share their stories. One person told about being poorly treated in 2005 for having a mixed race child, with a woman calling them "horrible things."

"I thought we lived in the 2000's, not the 1800's," the person wrote. "I wish ignorance would vanish!"



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Museum on Main's current exhibit is "Wherever There's a Fight: The History of Civil Liberties in California," which illustrates many examples in the state's history where people have had to fight for their rights.

A legally married gay couple tells about receiving the third degree at customs when returning to the United States.

"Wherever There's a Fight" is a traveling exhibit from Exhibit Envoy, funded by the California Council for the Humanities, a Searching for Democracy Project. The Museum on Main has added from its own collections, including a selection of banned and challenged books.

The interactive displays also include comments on Post-it notes, which include:

■ "We shouldn't vote for our rights."

That's why they're called 'rights.'"

■ "Education is the key to use of guns. It's the decision a person makes about when they point the gun (that) is the problem."

■ "All people should be able to love whomever they wish. That's why we were granted 'freedom.'"

The museum also offers a chance for patrons to design their own protest buttons. "Keep your hands off my Internet," reads one.

The exhibit runs through Sept. 9. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main St., open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Call 462-2766. ■

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Building homes: Pleasanton's Joe Streng took along the Weekly when he joined his teammates from eBay to build a house in Feiro Nova, Brazil, with Habitat for Humanity in March.

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CLUB

Continued from Page 5

workers, Norr said.

Beyond that, she said, "At any point we could reach a settlement with Castlewood."

Norr called the decision "great news," and said it's a big relief for workers to have a judge back their claims they were locked out illegally.

"We've been saying for two years that Castlewood wasn't giving us a fair chance to get our jobs back. Now Judge Anderson is saying the same thing. I hope this will be a wake-up call to the golfers that they need to stop stalling and put us back to work," said Castlewood cook Carlos Mejia.

Mejia is one of the 60 or so hourly full-time and part-time employees who were locked out of the country club on Feb. 25, 2010, in a dispute over health care costs.

Anderson also ruled that the club had stopped bargaining in good faith.

"Rather, it was unlawfully en-

deavoring to frustrate the bargaining process and reduce the possibility of the parties arriving at any agreement," the judge said. "I further find that the Respondent's conduct on that date and the positions taken in bargaining on that day were undertaken because of its animus toward the Union and animus to the locked out employees who supported the Union in bargaining."

Anderson gave Castlewood 28 days from the time of his finding to either accept the terms and pay the workers, or move forward with an appeal.

The cost of membership at the country club is currently \$12,500; at one time it was \$85,000, but the drop was due to the economy, not the dispute, club spokesman Vintage Foster said earlier this year.

Olsen said he's not sure if the country club has lost revenue because of the labor dispute,

"We had some tournaments leave but we replaced them with others," he said.

However, earlier this year, Foster acknowledged that some business



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Union members walk a picket line at a weekly Wednesday morning protest at Castlewood Country Club. The union also held a rally Wednesday night to demand an end to Castlewood's lockout of more than two years. A judge recently ruled the lockout was illegal.

had been lost because the union has approached organizations and told them, "We will not support you or your business if you hold your event there."

A protest at the country club's

Valley golf course on Castlewood Drive was held Wednesday. A news release asked community supporters to join the locked-out workers and other union members "to demand an end to Castlewood's illegal

2-year-long lockout."

Union members pled their case to Pleasanton City Council on Tuesday night, asking for council members to join them at their protest. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approve the tentative agreement between the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Joint Powers Authority and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1974 with term ending June 30, 2014

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, August 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review FY 2011/12 Community Grant Final Performance Reports
- Selection of Two (2) Civic Arts Commissioners to Serve on the Theatrical Production Company RFP Screening Committee
- Selection of Two (2) Civic Arts Commissioners to Serve on the Shakespeare in the Park RFP Screening Committee
- Selection of Commissioner to Serve on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee
- Support of the Pleasanton Cultural Art Council's Event and the Selection of a Commissioner to Serve on the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council's Event Committee

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee

Monday, August 27, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Relocation of Valley Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail between Sunol Boulevard and the Alameda County Transportation Corridor
- Bicycle Lane Installations After Road Resurfacing and Repair Projects
- Review Draft Trail Maps for Marilyn Murphy Kane and Callippe Preserve Trails
- Trails Project Status Report

Kottinger Place Redevelopment Task Force

Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Discussion regarding the potential future renovation and/or replacement of Kottinger Place (240 Kottinger Drive) and Pleasanton Gardens (251 Kottinger Drive) senior apartments, including a presentation regarding site planning and financial analysis.

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

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

SWALWELL

Continued from Page 5

is to stabilize the family's income, the only income of the family, and ensure the minor children are receiving the necessities they need."

"Clearly, the situation in the Stark household is not the intended purpose of this benefit and he's diverting government money to his kids," Swalwell said.

"If a person is eligible for Social Security but working and earning too much to qualify for a ben-

efit check, then I propose closing the loophole that allows his or her children to collect Social Security benefits simply because their father or mother is eligible," Swalwell added. "Minor children should only be allowed to collect Social Security benefits if their parent is collecting benefits earned because they are retired, not working and not earning other income above the earnings cap."

Jamie Hintzke, a member of the Pleasanton school board, an outspoken advocate for low-income children and families, and a Demo-

crat, agreed. She told Swalwell:

"This benefit is intended for children of retired, disabled or dead parents, and to keep them out of poverty and ensure the financial future of the children. For the majority of these children, this is the only source of income in their family. And, at a time when Social Security is more threatened than ever, Democrats lose credibility on an important issue when a senior member of the Ways & Means Committee abuses this loophole."

—Jeb Bing

CONTRACT

Continued from Page 5

"The program will realize substantial savings over the long-term for the city once all employees are on the less costly retirement program," Bartel said.

Although the council took no action Tuesday night, it has scheduled a special meeting for next Tuesday at which time it is expected to ratify the firefighters' contract.

But critics of the proposed contract who have also talked against earlier contracts signed with other city employees warned that the council is failing to take strong measures to reduce the overall multi-million-dollar pension liability problem.

Bart Hughes called the proposed contract "the same old broken public process that is once again another day late and a dollar short."

"In the end, we're simply continuing to serve a protected class of employees who will continue to be protected to the detriment of everybody else in the community," Hughes said.

Speaking about retirees in the municipal work force, Hughes added: "These are not poor people. They are being given multi-million-

dollar retirements."

He said that by continuing to pay costly pensions, the city will be forced to hire fewer police and firefighters in the future.

Another outspoken critic of the public employee pension system, David Miller, agreed.

"What is the city's unfunded pension liability now?" he asked. "We should be discussing this at every council meeting. This City Council is leaving the city with a huge liability that the next council will have to resolve."

He urged voters to ask candidates for mayor and City Council in Pleasanton's upcoming municipal election about where they stand on pension reforms.

Former Councilwoman Kay Ayala said she fought against city staff's plan to start paying the full costs of employees' pension plans when she was on the council, but was rebuffed.

"The staff lied to the council because it also has the same pension benefits that are now leading to the downfall of the city," Ayala said.

Another speaker, Dr. Howard Long, called the pensions being offered firefighters and other employees "financially unsustainable.

"You're spending our grandchildren's money without them able to be represented," he said.

Yet another speaker criticized the council and city staff for negotiating with the unions in closed session "where none of us know what's going on."

"Then you come up with a plan like this and all of you say yes," he added.

But Councilman Matt Sullivan said employee contracts and the city's pension liabilities have been discussed in open meetings repeatedly.

"We've talked about this subject more than any other topic over the last two years," he said.

Addressing the critics who spoke at the meeting, Sullivan added: "I understand you don't like what we're doing. You may not agree, but we have adopted a long-term plan. You may not think we are doing enough or moving fast enough, but in my opinion we are addressing (the issue) through the bargaining process."

"I want to thank the staff and firefighters for working in a collaborative way to achieve the goals we set more than a year ago," he added.

Tuesday's council meeting will be held in the Pleasanton Civic Center, 200 Old Bernal Ave. ■

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Union Bank opens 2nd branch in Pleasanton

4 named to management team in new building

Union Bank opened its new branch Monday in Pleasanton's Gateway Center next to Safeway.

The Union Bank branch, the second one in Pleasanton, also features a new security system that requires customers to pass through a metal-detection screening device similar to those found at local courthouses and in airports. Once all metallic accessories are placed in a tray next to the screen and the customer clears the screening, a second inside door opens to allow the customer inside.

Diana Hock has been named vice president and manager of the new branch, with Kerry Malliaris serving as senior Priority Banking relationship manager for the branch's Priority Banking unit. Also on the branch bank's management team are Nia Osman, senior relationship banker, and Maryan Nader, manager of customer service.

"We are excited to open our second branch in Pleasanton to serve our existing and new clients in the community with our experienced team of bankers and customized banking solutions," said Union Bank Senior Vice President and Regional Executive Elaine Genevro.

"Diana and our entire team bring tremendous expertise to this new banking office and are dedicated to helping clients achieve their financial goals," Genevro added. "Union Bank is committed to the Pleasanton community and we look forward to serving our clients in this important market."

Hock has 31 years of banking experience. Since joining Union Bank in 2001, she has served as branch manager in several area branches including the bank's San Ramon and Gale Ranch locations. Before joining Union Bank, she was branch manager of the San Ramon branch of Glendale Federal Bank-Cal Fed.

Hock serves on the board of the Alameda County 4-H Leaders Council and is a member of the Cornerstone Fellowship and the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce. She volunteers with Abbie 4-H of Pleasanton, Alameda County 4-H, and Junior Achievement.

Malliaris brings more than 30 years of industry experience to her role as Priority banker. Before joining Union Bank, she served as mortgage planner at Cherry Creek Mortgage Company in Pleasanton. Prior to that, she was vice president and senior premier client manager at Bank of America. She also



JEB BING

Kerry Malliaris (left), senior Priority Banking relationship manager, and Diana Hock, a vice president and branch manager, welcome customers to Union Bank's new branch just opened in Pleasanton's Gateway Center next to Safeway.

volunteers with the American Heart Association and Junior Achievement.

Osman serves as senior relationship banker and has 10 years of banking experience. Before joining Union Bank, she was senior Citi gold banker at Citibank. Prior to that, she served as senior business banker at JPMorgan Chase.

Nader serves as customer service manager and has 13 years of banking experience. Prior to joining Union Bank, she was assistant branch manager, financial associate and customer service representative at Citibank. Before that, she served as financial associate at Bank of the West. Nader volunteers as a Sunday school teacher in the Pleasanton area.

The new Union Bank branch, located at 6774 Bernal Ave., is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and until 2 p.m. on Saturdays. The firm also has a second branch in Pleasanton located at 4747 Hopyard Road.

Union Bank operates 402 branches in California, Washington, Oregon, Texas, New York and Illinois, as well as two international offices. UnionBanCal Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. ■

Chamber backing 'Healthy Habits Challenge'

Program encouraging everyone to live healthier, happier lives

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce has launched a Healthy Habits Challenge in an effort to brand Pleasanton as one of the healthiest places to live, work and raise a family.

The program, being co-sponsored by the city of Pleasanton, is engaging businesses, individuals and families in a challenge that runs through Sept. 9 to encourage everyone to live healthier, happier and more productive lives.

April Mitchell, marketing director for the Alameda County Fair and this year's chairwoman of the Pleasanton Chamber, said the challenge is this: Adopt one new healthy habit and practice it for 30 days.

In turn, she said, these healthy habits should increase personal and workplace productivity, help prevent chronic conditions that are often the result of poor habits and beat back the rising costs of healthcare.

"We've been thrilled at the response," Mitchell said.

"The city of Pleasanton has almost 60 participants walking for 30 minutes every day for 30 days while the Alameda County Fair staff has launched a competition amongst themselves to drink more water, walk, cut back on caffeine, and eat more vegetables," she added.

The Pleasanton Chamber staff is walking daily for 20 minutes and the Pleasanton Unified School District will be offering "Meatless Mondays" on their K-5 school lunch menus.

ClubSport Pleasanton and Tuff Girl Fitness have donated prizes for individual participants and companies to win throughout the program.

For more information or to sign up, sign on to the chamber's special website at www.pleasanton.org/healthyhabits. ■



CHAMBER PHOTO

Scott Raty, president and chief executive officer of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, joins Kate D'Or and Dawn Wilson on a lunchtime walk to promote the chamber's Healthy Habits Challenge program. D'Or is the chamber's manager of Business & Projects; Wilson handles member relations.

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Cash mobs give business a boost

With "Sizzlin' Saturdays" keeping many downtown Pleasanton stores open late, a new program called "Cash Mob" stirred things up even more earlier this month as more than 20 shoppers crowded into Towne Center Books to spend at least \$20. It was part of a nationwide effort to generate more business (and profits) for downtown businesses in small-to-mid-size cities such as Pleasanton where many local residents tend to spend their shopping dollars at nearby malls or online.

Kelley Foulk at the Pleasanton Downtown Association, which is bringing the Cash Mob program here, believes that if you can bring people downtown, get them interested and excited, and persuade them to spend a few dollars as part of a group effort to boost business at shops and restaurants, they'll come back and these businesses will work even harder to make sure they do. Last Saturday, Foulk met the 20 first-cash mobbers at the Museum on

Main. A number of downtown stores had asked to host the mob, and Foulk drew the winning store for the inaugural run. Waving their \$20 bills, the mob moved as one over to Judy Wheeler's bookstore where they enjoyed tasty treats and beverages while selecting books to buy. Some spent far more than \$20 and a few admitted that they hadn't been in the store before.

Cash Mobs have become popular all over. The Lufkin, Texas business association has made Cash Mobs a part of its Main Street revitalization effort. Lufkin's Main Street director Barbara Thompson said business had been slow and the mob was the push downtown merchants needed. Lisa Gilmore in Los Angeles just doubled the size of her first Cash Mob, going so far as to hand out fliers and set up booths to gain participants at farmers markets in the city. There have been two in Cleveland and the list of other mobs around the world is growing day by day.

The neat things about having all of these people join in a Cash Mob effort is that it shows how group activism can work, helping small businesses and restaurants while also generating a spirit of accomplishment in a strictly local effort. Foulk and the PDA will do it again Sept. 8. We hope you'll sign up to be with us as we work to boost downtown Pleasanton. ■



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CHRIS SCOTT/CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Nothing beats the excitement of a football game on a crisp fall evening, and this year's season looks to be promising. Although prospects are good for a winning season, Amador Valley coach Rick Sira points out that in the East Bay Athletic League, "There are no easy games by a long shot." At left, Foothill freshman face De La Salle last year.

fall means football

EVERY WEEK IS TOUGH IN THE EAST BAY ATHLETIC LEAGUE

BY DENNIS MILLER

High school team members returned to school early this week to prepare for their seasons. Even in the heat, football players donned gear to study their playbooks, run plays, and hunker down for some serious conditioning.

Last year was the first time that Amador Valley and Foothill failed to advance to the North Coast Section football playoffs in the last 25 years, but both teams will enter the East Bay Athletic League season with high hopes of returning to the playoffs this season.

The big news in the EBAL football world this year is that De La Salle will be competing as an independent. The Spartans will get the automatic bid to the NCS playoffs for the league and their players will be eligible for all-EBAL awards, but the remaining seven teams will be playing for the EBAL title and the championship banner that comes along with the honor.

Amador Valley

The Dons will be led by quarterback Kyle Moreno, who will be starting for the third straight year.

Moreno, who is heading to Brown University, can air it out with the best of them in the league.

"He has continued to improve physically," said Amador coach Rick Sira. "But he has also improved mentally with his reads and things like that. When you are a third-year starter you are supposed to get better and it has been that way for him."

Moreno has a talented lot of receivers to throw to in Grant Miller, Justin Cruz, Kyle Greenan and Collin Miller (no relation to Grant).

On the ground, running back Sam Peters is the go-to guy, but as always, expect the Dons to come at defensive units with a multitude of runners including new varsity players such as Jim Ferrara and Michael White.

The offensive line will be paced by a pair of seniors in Nate Vickers and Jesse Cerdas.

Joining the duo will be Mitchell Mayo (recovering from a broken ankle) and Travis Chubb.

Most of the offensive players will also be making an impact on defense and will be joined by a number of ball-hawking teammates.

Senior Dominic Ashley has been working hard at one inside linebacker, as has corner Parker Newman, a junior who has been playing well. Sira also had high praise for outside



High school football coaches (left) Matt Sweeney from Foothill and Rick Sira from Amador Valley say prospects this season are good. New this year, De La Salle will compete as an independent with an automatic bid to the North Coast Section playoffs; the remaining seven teams will play for the EBAL title.

linebacker junior Kevan Knaggs.

"We have great senior leadership," said Sira. "They are great players, but also great kids. If you are a knucklehead you are out of place on this team."

That is a much-needed attitude in the al-

ways loaded EBAL, where each week brings another big game.

"I say the same thing every year," said Sira. "It's great to be in the EBAL, but it's a bad thing to be in the EBAL. There are no easy games by a long shot."

Foothill

Coach Matt Sweeney has never been one to throw around hyperbole so when he makes a dramatic statement, there is no reason to



JAY FLACHSBARTH

doubt what Sweeney said.

And when Sweeney says his group of skilled players is the best he has ever had at Foothill in his 26 years of coaching, you better believe it is a talented group.

"In terms of the running backs, wideouts

and tight ends, this group of guys has no weakness," said Sweeney, straight to the point.

Leading the group is a pair of three-year starters for the Falcons in Ray Hudson and Griffith Gates. Both have been factors in the Foothill offense and defense for two seasons and have lived up to expectations across the board.

"The game moves slow for them right now," said Sweeney of Hudson and Gates. "They both have worked so hard to get big-

ger and stronger."

At 6-foot-4 and 230 pounds, Hudson will be moving on to Cal next year as a tight end. This year he is going to be a wideout for the Falcons and that means mismatches every time they line up.



“They are going to have to double him,” said Sweeney.

Gates is 6-3, 235 pounds and will be one of the two main running backs for the Falcons. Along with Gates, junior Jamirr Holland — one of the top all-around athletes in the league — will give the Falcons a power and speed combo.

Isaiah Langley, only a sophomore, is a breakaway type receiver, as is fellow sophomore Darrell Adams, who also checks in at 6-4. Tight end Jack Finney will be among the elite in the league at the position. Tommy Gamble will also be a threat out of the backfield. Ryan Anderson figures to catch his share of passes at one of the wideout spots.

Sophomore Kyle Kearns has been the pick for quarterback by Sweeney. The 6-1, 175 pound Kearns throws a nice ball and earned the spot with a solid summer passing league season.

On the line, the Falcons will be looking to Collin Dal Porto, Will Theofanopolous, Perry Cheney, Erik Gallagher and James McGee.

The Foothill defense will also be a solid starting group with Gates, Hudson and Holland leading the way. Langley, Dal Porto, McGee, Adams and Finney all also figure to be key players.

Trent Morgan (LB/DL), Trevor Maes (FS), Parker Dalton (LB), Marc Luey (LB), Zach Wilhite and Cody Shields (LB) are also all in the mix for starting positions on the Foothill defense.

OTHER FALL SPORTS

Football is not the only sport in the fall: There are several others where the EBAL is among the elite leagues in Northern California. Due to the early start of the school year in conjunction with the late practice start for some sports, not all fall sports are being previewed.

We hope to catch up with the rest as the season

COURTESY SHOTWELL FAMILY

Kelly Shotwell, captain of the Amador Valley High girls golf team, just won the Castlewood Junior championships.

goes on, including girls tennis and boys and girls waterpolo. Here are brief previews of volleyball, cross country and girls golf.

VOLLEYBALL

Amador

There are a lot of reasons for Amador’s coach Rich Cortez to be fired up for the season. But the long-time coach knows anything can happen as the season unfolds.

“My whole thing is, ask me in December,” said Cortez about the end of the season. “We will be competitive if we pass the ball around.”

Leading the way for the Dons is a familiar volleyball name in the Valley in Kris Dunworth. The younger sister of former Amador and Duke University star Sophia, Dunworth is an outstanding setter, but also a talented hitter.

“We are expecting a big year out of Kris,” said Cortez of the Cornell-bound senior.

Joining Dunworth as a leader for the team will be senior middle blocker Bri Day and outside hitter Marisol Tracy.

“(Marisol) should be one of the top hitters in the league,” said Cortez.

One pleasant surprise for Cortez and his staff has been the play of junior Emani Jackson. After sitting out her freshman year with a back injury, Jackson spent last season on the JV team learning the game. This year she has come to play.

“She really has been a surprise,” said Cortez. “She keeps getting better and better.”

Also figuring to play a key role will be Rosie Boulden. Boulden usually lines up as an opposite, but can also set, allowing Dunworth to move into a hitting spot. Amber Wright is an outside hitter and a middle blocker who adds to the Amador front line.

Foothill

Last year the Falcons advanced all the way to the

See **SPORTS** on Page 14



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CHRIS SCOTT/CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Cross country runners, shown here at a Monte Vista Invitational, participate in meets throughout the area. This year it looks like De La Salle will be the team to beat although the Amador Dons may be right behind them. The Foothill Falcons are also coming into the season with a group of runners who worked hard over the summer, said coach Shannon Sos, including a solid core group and newcomers.

SPORTS

Continued from Page 13

NCS final before falling to San Ramon Valley. There certainly were some losses to graduation, but the cupboards are hardly bare.

Returning all-league players Amanda Tuazon and Jen Corbin both are back to give Foothill a strong base. Tuazon was a second team all-league setter, while Corbin was honorable mention as an outside hitter.

"Those two are seniors and we are certainly counting to help us a lot," said Foothill coach Dusty Collins.

Collins also named fellow seniors Brooke Campbell and Jasmine Ballesteros as keys to the Falcons hopes.

Junior Hannah Williams was on the varsity as a sophomore last year and Collins is looking for big things from her as well.

"We've had two great seasons in a row," said Collins. "We did lose a lot, but we have a lot back as well. There are always some really good teams in the EBAL."

CROSS-COUNTRY

Amador

The Dons are coming off a season where both the boys and girls teams qualified for the CIF State Meet at the Division I level. Coached by former Amador star runner Jason Oswalt, both appear primed to make the move toward state again.

On the boys side Connor McCarthy leads the close knit group of runners. Right behind McCarthy is Jacob Schlachte, Kevin Huey, Conner McKinnon, Peter Schlachte, Dan Arthur and Zach Beston.

Heading into the EBAL season, De La Salle

looks to be the team to beat, with the Dons and the always tough San Ramon Valley team right there behind the Spartans.

The girls' team was hit harder by graduation than the boys, but seems to be reloading instead of rebuilding.

Jena Pianin returns after finishing fifth in the state last year leading the way and will be complemented by freshman Annaka Green. Green comes into the high school season after finishing fifth in the 1,500 nationals this summer.

Nina Razavi and Stephanie Duret are both

talented runners who will need to step up for the Dons this season. The rest of the team is still to be determined from a deep, but inexperienced group of runners.

Foothill

The Falcons come into the season with a group of hard-working runners.

"This is a great, dedicated group of kids that worked hard over the summer," said Coach Shannon Sos. "They worked hard and wanted to improve."

Sos lists his top four runners for the

boys as Andrew Goard, Owen Coumu, Ryan McDonald and Amar Jyothiprakash. On the girls' side, Annie Geasa, Madeline Taylor, Kyra Schwaninger and Melissa West all return to lead the way. It is a solid core group that is being joined by a host of new runners.

"We've had a good influx of freshmen and sophomores to the teams," said Sos.

GOLF

Amador

A trio of talented golfers is returning to lead a team that figures to have plenty of depth.

Kelly Shotwell is the team captain and is in her fourth year for the Amador varsity. Shotwell recently won the Castlewood Junior championships. Kimberly Liu is also one of the captains and last year as a sophomore had the lowest average score during the EBAL matches.

Sabrina Bodnar is only a sophomore, but brings a lot of talent to the party after finishing as the medalist in a few matches last year. Yehna Kim (So.), Caroline Lilja (Jr.), Emily Lin (Fr.), Kayli Lujan (So.), Heather McKenzie (Jr.), and Meghna Sinha (So.) are the rest of the top players for the Dons.

Foothill

The Falcons should be among the elite in the league again paced by Alex and Katie Sborov, a pair of senior sisters. The twins both qualified this summer to participate in the 2012 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship. Alex Sborov has been awarded a golf scholarship to Texas Christian University starting in 2013; Katie has been offered golf scholarships but has not made a final decision. ■



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

Woodworking class wins big



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above: Woodworking award winners are (l-r) Kris Jarvis of Pleasanton, Ron Locatelli, Linda Mc Keever of Pleasanton, Kevin Becker, Judith Timmermans and Dennis Carrington. Left: Students in Jim Vice's woodworking classes focus on crafting everyday items, such as chairs, bookcases and even rocking horses.

Teacher Jim Vice provides tools for everyday projects

BY JAMIE ALTMAN

Jim Vice is teaching a woodworking class of winners — six of his students submitted projects at the Alameda County Fair and all received awards. The students accumulated three first-place and two second-place ribbons, two best of show nominations, and two honorable mentions.

"We're doing good," Vice said of his 18-and-older course. "The students participate in class and they learn things. It's probably why we were successful at the Fair."

Vice began teaching woodworking at the Pleasanton Senior Center in 1999. He then moved to Castro Valley where he has spent the last three years continuing his woodworking class and managing a machine shop in Livermore.

"I've always wanted to," he said of his passion for woodworking. "I don't know why, but I've never turned back. I love the sharing of ideas, the people you get to know, and the camaraderie you develop within the class."

Vice said he loves when his students accomplish tasks they never dreamed



they could.

Linda McKeever, a student at Vice's class who grew up using tools, was swimming in prizes after the County Fair. She won awards for her banister bookcase, coffee table and two end tables with pull-out drawers.

McKeever, who is the executive director of Open Heart Kitchen, described woodworking as a "mental physical process."

"It's really relaxing for me and extremely stimulating for the brain," she said. "The physical side is that you end up with a beautiful piece of furniture that you created on your own. It's so different from the mental work that I have to deal with at work all day."

Vice focuses his class on crafting everyday items, such as chairs, bookcases and even rocking horses, McKeever said.

"You take the skills learned from his class and you can really create whatever you want," she said. "(Vice) teaches us these techniques so we can apply them to anything in life."

Vice said he always likes it when women sign up — and not for the obvious reasons.

"I love teaching women woodworking," he said. "Ladies have the desire (for woodworking) but never have the chance because it's not fashionable in high school. I love that ladies get the opportunity to show their skills in my class."

The class strongly highlights taking precautions and doing things in an exact manner.

"We definitely emphasize equipment safety and using it properly," Vice said. "We're really into the precision part of woodworking."

Vice currently teaches at Canyon Middle School in Castro Valley, with beginner and advanced classes offered. Visit www.cvadult.org/woodworking. ■

Opera announces new season

Two favorites being featured: 'La bohème' and 'La Traviata'

The Livermore Valley Opera has announced its 21st performance season featuring two of opera's most dramatic love stories: Puccini's "La bohème" and Verdi's "La Traviata."

"Again this season, we have incredible singers, artists and musicians who will take our audiences on two operatic journeys with Puccini's 'La bohème' and Verdi's 'La Traviata,'" says Elizabeth Wells, executive director. "We can boast some of the Bay Area's best talent."

"La bohème" will be at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Oct. 6, 7, 13 and 14, with an Opening Night Gala celebration dinner at 5 p.m. at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard. "La Traviata" is scheduled for March 9, 10, 16 and 17, also with an opening night dinner.

Returning to Livermore Valley Opera and making his directorial debut with "La bohème" is baritone

Eugene Brancoveanu, who will also sing the role of Marcello. He received a Tony Award for this role in 2003.

"Eugene's Tony award-winning performance in the Broadway version of 'La bohème' was a key factor in our choosing him to direct LVO's production," Wells said. "He is also a favorite of LVO audiences since his thrilling and dramatic performance in the title role of Don Giovanni."

That was in October 2010.

Also returning, singing the role of Mimi, is soprano and Metropolitan Opera artist Marie Plette, who sang the title role in LVO's production of "Tosca" earlier this year: tenor David Gustafson as Rodolfo, and bass-baritone Phillip Skinner, who portrayed the evil Scarpia alongside Plette, will sing the role of Colline for "La bohème." Soprano Kristin Clayton will portray Musetta.

Returning director Brian Luedloff,

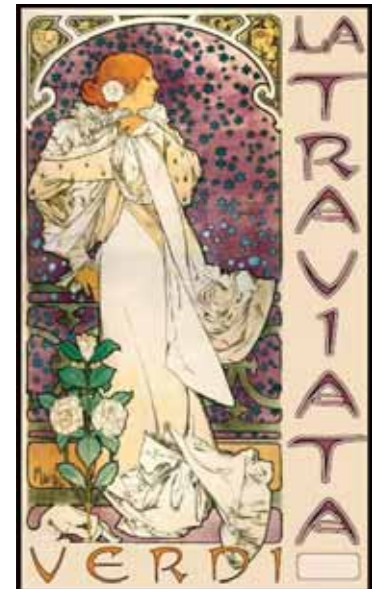
whose vision of LVO's production of "Madama Butterfly" in March 2010 was described by San Francisco Classical Voice as "riveting," will again lend his talents to "La Traviata." Soprano Rebecca Davis will sing Violetta, with Gustafson returning to sing Alfredo, and baritone Torleff Borsting as Violetta's father Germont.

Though some opera companies shy from traditional productions of the most often performed operas like "La bohème" and "La Traviata," Livermore Valley Opera does not.

"Grand opera, the tried and true favorites, produced in a traditional sense as the composers intended is what LVO does best," explained Wells. "These two operas were built for the ages, they are timeless. With opulent sets, elaborate costumes and outstanding talent, LVO's productions are no longer a hidden



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ARTWORK BY ALPHONSE MUCHA

treasure, but recognized as quality, professional experiences."

Tickets are \$39-\$74 for adults, with \$10 off for students 18 and

younger. The Opening Night Gala is \$75. Call 373-6800 or go to www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Children's Chorus wins two medals at World Choir Games

New singers being accepted this month — call to schedule an audition

The Tri-valley's own Cantabella Children's Chorus, conducted by its Honors Choir director Eileen Chang, was awarded two silver medals at the seventh World Choir Games, an international event, held July 4-14, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The singers received medals in Children's Choir and Contemporary Music in the Champion's Competition, where they challenged other choirs who had won competitions previously. Cantabella's Honors Choir was one of the few children's choirs to compete in the Contemporary Music category.

As part of their repertoire, Cantabella's Honors Choir performed two world premier pieces written especially for Cantabella by Paul Shin: "Bluesy," in the Children's Choir category, and "Hope" in the Contemporary Music category. Cantabella also performed its specially commissioned 20th anniversary piece, "These Things Can Never Die," by Frank La Rocca in the Children's Choir category. All three works were premiered at the event and were well received by the audience. Composer Paul Shin joined the Choir as a special guest.

The 2012 World Choir Games brought hundreds of thousands of visitors and choirs from around the world to Cincinnati, the first U.S. city to host the games, to join their voices and share their heritage.

Choirs competed in 23 musical categories from Barbershop and Scenic Folklore, to Musica Sacra, Chamber Choir, Jazz and Gospel.

During the two weeks of competitions, the choirs from various countries had the opportunity to perform together in Celebration and Friendship Concerts held throughout the Cincinnati area, attend workshops and mingle with other choirs in the Global village on Fountain Square.

Cantabella choristers also attended the Champions Concert giving them an opportunity to learn from the best of the best. This colorful global event closed out with a riveting performance by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra conducted by John Morris Russel and songs performed by Idina Menzel, Tony Award-winning Broadway, film and television star, and, Grammy Award winner Marvin Winans.

Next summer, Cantabella's Honors Choir has been invited to participate in the prestigious World Vision Korea Children's Choir Festival to be held in Seoul and Sun Cheon, South Korea.

Cantabella Children's Chorus is accepting new singers in grades K-10 through the month of August. Classes begin the week of Aug. 28 in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore. Go to Cantabella.org/register or call 292-2663 to schedule an audition. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Cantabella Children's Chorus performs at the World Choir Games in Cincinnati, Ohio, which included two weeks of competition plus workshops and performances throughout the area.

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THIS WEEKEND!

We're looking for a few good men and women

The proverbial unsung hero: We all know one or two.

These individuals or groups make our community and lives better, but very rarely get the recognition they so richly deserve. These true, yet often anonymous, Tri-Valley heroes will be honored this holiday season through a series of feature articles.

Nominate a hero today
 at <http://tinyurl.com/Tri-ValleyHeroes>

POLICE BULLETIN

Another Disneyland debacle

A new twist has come to light in a Disneyland scam that surfaced last year. A Pleasanton woman bought eight park hopper passes for \$800 on Craigslist, then her family drove six hours to the amusement park, only to find out the passes were no good.

The passes were purchased on July 19 and received on July 31. When the family made the trip on Aug. 7, they learned their passes were bogus; apparently the suspect purchased and printed the passes on a home computer, then cancelled and voided the sale. No arrest has been made but police have a suspect.

In similar but unrelated cases last summer, a 51-year-old woman was arrested for at least 10 similar scams: five here, at least three in Walnut Creek and two others in San Ramon. She arranged to meet local victims at the Cheesecake Factory or P.F. Chang's at Stoneridge Shopping Center. People were paying \$250 to \$300 per person for three-day park hopper passes, which allowed the buyer to visit both Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure Park.

"They're using cash, they're going down there and finding the tickets have never been activated," said Lt. James Knox, adding that the woman presents a fictitious receipt to prove the passes are valid.

In other police reports:

- Two San Francisco men were busted at Walmart on Aug. 17 in what seemed to be a back-to-school shoplifting spree, taking paper, pens and other school-related items before being caught, according to police reports.

Christopher James Diehl, 23, and Lemonier Maurice Dillard, 33, were arrested for stealing

three pens sets worth a total of \$12.91, binder paper worth \$.82, a \$6.88 clipboard, socks worth \$6.27, a \$2 bandanna and a \$10 baseball cap. Also recovered when the two were arrested were an \$89 computer hard drive, three cell phones worth \$288.66 and airsoft pistol worth \$49.97.

Diehl was arrested for felony shoplifting for using a booster bag to conceal items and lying to police about his name; Dillard was arrested for misappropriation of property, being under the influence of a controlled substance and paraphernalia possession.

- More than \$10,000 in perfume samples were reported stolen in a break-in at Extra Space Storage in the 3700 block of Santa Rita Road.

A lock was cut between 1 p.m. Aug. 14 and 11:50 a.m. Aug. 17; taken were 200 .10-ounce bottles of Gucci Premiere perfume worth \$4,000; 36 1.7 ounce bottles of Gucci Premiere perfume worth \$3,132; 30 3-ounce bottles of Lacoste Challenge perfume valued at \$1,500; 20 3-ounce bottles of Hugo Element perfume worth \$1,000; and 10 3-ounce bottles of Hugo perfume valued at \$500. All were labeled not for sale or sample.

- Police were unable to make an arrest when a clerk at JC Penney reported receiving three counterfeit \$20 bills around 8 p.m. Aug. 18. A man who bought a pair of pants was questioned and had two more counterfeit 20s in his wallet but police could not confirm the man knew they were counterfeit. He paid for the pants and told police he had gotten the bills from a man who made change for him outside a store in San Francisco.

- An early morning burglary at Wok Kee Chinese Bistro in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway netted \$280 in cash; a window was broken in the Aug.

19 incident, reported at about 1:12 a.m.

- Construction equipment worth more than \$3,000 was reported stolen from a garage in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive. Taken were two ladders worth \$1,300, three nail guns worth more than \$1,100, two power saws worth nearly \$500, and a \$199 air compressor. There was no sign of forced entry in the incident, which occurred between 4 p.m. Aug. 17 and 5 p.m. Aug. 21.

- Nothing was stolen in either of two residential burglaries reported on Aug. 20, although a thief or thieves did try to pry a flat screen from the wall of a home in the 4200 block of Sheldon Circle. The homeowner told police she believed someone entered the home through a pet door sometime during the weekend while the family was out of town.

In the other incident, reported at 5:02 p.m. in the 5000 block of Carducci Drive, police discovered an open front door when responding to an alarm from sensors inside the garage door.

- A garage door that was left up Aug. 16 led to the theft of an \$800 bicycle from a home in the 4000 block of Cid Way.

- Three men were arrested on felony warrants in separate incidents over the last week.

Mitchell Don Welton, 55, of Pleasanton was taken into custody Aug. 20 in the 700 block of Rose Avenue on Pleasanton warrants for sale of a controlled substance and possession of non-narcotic controlled substance with intent to sell.

Scott Edward Wilbur, 56, of Walnut Creek was arrested at about 8:55 p.m. Aug. 17 on a felony warrant for threats from Claremont police department.

Hector Carlos Moran, 45, was arrested at about 10:24 a.m. Aug. 21 in the 5800 block of Owens Drive on a felony warrant for a probation violation following a traffic stop.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Aug. 15

Theft

- 9:08 a.m. in the 7700 block of Driftwood Way; grand theft

- 3:33 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft

- 5:50 p.m. in the 3200 block of Picadilly Court; identity theft

- 5:58 p.m. in the 900 block of Sunset Creek Lane; identity theft

Vandalism

- 7:30 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

- 10:30 a.m. in the 1800 block of Harms Drive

- 11:03 a.m. in the 1500 block of Ridgewood Road

Auto tampering

- 11 p.m. in the 5100 block of Damiano Court

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:27 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance

- 10:35 p.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

Aug. 16

Theft

- 8:51 a.m. in the 400 block of Sycamore Road; grand theft

Vandalism

- 10:49 a.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Aug. 17

Theft

- 5:35 p.m. in the 5300 block of Armani Court; mail theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:02 a.m. at the intersection of Anderson Street and Division Street; DUI

- 12:45 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness

- 12:59 a.m. in the 200 block of W. Angela Street; public drunkenness

- 2:14 p.m. in the 1900 block of Fiorio Circle; marijuana possession

- 11:30 p.m. at the intersection of Taleo Way and Tassajara Road; DUI

Aug. 18

Theft

- 1:37 p.m. in the 1900 block of Brooktree Way; identity theft

- 3:08 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Battery

- 3:50 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Blvd.

Vandalism

- 2:23 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

- 2:24 p.m. in the 2500 block of Old Vineyard Avenue

Prank calls

- 5:37 p.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:22 a.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and Division Street; DUI

- 2:05 a.m. at the intersection of Danbury Park Drive and Trimmingham Drive; DUI

- 3:21 p.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and Rose Avenue; bicycling under the influence of drugs

- 10:44 p.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Junipero Street; minor in possession of alcohol

- 11:15 p.m. at the intersection of First Street and Portola Avenue; DUI

Aug. 19

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Dr and Santa Rita Rd; DUI

- 2:21 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Bernal Avenue; public drunkenness

Aug. 20

Burglary

- 4:22 p.m. in the 4200 block of Sheldon Circle

- 5:02 p.m. in the 5000 block of Carducci Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 3:15 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession

- 5:39 p.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

- 5:49 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; public drunkenness

Aug. 21

Theft

- 8:15 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; auto theft

- 10:09 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft

Burglary

- 5:58 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive

Vandalism

- 4:43 p.m. in the 600 block of Sylvaner Drive

OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

Judith Avellar

Judith Lynn Avellar passed away peacefully, with her children present on Sunday after a valiant battle with cancer. She will be sorely missed by many.

Judy was born in New York and relocated to Mountain View, CA in the late 1950's. She moved to Pleasanton in 1977, then settled in Dublin for the last 15 years.

Judy has been a business professional for the majority of her life, managing several different organizations throughout her career. Her passions in life were traveling, decorating, cooking and spending time with her family and friends.



Judy is survived by her brother Steven Urban of Corona, CA; daughter Tammy Slabaugh and husband Eric; son Craig Hagenbaugh and wife Rachel; granddaughter Taylor Slabaugh, all of Tracy CA.

Friends and Family are invited to attend a "Celebration of Life" at Beeb's at Las Positas Golf Course in Livermore, CA on Saturday, August 25th at 3:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, her family requests donations be made to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin, CA 94568.

Ronald Haug

Ron was born November 17, 1926 in Cando, North Dakota to Christoffer August Haug and Susanna Olson. He passed away August 14, 2012 at a memory care community in Silverdale, WA.

The Haug family moved to the Pacific Northwest during the great depression, and Ron graduated from Seattle's Lincoln High School class of 1943. He played basketball on the varsity team and spent many happy hours

playing softball at Lower Woodland Park.

In the fall of 1943, Ron entered the University of Washington (U.W.) and played varsity basketball his freshman year. After completing one year at the U.W., Ron entered the Coast Guard and served as a radioman on troop transport ships between San Francisco, CA and the Asian War Zones from 1944 through 1946.

Upon honorable discharge from the service, Ron returned to the U. W. to earn his BS in Zoology. He entered Dental School at the University and in 1953 earned his DDS. He practiced general dentistry for five years and then returned to the U.W. to earn his Orthodontic Degree in 1960.

During his studies at the U.W. Dental School, Ron met Marcia Churchill and they were married June 14, 1952 at the Florence Henry Memorial Cha-



pel in Seattle. They made their first home in Port Angeles, WA, where Ron's interest in steelhead fishing was first realized. Marcia and Ron celebrated 60 years of marriage this past June.

In May of 1960, Ron and Marcia moved to Pleasanton, CA with two daughters Sally and Jane, and one small turtle. Ron practiced orthodontics in Hayward, CA for 35 years retiring in 1995. While living in Pleasanton, Ron belonged to the Alameda County Dental Society, PORG Orthodontic Study Club, and PSCO Dental Society. He was an avid steelhead and shad fisherman, belonging to a fly-tying club, and played both golf and tennis at Castlewood County Club in Pleasanton.

After retirement, Ron and Marcia permanently moved to the family home in Indianola, WA where Ron perfected his landscaping techniques and enjoyed many memorable summertime moments with the family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, John and Ray Haug, and one sister, Carol Jarvis.

Ron is survived by: his wife, Marcia; daughters, Sally (Gary) Haug Walker of Livermore, CA and Jane (Mark) Haug Brown of Tucson, AZ, sisters-in-law, Elloise Halverson Haug of Seattle and Ruth E. Churchill of Tiburon, CA, nephews, Steve (Joy) Jarvis of Bothell, WA, Jeff Jarvis of Seattle, WA and Chase (Kate) Jarvis of Seattle, WA, grandchildren, Adrienne (Joey) Haynes D'Amico, Veronica (Jerico) Haynes Castillo, Callan Walker, Zoe Walker, and Aaron Brown and great-grandchildren Caitlynn Castillo and Ruby D'Amico.

A special thank you to all the caregivers at Emeritus of Silverdale; The Haug family greatly appreciates the care and compassion you showed to Ron.

At Ron's request, there will not be a service. Remembrances in his name can be made to: Indianola Beach Improvement Club PO Box 212 Indianola, WA 98342 or Children's Hospital Research Foundation (Oakland, CA) at www.chofoundation.org.

Arrangements entrusted to The Stone Chapel Poulsobo Mortuary.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tri-Valley's GRIP junior team will represent California in the PGA Junior League World Series after beating Southern California golfing powerhouses to be crowned PGA Regional Champions.

Junior team headed for championships

PGA Junior League World Series being held in Chicago

The Tri-Valley's GRIP junior team, junior golfers who train at Las Positas Golf Course in Livermore, will represent California in the PGA Junior League World Series on Sept. 14-15 in Chicago at the famous Cog Hill Golf Club.

"This team of golfers drew on their chemistry and camaraderie throughout the year," said Pleasanton resident Emily Chin, whose son Alex, 13, plays on the team. "Friends on and off the course, this team of kids supported each other every step of the way."

Under the coaching of PGA professional Andy Nisbet, this

13-member team's path to the PGA Junior World Series began in the PGA local league, where they competed against teams from San Jose, Campbell and San Ramon. Finishing with an undefeated 6-0 season, the team then went up against the winning team from the Sacramento leagues, came away with an impressive victory, and was declared Northern California Champions.

Team GRIP advanced to the Regionals in Los Angeles in early August and, with temperatures in excess of 105 degrees, competed against the best teams from Los Angeles, San Diego and Phoenix in

a round robin style format on three challenging nine-hole courses.

After beating Los Angeles in an extremely hard-fought match, the team took on a talented San Diego team in the afternoon. This was a grinding, nail-biter match that came down to the final group. In the end, GRIP pulled ahead and was crowned PGA Regional Champions.

"When the final putt dropped, they were all there to celebrate their success together," Chin said. "Next stop — Chicago!"

Team members are Alex Chin, Brendan Hopkins, Noah Woolsey, Travis Mitchell, Kirabo Reed, Matt Lloyd, Hayden Hui, Bradley Lu, Alan Chen, Ethan Chen, Jared Khoo, Jared Khoo, Michael Shaw and Drew Kim. Assistant coach is Tony Guerrero; team mom is Sophia Hui. ■

Cool sport

Claire McNerney, 9, was one of five Pleasanton residents who participated in the 2012 Western Regional Waterski Championships held July 25-28 in Sacramento, which drew 400 skiers, ages 7-82. Claire, participating in her first regionals, placed fourth in slalom, first in trick and first overall in the Girls 1 division for under 10 years of age.

Richelle Matli, 56, skiing in her 30th regionals, placed third in Women's 5 slalom; she has won three previous Regionals, as well as placed in the top five at nationals numerous times. Scott McNerney, 47, Claire's dad, placed 12th overall in the Men's 4 overall; he has won two regionals in the trick event. Matt Brandt, 42, skiing in his 18th consecutive regionals, placed seventh overall in the Men's 3 event, while Greg Valenciano, 50, placed 30th in the largest event of the tournament, Men's 4 slalom.

These Pleasanton residents are members of the Berkeley Water Ski Club, which is open to new members who want to improve their waterskiing. Contact Scott McNerney at liquidwrenches@sbcglobal.net.



Successful summer of softball

The Pleasanton Phantom 16U team finished an excellent summer travel softball season. Coached by John Quintanal, Victor Banda and Dave Koenig, Phantom finished third in a tournament in Vallejo, had a first place finish in Pleasant Hill, and qualified for the Western Nationals held in Turlock the first week in August, where it placed in the top half of the teams.

Phantom, a blended team from Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, members are (back row, l-r) Quintanal, Marisa Riordan, Natalie Miller, Carrigan James, Dave Koenig, (middle) Kristen Marks, Lauren Huizar, Holly Coles, Erica Meier, Jeannette Koenig, Emily Roskopf, (front) Katie Shigemoto, Ariana Banda, Alyssa Martinez, Stephanie Rucker, and Jillian Quintanal.

Hard play lands second at Shamrock

RAGE U-13 White got off to a fast start at the Dublin Shamrock Tournament, earning a spot in the semifinals with 5-0 and 4-0 wins over Livermore FC and Castro Valley United. In the tournament final, RAGE faced a very physical Martinez-Pleasant Hill club, dropping with a 4-1 result.

Team members are (back row, l-r) Nicole Zhang, Ashley Frans, Jamie Beck, Alyssa Johnston, Briana Page, Marisa Shah, Coach Dean Freeman, Megan Franciskovich, Grace Gundermann, (front) Lily Krieger, Kaitlin Cartwright, Arianna Cisneros, Amaya Wilson, Gianna Coggiola, Reilly Bowman, Nadine Cobb, and (far front) Alex Cravens. Not pictured, Lena Marjanovic.



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Hits of the 50s & 60s
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August 31 – Public Eye
High Energy Rock & Roll
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Auditions

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE 2012-13 SEASON The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley's premier chorus, will hold auditions by appointment for its 2012-2013 concert season on the following dates: Mondays, Aug. 27, Sept. 10 and 17. The new season will include the music of Gilbert and Sullivan, the annual Sing-It-Yourself Messiah and more. To schedule an appointment, call 462-4205.

Author Visits

LOCAL CHILDREN'S AUTHOR/NATURALIST DIANE LANG Diane Lang is a familiar presence as a wildlife educator at Walnut Creek's Lindsay Wildlife Museum and the Sulphur Creek Nature Center in Hayward. Inspired by her work with wild creatures, especially the creepy, crawly sorts, she has released her first book, "Vulture Verses: Love Poems for the Unloved," which she will introduce at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Clubs

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated is presenting a Candidate's Night to meet and listen to the following candidates for office: Elizabeth Emken-Senate; Ricky Gill-Congressional District 9; Mark Meuser-State Senate District 7; Al Phillips-Assembly District 16; Jerry Thorne-Pleasanton

Mayor. The event is at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13, at Cattlemen's Restaurant, 2882 Kittyhawk Rd., Livermore. Reserve by Monday, Sept. 10. Cost \$30 for members and \$26 for non-members. Call Phyllis Couper at 462-4931 or email coupclan1962@pacbell.net.

TRIVALLEY DEMS BBQ The TriValley Democratic Club barbecue, potluck, white elephant sale and silent auction is from 11:15 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 26, at Emerald Glen Park, Tassajara Road and Central Parkway, Dublin. Speakers will be Assembly members Joan Buchanan and Mary Hayashi, State Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, Congressman Pete Stark and Congressional candidate Eric Swalwell. Cost is \$5. Call Sharon Goldberg at 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydems.com/Calendar.htm.

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. Hits of

the 50's & 60's by Magic Moments Aug. 24 then come back Aug. 31 for High Energy Rock & Roll by Public Eye. Visit www.pleasanton-downtown.net.

THE TUBES By popular demand the Firehouse Arts Center will host a third visit of the rock group, The Tubes. "Fifteen years ahead of Madonna and light years ahead of politically correct," The Tubes band brings its irreverent, high energy rock 'n' roll music back to town. There will be performances at 8 p.m. Sept. 7 and 8 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$38-\$48. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Events

31ST ANNUAL HARVEST WINE CELEBRATION The 2012 Livermore Valley Harvest Wine will, for the 31st year, take place Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-3. Twenty-nine wineries will host festivities at their tasting rooms across Livermore Valley, and 12 more wineries will be pouring at either Concannon Vineyards or Wente Vineyards on Tesla. Tickets are \$55 in advance or

\$65 day of event, good for admission both days. Visit www.LVwine.org.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY AT THE MUSEUM ON MAIN Children, bring your grandparents to the Museum on Main for National Grandparents Day. Create a family tree with the help of your grandparents, and learn about what life was like when they were children. Also make a special gift to present to your grandparent. The event is from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Call 462-2766.

RELAXED FOCUS SEMINAR The Pleasanton library is offering a free seminar by Jane Malmgren from Upward Path Hypnosis on Relaxed Focus, a physical and mental concept to maximize productivity. The program begins at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 30. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave.

ROSH HASHANA CELEBRATION Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host a Rosh Hashana celebration, beginning with an optional walk to Anyo Creek, followed by a potluck dinner, a secular humanistic ceremony, and a recep-

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

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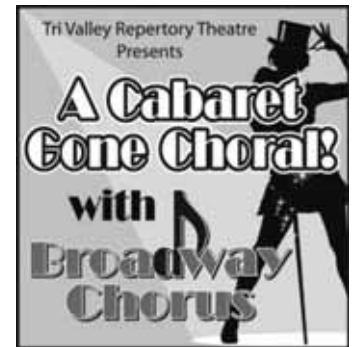
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

'A Cabaret Gone Choral!'

Tri Valley Repertory Theatre is presenting "A Cabaret Gone Choral!" this weekend, starring Broadway Chorus directors Jenny Matteucci and Daniel Lockert, and featuring the many friends and voices of Broadway Chorus. They will perform Broadway songs from Berlin to Bernstein and beyond, at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 26, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$20 adults; \$17 seniors; \$10 children. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.



tion. The event, which takes place from 4-8 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16, at Bothwell Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore, will include music, readings, apples, honey and honeycake. Bring food bank donation and a dish to share. Cost is \$15 for non-members. Call 485-1049 or visit www.tri-valleyculturaljews.org.

THE MOBILE GOURMET Food trucks at the Fairgrounds will take place from 4:30-8:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds; enter Gate 12 off Valley Avenue. Cost is \$5 admission. Email for discount entry coupons info@the-mobile-gourmet.com. Visit www.the-mobile-gourmet.com.

TRI-VALLEY WOODCARVERS 40TH ANNUAL SHOW Enjoy beautiful carvings, wood-burned and turned pieces of art, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 22-23, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. There will be soap carving for youngsters. For adults, demonstrations on carving, painting, whittling contest, silent auction and more! Meet the artists, and shop a little. Stop by the country store for great bargains. Call 829-0310.

Exhibits

'HUMANIMALS AND SUCH' This playful summer exhibit features five well-known artists' paintings and sculptures depicting humans, animals or incongruous combinations of both. "Humanimals and Such" is open July 19-Aug. 25 at the Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Visit www.firehousearts.org.

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE The Pleasanton Art League (PAL) members' exhibit, featuring local artists' work in a variety of media, will run Sept. 15 through Oct. 20 at the Harrington Gallery in the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton, with a reception and awards ceremony from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15. Also on exhibit will be the Pleasanton community drawing, "Alphabet Soup," drawings made out of initials of children who attended the Farmers Market on July 14. The drawing will be sold by a silent auction during the exhibit to benefit PAL's youth scholarship fund. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; and for one hour prior to each Firehouse Arts Center performance and during intermission. Donations are appreciated. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Fundraisers

2012 BAY AREA STEP UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME WALK & PICNIC Gather up a team and walk a mile for Down syndrome and help raise \$150K. Price includes T-shirt, barbecue lunch and many activities. Start fundraising today: www.firstgiving.com/dscba/event/t-shirt. Sponsorship opportunities available. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 7 \$30. Little Hills Ranch, 18013 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. 362-8660. www.dsconnection.org

BROTHELS, BAR ROOMS AND BANDITS The Museum on Main is holding its annual fundraiser,

Brothels, Bar Rooms and Bandits, from 6-10:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Return to Pleasanton of 1890s and enjoy gambling with friends and eating great food. Western attire encouraged. Cost of \$45 includes barbecue dinner, gambling chips and entertainment. Tickets available at Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton, or call 462-2766.

FOOTHILL FOOTBALL BBQ KICKOFF FUNDRAISER Join the fun at the Foothill Falcon's 2012 annual Football BBQ. Come meet the coaches and the senior players on this fun-filled event. This adult-only evening will feature a delicious dinner with no-host bar, live music by JamFunkShus, with dancing, silent auction, drawings and more. 6-11 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25. \$45 per person. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. www.foothillfalcons.org

LIONS FALL RESTAURANT AND SHOP WALK Pleasanton Lions Club is holding its first Fall Restaurant and Shop Walk fundraiser from 6-9 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, in downtown Pleasanton. Passports are \$25, must be purchased in advance, and entitle a guest to sample foods and beverages from 19 downtown restaurants and businesses. Contact Pam Grimes at 484-3524 or email pleasantonlionclub@comcast.net.

TRI VALLEY DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS Ruby Hill Golf Club, Castlewood County Club and Livermore Valley Tennis Club are joining together to host a benefit tennis tournament with 100% of the entry fees going to the Valley Humane Society. The tournament, with play at all levels, will take place Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-3, with divisions for men, women, mixed doubles and juniors at all levels. Visit www.trivalleydoubleschampionships.com.

Health

CONFERENCE TO TACKLE WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES Women can discover healthier lifestyle choices, healthcare ideas, and how to make informed medical choices at the WOW (Women of Wellness) Conference, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at California Center Pleasanton, 4400 Rosewood Dr., Pleasanton. Twenty-four speakers will help raise women's

consciousness about today's health care system. All day event includes continental breakfast, lunch and wine tasting. Cost is \$99. Call Anatomy Power at 736-3210 or visit www.thewowfactor.com.

WALK WITH A DOC Nonprofit "Walk with a Doc" allows you to take a walk with a doctor for the opportunity to have questions answered. The walk is at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at Pleasanton Sports Park, 5800 Parkside Dr., Pleasanton. Put on comfortable walking shoes, bring the family and friends, and walk for your health. Call 225-0500 or email healthspringstaff@gmail.com.

Lectures/ Workshops

3RD ANNUAL BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM ValleyCare Health System is presenting its third annual Breast Cancer Symposium, with a lecture from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, at Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Call 800-719-9111 or visit www.valley-care.com/educationseminars.

Live Music

RUCKATAN LATIN TRIBE The popular Alameda-based world music group, Ruckatan Latin Tribe, will be performing at 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 1, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. The seven band members, from three different continents, infuse their cultures and love of their roots into their music, a blend of Latin, reggae and rock sounds. Ticket are \$15-\$20. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Seniors

HOMETOWN HEROES Join the Dublin Senior center for its Hometown Heroes celebration to honor local vets. There will be presentations by local officials and a concert of patriotic music. Veterans' photos and biographies are now being accepted for the photo display. Submission forms and guidelines are available at the senior center front desk or online. The event is from 2:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Call 556-4511 or visit www.DublinSeniorCenter.com.

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Pleasanton, 4085 Rennellwood Way, Aug. 25 8-5 & Aug. 26 9-1
Pleasanton, 673 Abbie Street, Aug. 28, 8-12

Pleasanton, 7826 Oak Creek Drive, Sun Aug 25th, 8-12
Multi Family Garage Sale. Furniture, Household Items, Kids Clothes and Toys
Pleasanton, 8000 Canyon Creek Circle, August 25, 8am-2pm

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Phoebe

Phoebe is a 2-year-old female calico that was surrendered to Valley Humane Society in early May with four babies: Chandler, Ross, Monica and Rachel. All of her babies were adopted in June, and Phoebe anxiously awaits her fur-ever home. She has a sassy personality and would fit in well with a family with older children. Call 426-8656, visit www.valleyhumane.org or go to 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton. Hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays; noon-7 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays; and noon-4 p.m. Sundays.



AARON CZESZYNSKI

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'Affordable housing' slips across U.S. as prices rise

By JEB BING

Strengthening house prices in metropolitan areas across the country contributed to slightly lower housing affordability in the second quarter, according to the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) released this week.

The latest HOI data reveal that 73.8% of all new and existing homes sold in the second quarter were affordable to families earning the national median income of \$65,000. This is down from a record high 77.5% of homes that were affordable to median-income earners as of the first quarter, and is largely attributable to rising prices in metros across the country.

A full 92% of metros covered in the latest HOI saw their median home prices rise between the first and second quarter.

"While interest rates and overall housing affordability remain very favorable on a historic basis, the decline in the latest HOI is a positive development because it is another signal that the housing recovery is starting to take root, and it lends needed confidence to prospective buyers and sellers who have been reluctant to move forward in the current marketplace," said NAHB Chairman Barry Rutenberg, a home builder from Gainesville, Fla.

The most affordable major housing market in this year's second quarter was Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, Ohio-Pa., where 93.4% of homes sold during the period were affordable to households earning the area's median family income of \$55,700.

Also ranking among the most affordable major housing markets in respective order were Dayton, Ohio; Buffalo-Niagara Falls, N.Y.; Indianapolis-Carmel, Ind.; and Modesto, Calif.

Among smaller housing markets, Fairbanks, Alaska, topped the affordability chart with 98.7% of homes sold during the second quarter being affordable to families earning the area's median income of \$92,900. Other smaller housing markets at the top of the index include Mansfield and Springfield, Ohio; Carson City, Nev.; and Kokomo, Ind.

Meanwhile, New York-White Plains-Wayne, N.Y.-N.J. retained the title of the least affordable major housing market in the country for a 17th consecutive quarter, with just 29.4% of homes sold there being affordable to families earning the area's median income of \$68,300 as of the second quarter.

Other major metros at the bottom of the affordability chart included San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, Calif.; Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, Conn.; Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine, Calif.; and Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, Calif.; in that order.

Ocean City, N.J., retained its title as the least affordable smaller housing market in the second quarter, with just 43.8% of homes sold in the second quarter affordable to families earning the median income of \$71,100. Other small metros at the bottom of the list included San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles, Calif.; Santa Cruz-Watsonville, Calif.; Dover, Del.; and Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, Calif., respectively. ■

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11823 Kilcullin Court \$285,000
 Sun 1-4 John Ledahl 989-4994

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS
5464 Maybeck Lane \$710,000
 Sat 1:30-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

5 BEDROOMS
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6 BEDROOMS
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Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS
2170 Arroyo Ct \$135,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

3 BEDROOMS
500 Pine Hill Lane \$829,000
 Sun 12-4 Fred Hempy 437-5830

4 BEDROOMS
3136 Weymouth Ct \$549,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Leslie Faught & Kat Gaskins 251-1111

2190 Raven Road \$699,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Deanna Armario 260-2220

5802 Arthur Dr \$800,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

3147 Catawba Court \$669,000
 Sat 1-4/Sun 12-3 Julia Murtagh 997-2411

1315 Montrose Pl \$1,459,000
 Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 463-2000

20 1/2 Castlewood Dr \$1,529,000
 Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 463-2000

942 Finovino Ct \$1,098,000
 Sun 1-4 Gail Boal 577-5787

San Ramon

4 BEDROOMS
3730 Montrose Way \$799,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

135 Fallbury Ct \$885,000
 Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 463-2000

7516 Interlachen Ave \$575,000
 Sun 1-4 Kruger Group 980-9265

5 BEDROOMS
4 Majestic Oak Court \$1,225,000
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5279 ROXANNE CT
GREAT CURB APPEAL! \$475,000
 3 BR 2 BA New Carpet,New Kit,Flrs,Remodeled Baths w/tile & granite,Formal Liv.Side Yard Access! 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

DANVILLE

Open SUN 1-4 **1250 COUNTRY LANE**
CUSTOM RANCHER W/POOL! \$1,448,000
 5 BR 3.5 BA Upgraded home w/In-law Apt. Kit/Ba w/Granite. Formal Liv/Din Rrm.5 Stall Barn &raised garden 925.847.2200

FREMONT

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

HAYWARD

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

LIVERMORE

2479 CHARDONNAY WAY
BEAUTIFUL ESTATES HOME \$1,187,000
 5 BR 3.5 BA pl/spa/putting green in bcklyrd,1/3 acre lot,2 bds down, master w/fireplce, loft area upstairs 925.847.2200

852 OLD OAK RD
SOUTH LIVERMORE HOME! \$947,900
 5 BR 4 BA Like New! Large Chef's Kit, Dual Staircase,3 Car grg.Landscaped.Exceptional Home & Location! 925.847.2200

Open SAT/SUN 1-4 **5403 CARNEGIE LOOP**
BEAUTIFUL HOME W/POOL & SPA \$789,000
 6 BR 4 BA Open Flr Plan. Gourmet Kit w/granite & island, SS appl., Hrd Wd Flrs, Lrge Mstr, Pool & Spa. 925.847.2200

1801 MARINI LANE
GORGEOUS HOME IN DUNSMUIR \$745,000
 4 BR 3 BA Hrdwd Flrs.2 bdrms on main flr.Gourmet Kit.w/refrigerator included. Newer paint & carpet. 925.847.2200

523 HELIGAN LANE #4
CONTEMPORARY LIVING \$520,000
 3 BR 3.5 BA 2190 sq.ft. of living space,Plus Bonus Room! Elegantly designed/the location! 2 Car Garage 925-487-2955

2254 FOURTH STREET
WONDERFUL 1920'S HOME! \$475,000
 3 BR 2 BA Residential, Live/Work, commercial/Business. Lrge Rms w/Oak Flrs.Antique Drs. Fireplace in Fam 925.847.2200

673 FALCON WAY
COMPLETELY REMODELED \$339,000
 3 BR 2 BA New cabinets,granite & tile flooring*Baths w/tile surround & tile flrs* Beautiful bcklyrd. 925.847.2200

OAKLAND

2941 CAPP ST
FIXER UPPER IN GOOD AREA \$129,000
 2 BR 1 BA Built in 1900's.Sun-Splashed Lot.Detached Garage w/Two Storage Units.Easy Access to Fwy's 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

1541 WHISPERING OAK WAY
BEAUTIFUL HOME \$949,000
 4 BR 3.5 BA Granite Counters,Lg Bdrms & Master w/Retreat,3 Car Gar,750 sq ft Studio w/ Kit & Full Bath 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!"



Julia Murtagh
2011 Top Producer

925.997.2411

Email: jmurtagh@apr.com

DRE #01751854

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to Your Front Door"*



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REALTORS

Please see
reviews of
Julia on



The summer market is hot!

Contact me today if you are interested in buying or selling.

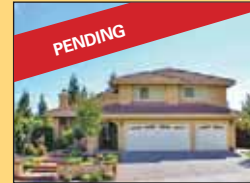


**OPEN SAT 1-4
AND SUN 12-3**

JUST LISTED

**3147 Catawba Court
Pleasanton**

Charming Vintage Hills single story home with 1527 sq. ft. 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on a nice quiet court. Upgraded bathrooms, new carpets, newer windows and roof. Nice backyard with a spa. Offered at \$669,000



PENDING

**5029 Forest Hill Dr
Pleasanton**
Beautiful 5 bed/ 3 bath, 3440 sq. ft. home on .25 acre. Great layout for family living or entertaining. Offered at \$1,049,000



**PENDING IN
3 DAYS**

**7703 Cottonwood Lane
Highland Oaks**
2000 + sq. ft. 4 bed / 2 bath desirable west side single story. Offered at \$599,000



**REPRESENTED
BUYER**

**3217 Marilyn Drive
Pleasanton**
2158 sq. ft., single story totally upgraded home with beautiful back yard. Sold for \$835,000



**REPRESENTED
BUYER**

**2217 Camino Brazos
Pleasanton**
Stunning remodeled 5 bed home on quiet street in Del Prado. 2378 sq. ft. Sold over the asking price. Sold for \$773,000



**SOLD IN 5 DAYS
OVER THE ASKING PRICE**

**7011 Corte Rosa
Pleasanton**
Spacious 4 bed/3 bath, 2800 sq. ft. home with pool in Country Fair. Upgraded kitchen, excellent floor plan, 3 car garage. Sold for \$855,000

BUYER NEEDS

- Large 5 bedroom home, prefer West Side or Happy Valley with Pool or Spa
- Family needs a 3/4 bedroom, up to 600k

SELLER REVIEW

"We highly recommend Julia Murtagh as a partner in any real estate transaction. Julia recently represented us as our Listing agent. We were quite impressed with the level of knowledge she brought and her detailed follow up and commitment to our success with the sale of our home. We do believe that her personal touch and hands on approach assisted in a prompt and painless process. We will definitely look to Julia to handle any future real estate needs." —J. Koidal

DISTRESSED SELLERS

- Are you underwater on your Mortgage?
- Are you experiencing job loss, job transfer, sickness, or divorce?
- Have you missed mortgage payments?

There are incentives and programs to help this transition. I have helped many sellers through this process. Please call me and or review my dedicated website.

www.JuliaHelpsDistressedSellers.com



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LOFLAND**



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www.blaiselofland.com
Bloland@BlaiseLofland.com
DRE# 00882113
apr.com

DANBURY PARK



PENDING

1431 GROTH CIRCLE, PLEASANTON
Premium location, two bedroom, two bathroom, approximately 1345 square feet, extensively upgraded single level home with open floor plan, adjacent to park. Kitchen has new granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Bathrooms are upgraded with granite countertops, new plumbing fixtures and hardware. Vaulted ceilings, new window blinds, new tile flooring, private atrium area, & upgraded landscaping. Conveniently located near Downtown, Mission Plaza Shopping Center, Amador Shopping Center, The Aquatic Center, and Amador Valley Community Park. OFFERED AT \$539,500

PLEASANTON VALLEY - "BIRDLAND"



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 & refinished deck! OFFERED AT AND SOLD FOR \$819,000

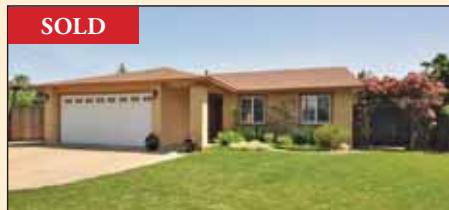
HIDDEN OAK



JUST CLOSED

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. SOLD FOR \$640,000

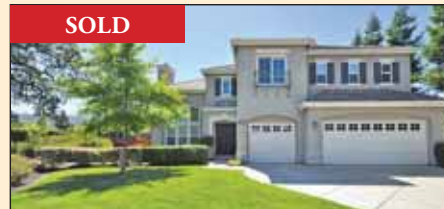
LIVERMORE



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

BRIDLE CREEK



SOLD

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 ridge 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 AND SOLD FOR \$1,399,000

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

CUSTOM HOME



SOLD

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. SOLD FOR \$1,130,000

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



3 YEARS IN A ROW!



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TRI-VALLEY REALTY

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IN PLEASANTON
IN VOLUME
AND SALES

Open Sun 1-4



7516 Interlachen Avenue, San Ramon
Lovely San Ramon Neighborhood! 4 Bedrooms, 2 baths, 1710 sq ft. Hardwood floors in Kitchen, Family room, Breakfast area and Living room. Conveniently located close to 680, schools and shopping! **\$575,000**

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

SOLD 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



1817 Spumante Place, Pleasanton
Amazing custom home in Ruby Hill! Exquisite French Country estate w/5 BD, 4.5 BA, 6,374 sq ft. Gourmet kitchen w/ granite counters, maple cabinets & hickory floors. One of a kind 27,170 sq ft view lot w/black bottom pool, rock waterfall and spa. **Offered at \$2,600,000**

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

NEW LISTING

Ventana Hills in Pleasanton



1042 Nelson Court
Home is 3179 sqft. / Lot size is 9227 sqft. 5 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths, 3 Fireplaces, 3 Car Garage. One Bedroom on Main Level, New Garage Doors. Pool, Nice Court Location. Walking Distance to Schools, Mission Park & Downtown. **Listed at \$925,000**

Danielle Peel
925.998.9692
REALTOR® DRE #01293873
salesbydani@gmail.com
www.DaniellePeel.com

I go the "extra" mile for you



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

Exclusive Open Sun Sept. 9th, 1-4pm



2461 Romano Circle, Pleasanton (Ruby Hill Ascona)
4bed/3 bath, 3252 sq.ft. totally updated home. Shows like a brand new model! New custom hardwood floors, updated gourmet kitchen, and updated bathrooms and lighting. Large private backyard. **Offered at \$1,180,000**

The Fabulous Properties Team
Donna Garrison & Susan Schall
925.980.0273 925.519.8226

www.FabulousProperties.net CA Lic #s 01713497, 01735040 & 01395362

PENDING!



140 Olympic Court
Nestled in the Hills of San Bruno on a huge 15,379 SqFt lot! 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1,440 SqFt. Offered at \$485,000

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

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

Open Sat/Sun 1-4



2190 Raven Road, Pleasanton
Single story in popular Birdland neighborhood. Open & sunny floor plan with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. 1871 +/- sq. ft. Hardwood floors, RV Access, and corner lot. Walking distance to schools. **Offered at \$699,000**

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

SOLD



Represented happy first time BUYERS 3 bedroom 2 bath with bonus room. Still under builders warranty. **Now is a great time to move up, stop paying rent and purchase your dream home.** Credit repair techniques, if necessary, covered in FREE confidential appointment. Call now, don't wait.

Dorothy Broderson
REALTOR® DRE #01779623
925.963.8800
KottingerRanchNeighbors.com



5750 Belleza Drive, Pleasanton
Gorgeous end-unit loaded with upgrades! Kitchen w/ laminate floors, new stainless appliances, convection micro. Living rm built-in wood cabinets & gas fireplace. Full driveway for extra parking. Remodeled baths incl. marble master bath, CA closet organizers, marble entry. **Offered at \$429,000**

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

OPEN HOUSE SUN 1-4PM



942 Finovino Court — Pleasanton Heights!
Over 3400 sq ft - recently remodeled, 4 bed, 3 bath. Call Gail for more information!

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

Coming Soon in Laguna Oaks!



Nestled on a wonderful court with views of the Pleasanton Ridge. With over 3800 sq ft this home boasts 4 bedrooms, a bonus room and a den. Beautiful granite kitchen overlooking a private and serene yard. Expanded family room has room for everything. One bedroom and full bath downstairs. Offered at \$1,375,000

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



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