

Pleasanton Weekly

Special second section
talks about healthy eating,
relaxation and more

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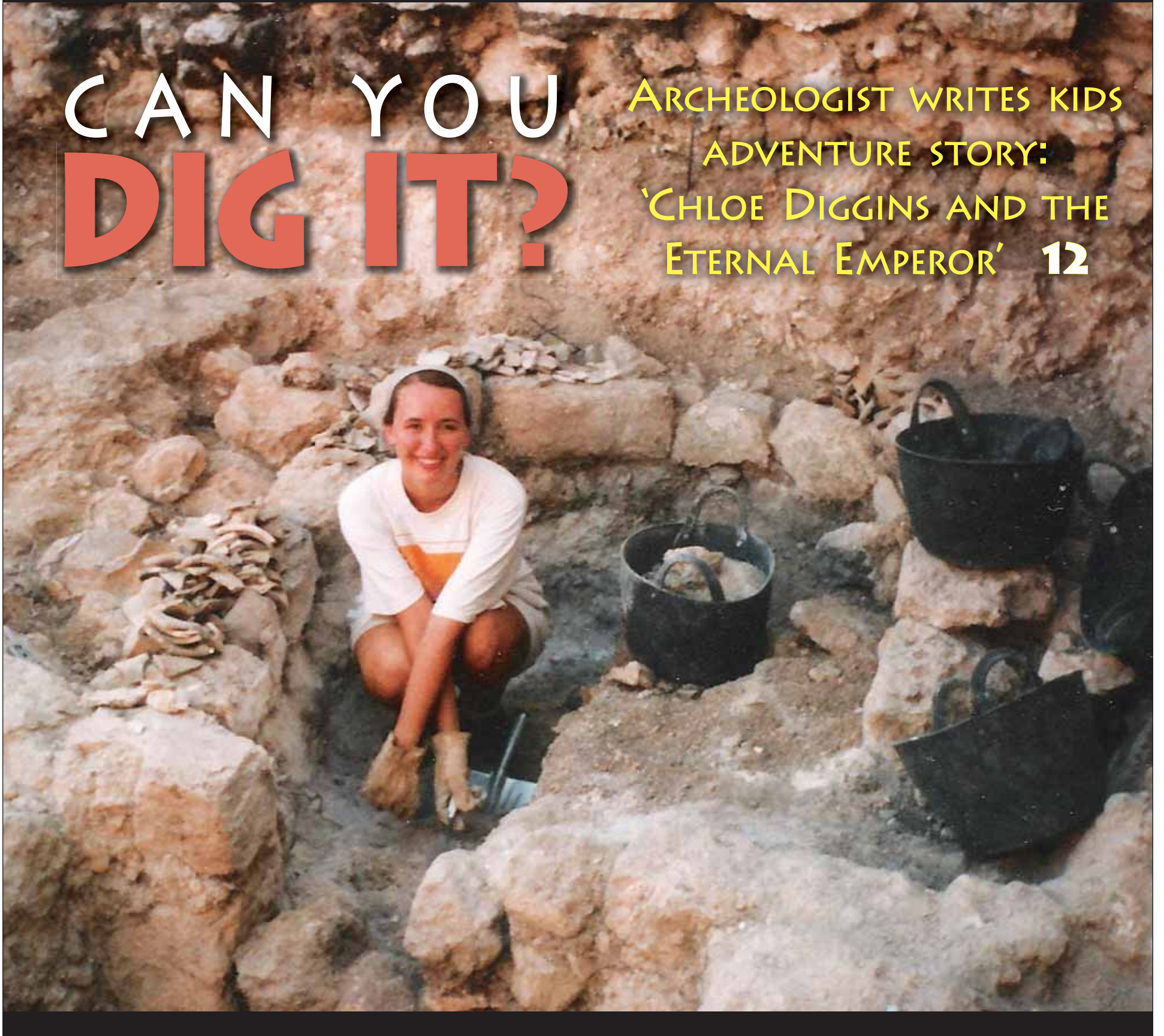


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WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

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EXPLORE THE NEW

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PRESENTING THE PROPERTIES OF OUR *Pleasanton & Livermore* OFFICES...

MARK KOTCH

BY APPT



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

SUSIE STEELE

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,550,000
Gorgeous 4bd+bonus/4.5ba, .50+/- acres nestled in the hills overlooking Pleasanton. Recently upgraded throughout, open floor plan, spiral staircase, gourmet kitchen, outdoor BBQ and more! 6221 DETJEN CT

DOUG BUENZ

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,529,000
THIS IS IT! Gorgeous 4bd plus office plus bonus room in Castlewood, extensively remodeled, private yard, pebble tech pool, views of valley and more! 20 1/2 CASTLEWOOD DRIVE

ANNI HAGFELDT

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,449,000
Million dollar views from this stunning custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. Located on a private road, backs to open space, easy access to 580/680, close to downtown. 4246 REMILLARD CT

MARK KOTCH

BY APPT



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

MOXLEY TEAM

BY APPT



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

MARTA RIEDY

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$1,262,000
Stroll along the Vineyards. Beautiful ONE STORY South Livermore Ponderosa Legacy home. No rear neighbors, backs to olive grove 3034 DANIELLE LANE

MARTA RIEDY

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$949,000
Charming front picket fence home in the heart of the Livermore wine country! Master bedroom downstairs, gourmet kitchen, huge side driveway and so much more! 2946 LUSITANA COURT

JULIA MURTAGH

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$669,000
Wonderful Single Story home in Vintage Hills 4 bed / 2 bath on a quiet court, nice size back yard with Spa and low maintenance. Newer Roof, windows and Brand new Master Bath. 3147 CATAWBA COURT

MOXLEY TEAM

SUN 1:00-4:00



DUBLIN \$466,500
Highly sought after end-unit. Open floor plan, newly constructed. Spacious living room, upgraded kitchen with island. 3 Private Patios & so much more! 3456 PALERMO WAY



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

From Olympics to a job, it's tough

The London Olympics are already history for most of us, but for many of the athletes the next chapters of their lives are just beginning and could be the toughest. Justin Wilcock of Pleasanton knows the challenges Olympians face when their years of concentration on athletic achievement — often most of their lifetime by the time they reach the Olympics — are over. Coming home from the excitement and global camaraderie often is a major emotional letdown. Some go back to school. Others look for jobs. Every one of them, except for the few who will continue to train for the 2016 games, face uncertainties about their future for the first time.



Justin Wilcock

The connection paid off with Waste Management, which works with the athletes group, offering Wilcock a job. Joe Camero, the company's communications specialist, said the training, focus, teamwork, concentration and goal-setting skills Wilcock learned as an athlete also gave him the same talent he needed in the corporate world.

Wilcock has been promoted several times at Waste Management and now works with the company's major customers to help them achieve LEED and other green building and environmental merits, with a recent demolition and remodeling job for the Berkeley libraries accomplished with 93% of the materials being recycled away from landfills, thanks to Wilcock's management.

Justin and Carol have two children: Samuel, 2 years old, and Estelle, 4 months. Samuel took his first dive off a real diving board the other day but other than coaching, his dad says he's retired from the sport. He's still involved, however, both as a board director for USA Diving and as the Athletes' Advisory Council representative for USA divers. He also touts the success of Athletes to Business where he urges friends to send their resumes as they seek career opportunities after a lifetime of athletics.

It's not easy because athletes, who truly aim for the gold, as Wilcock did for many years, pay little attention to a life after sports. The real world comes crashing down, usually when they quit competing and often in their 20s. Wilcock recalls his BYU friends commending him on being able to call himself an Olympian on his job resumes, but he found that most employers would rather see a few years of "on a real job" experience. Athletes to Business blends that experience with corporate needs, working with companies such as Waste Management that have indoctrination and training programs for new hires that make the transition for athletes such as Wilcock easier and successful.

Diving is still part of his trait, Wilcock admits. If 2-year-old Samuel wants to try as an Olympic diver someday, his dad promises to coach him all the way. ■

Wilcock, now 33, an account manager in Waste Management's commercial recycling group in Oakland, became mesmerized with the Olympics during the 1984 games. In elementary school in Smithfield, Utah, he took up gymnastics and at age 12 took his first swimming pool dives. He was hooked. Perfecting his skills in middle school, he became a champion diver in high school and at Brigham Young University. After three years at BYU, he took a break to train full-time, moving to Houston where he was coached by Kenny Armstrong, who had also coached Laura Wilkinson as she competed successfully to win a gold medal in the 2000 Olympics.




After making the 2004 diving team, Wilcock suffered a stress fracture in his back during a weight training session. He continued to dive with the team but in the end, the back injury forced him out. He thought about trying again in 2008, but age and the injury ended his dream of becoming a winning Olympian. So what to do? His life, at least since he was 6, had been focused on sports, even while pursuing a degree at BYU, which he received in 2005. Diving, Wilcock realized, as other Olympians returning from London also are now realizing, is not a career path.

By this time married, Wilcock and his wife Carol, a photographer who had clients in San Francisco, moved to the Bay Area and four years ago to Pleasanton where Carol's sister lives. He worked for a time at Skopolini's Pizza in Concord, which is owned by Kent Ipsen, the father of current Olympic diver Kristian Ipsen, and was steered to Athletes to Business, a San Diego-based organization that helps athletes with job placement and career transition.

About the Cover

Archeologist Jennifer Amiel takes part in a dig outside Jerusalem in 1996 as part of an international crew working at a Byzantine period pilgrimage site, dating from 750-1200 AD. Contributed photo. Cover design by Kristin Herman.

Vol. XIII, Number 34


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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Do the Republican and Democratic National Conventions influence your vote?



Misti Traylor
Stay-at-home-mom

No, they do not. I watch the Today Show and get the recaps, but it doesn't sway my vote. We know what one platform is because we've seen it for the last four years; we've been down that road and it's rather dusty and desolate.

Shaurya Gupta
Student

I'm not old enough to vote yet, but I do believe that conventions directly impact voters. They give a more detailed personal look at the candidates rather than focusing strictly on policy.



Peggy Gibson
Grandma extraordinaire

I don't watch them in their entirety, but I make sure to catch the women's speeches. I like Michelle Obama and Ann Romney very much. I vote people and not parties, so the conventions don't have an impact on how I vote.

Russ Trapani
Sales and marketing

No, but they do help solidify my vote. It's like going to a pep rally; you already know which team you are rooting for, but it's fun. Will anything either one of them says convince me? No. Just get in there and do the job. We're ready for that as a nation.



Mike Payne
Elementary school head custodian

Not at all, because I'm an independent thinker. I know that they can't actually do anything they say unless the Congress and Senate work with them, and they don't help each other.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DATE:
September 16 -
4:00-7:00pm

Castlewood Country Club's tennis department will be hosting an Open House event for all juniors and adults in the surrounding area. This is a great opportunity to see first-hand what our tennis program is all about. We will have our amazing staff on hand to make you feel at home while playing games on the courts. You may even learn a thing or two in the process!

And we can't host an event without a few goodies from the kitchen, so we'll be serving up some hors d'oeuvres and refreshments too!

Castlewood Membership Director, Jami Rodriguez, will also be available during this event to answer any questions you may have about the Club and membership options.

If you're interested in joining us on September 16th, please contact the Tennis Shop at tennis@castlewoodcc.org. We hope you can make it!



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DIGEST

Sept. 11 remembrance

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will host a brief ceremony to observe the anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, beginning at 9:45 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the flagpole outside of Fire Station No. 1, 3560 Nevada St. in Pleasanton.

Fire Chief James Miguel will make brief comments, followed by the ceremonial ringing of the bell in memory of those who died in the line of duty, and the playing of bagpipes. The observance will be followed by refreshments and an open house of the Fire Department headquarters and Fire Station No. 1.

Art Walks start tomorrow

Tomorrow's weekly walk in Pleasanton organized each Saturday by World Walk to Wellness is an Art Walk through the northern half of downtown. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot next to City Hall, 200 Old Bernal Ave., for a tour of the art with guest leaders Nancy and Gary Harrington, who have donated several of the sculptures. As the Harringtons lead the 90-minute tour, they will share stories about the artists and talk about plans for future pieces.

A guided tour of the downtown's southern public art will take place Oct. 13; both will be repeated Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. A quicker-paced overview of the art will take place Oct. 20.

This is the second year that World Walk to Wellness has hosted Saturday morning walks. Contact walks@worldwalktowellness.org to receive weekly emails of walk locations.

Calling guitar fans

Guitar Fest LIVE! returns to Livermore next weekend for the fourth year with free workshops and concerts, and an Acoustic Guitar Competition, for non-professionals 18 and older, with finals taking place Sunday afternoon.

The festival opens with a free concert Friday night, Sept. 14, and continues with free guitar clinics from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, and more free performances that afternoon and evening. A guitar equipment showcase will be open to the public 3-6 p.m.

The Larry Carlton Trio will perform Saturday night, the only event that is not free. For a complete schedule, go to www.guitarfestlive.com.

Corrections

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

City OKs gas station, Starbucks drive-through near Safeway

Construction will start next month with both facilities to open in early 2013

By JEB BING

Safeway was given the OK by the Pleasanton City Council on Tuesday night to start construction on a self-serve gas station and a new Starbucks coffee shop with drive-through service next to its Lifestyle supermarket at Valley and Bernal avenues.

The council voted 4-1 to approve the Safeway plan after more than an hour of discussion over potential traffic tie-ups at the already-busy intersection, one of the city's most

congested. In the end, the only stipulation made, however, at the insistence of Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, was that Safeway also install at least three electric vehicle charging stations in the store's parking lot.

Councilman Matt Sullivan, who opposed building the new Safeway supermarket three years ago, also voted against allowing the company to add a gas station at its store.

Safeway representative David Bowlby said construction of both

the gas station and the coffee shop will start next month with both likely to open early next year.

When the new Starbucks is completed, Starbucks will close its existing coffee house in the shopping center across Bernal. Starbucks also operates a coffee shop inside the Lifestyle supermarket as well as at its other supermarket in Pleasanton, located at Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue.

Preliminary work has already

started at the Lifestyle store site where Starbucks and the gas station will be built. The work is part of overall infrastructure work to prepare the 3/4-acre site for its new uses. With Tuesday night's council approval, Safeway can now apply for permits to start construction work in earnest.

The three-bay, nine-pump self-service gasoline station will be built

See **COUNCIL** on Page 7



CAMMIE CLARK

Traditions live on

Caelan Lynch takes center stage, cheered on by (left) Elizabeth Brennan and Katie Olrick as the three from the McBride School of Irish Dance perform the championship treble reel for the crowd in the Irish Pavilion at last weekend's 147th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games at the Fairgrounds.

Candidate drops bid for school board to focus on class size reduction

English professor hopes parcel tax will be on May ballot

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The short-lived fourth candidate for Pleasanton school board says he dropped out of the race to dedicate his time to reducing class size in the district.

Sean Kullman, a two-year resident of Pleasanton and a former English professor at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, has started the website PleasantonEducation.org. His aim is to put together a parcel tax initiative for May.

"I've gone to enough school board meetings. I felt my time would be better spent working on a parcel tax to reduce class sizes," Kullman said. "I'm going to be meeting with the superintendent and the board to figure out what the cost would be."

Kullman gave up his tenured position to move west and become a stay-at-home dad when his wife took a position at Stanford University. He said he's been focused on education since before he had children.

Class sizes in Pleasanton elementary schools are at 30-1 this year. That's due to cuts in funding from California, which initiated a class-size reduction program in 1996 after a Tennessee study showed children from kindergarten to third grade did better academically at ratios of 13 to 17 to one.

The boost in class sizes led the

district to bring back staggered start times so that students in grades 1 to 3 could have smaller classes in the morning or afternoon to focus on reading.

"I think they had to do it," Kullman said. "If you ask someone (in the district) whether they wanted to do it, they'd say no."

But with 45 minutes less class time a day, Kullman worries about students getting the minimum instructional time — 50,400 minutes — required by the state. Staggered start times give students 115 minutes over that minimum time, according to school officials.

Kullman said parents are "absolutely concerned" and many have reacted by hiring private tutors.

"I know a number of parents who have invested in online programs to augment what's being done in schools, particularly when it comes to math skills and language arts," he said.

Kullman is troubled about the possibility that children without parents who can afford tutors and online programs will get left behind.

"I worry that large class sizes will affect all learners, but children from families struggling financially will feel the most impact," Kullman said.

See **SCHOOL** on Page 7

Pleasanton candidates support new senior housing

1st forum takes 2-1/2 hours to accommodate Chinese translations

For Chinese unable to speak or understand English, Pleasanton's first candidates' forum was the place to be.

Held in a meeting room at Pleasanton Gardens, a senior residence on Kottinger Drive, the forum included the two candidates for mayor and four for City Council in the upcoming Nov. 6 municipal

election.

Because nearly a third of those invited to the forum are Chinese with limited English language skills, an interpreter was hired who carefully and slowly translated each candidate's remarks after only a few sentences.

The translations took nearly twice as long as comments made in

English by each of the candidates, stretching out the meeting.

Even so, the candidates talked about plans to rebuild both Pleasanton Gardens and Kottinger Place with a new multi-story building on city-owned property that could accommodate several hundred seniors who need low-cost subsidized housing.

"A community is measured by how well it takes care of its families, including its seniors," said Pleasanton City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio, a candidate for mayor.

With regard to rebuilding Pleasanton Gardens, she said she had been following the meetings of the

See **CANDIDATES** on Page 7

TAKE US ALONG



The Big Easy: Doreen McMillen and Grover Spitznagel, who have lived in Pleasanton since 1988, visit the Lafayette Cemetery in New Orleans with their Weekly after Grover won a \$5,000 Fender guitar designed by Eddie Van Halen and a trip for two to New Orleans to see Van Halen's last rock concert of 2012. Grover was the Grand Prize winner of a radio contest sponsored by Nikki Sixx at Live Nation.

Chamber hosting candidates forum Thursday

Early morning event at Veterans Memorial Building downtown

By JEB BING

With election season right around the corner, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will host a Candidates Forum next Thursday, Sept. 13, for those seeking election as mayor of Pleasanton and to the City Council.

The free event will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Pleasanton.

Brad Hirst, a 44-year resident of Pleasanton and owner of Eq-

uity Enterprises, will serve as moderator.

Scott Raty, president and CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber, said the candidates will face questions about community priorities, including transportation, workforce housing and unfunded pension liabilities. They will also be asked about efforts they would support to help businesses in Pleasanton.

Current council members Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio are competing to succeed Jennifer

Hosterman, who will term-out as mayor after an eight-year run. Karla Brown, Erlene DeMarcus, Mike Harris and Jerry Pentin are running for the two open seats on the council.

For more information about the forum, sign on to the Chamber's website at www.pleasanton.org or call Susie Weiss, the chamber's manager of communications and special events at 846.5858, ext. 201. ■

Stay on top of police action

Sign up for safety alerts, traffic advisories and more

The Pleasanton Police Department has launched a new community notification service, called NIXLE, to communicate with residents and visitors to Pleasanton.

Through Nixle, the Police Department can send text messages, emails and Internet posts with public safety alerts, crimes in progress, traffic advisories, missing persons and press releases. The service is free to subscribers who have text plans with their

cell phone providers; standard text message rates may otherwise be applied.

Subscribers will receive real-time safety information by texting their zip code to 888777 or by visiting www.nixle.com. Once registered, users can customize the types of alerts they wish to receive.

There is no spam or advertising associated with Nixle messages and this service is no cost to the

city, according to a press release from the Police Department.

Founded in 2007, Nixle is available to municipal, county and state government agencies, and more than 4,800 government agencies throughout the United States are using it to communicate with their residents.

For more information, visit www.pleasantonpd.org/police/ or www.nixle.com.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

PAWS IN THE PARK



Lace up your sneakers and leash up your dog for a day in the park!

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Proceeds benefit the lifesaving efforts and programs of Valley Humane Society.

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 5

task force assigned to consider a redevelopment since she was first elected.

"This facility is a tremendous asset to the city," she said. "I am appalled that it has taken this long to make a decision. We need this housing. Our need for senior housing is only going to grow."

She said the City Council will ultimately make the decision on the number of units, adding that an increased number of units often allows for an increase in services, such as shuttle service and an on-site director. There is \$15.9 million in the affordable housing fund that has been set aside for just this type of purpose, Cook-Kallio said.

Pleasanton City Councilman Jerry Thorne, also a candidate for mayor, said he strongly supports the Pleasanton Gardens/Kottinger Place project.

"I would like to see a density that makes sense, but we need as many units as we can get to accommodate our growing senior population," Thorne said. "The plan presented will most likely be somewhere around 190 units."

"I believe that the amount being requested from the low cost housing fund is actually a \$9 million loan," he added. "However, this is the kind of project the fund was intended for and this project has been in the planning stages for many years. It is time to move it forward."

Businesswoman Karla Brown, a candidate for City Council, said she had attended the Kottinger Place Redevelopment Task Force meeting the previous night so had an up-to-date understanding of where it's at in terms of the redevelopment plans.

"This task force is considering an option to improve the living conditions of our seniors currently living in Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens," she told those attending the forum.

"At this point, Kottinger Place units are non-ADA compliant and therefore cannot serve many of our seniors," she said.

"These units are not insulated and most cannot accept even a window air conditioner for comfort in 100-degree days. I don't think that is acceptable for my own mother, and I don't think it is acceptable for your mom or dad either."

The task force hopes to present its plans to the City Council next month, Brown said.

City Council candidate and trans-

portation consultant Erlene DeMarcus told the candidates forum participants that the redevelopment of these residences is very long overdue.

"These are your homes and they need to be remodeled," she said. "It's shameful it has taken so long to do so. I know how difficult it is for seniors to move. I hope that any redevelopment project can be done in stages to avoid that discomfort."

Pleasanton resident Mike Harris, another candidate for City Council, said he is too new in the race to know all the details of the Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens redevelopment plan, "so I'm unable to take a position on it."

"I also don't know the source for funding, or the amount of funding, or how much funding the plan requires," he explained. "While I'm opposed to subsidized housing, I would likely support affordable housing for seniors. Still, I can't take a position since I do not know the details."

"My answer on the redevelopment question about these senior housing units is a resounding yes," said Planning Commission chair-

man and Pleasanton businessman Jerry Pentin, also a candidate for City Council:

"I've worked on community projects at Pleasanton Gardens with Pleasanton North Rotary over the past 20 years," he added. "If you spend a few hours on site working on these facilities, you'll come to know they're old and can't be renovated."

"I also served on the Kottinger Place Redevelopment Task Force for its first three years and am disappointed the task force, now in its ninth year, is no farther along than when I left it six years ago," Pentin said.

He also said that while he would support the proposed 189-unit density, he added: "I think if we can take that to over 200 units that would be wonderful."

"And as much as I appreciate the bucolic cottage setting of both Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens, there's a reality check that doubling the density means some changes will have to take place," he added. ■

—Jeb Bing

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

in front of the main entrance to Wells Fargo Bank with Starbucks planned for the remainder of the site, between the gas station and the northbound I-680 off-ramp.

The station will have the same hours as the supermarket, operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A small operations building will house the station cashier, where small items, such as candy, will be sold, but the 24-foot-high kiosk will not be a mini-mart, Safeway officials said.

Three sets of three fueling pumps will line each of three

bays, with dual hoses to accommodate 15 vehicles at a time, with a "stacking" area capable of holding another 18 vehicles. The pumps will offer low- and high-octane gasoline and diesel fuel.

Two underground fuel storage tanks will each hold 30,000 gallons of fuel, with one for low-octane gasoline and the second divided into three compartments to hold mid- and high-octane gasoline and diesel fuel. Suppliers will make an estimated three deliveries a day over a 24-hour period seven days a week.

A new CVS store is also planned at the southern boundary of the Safeway Gateway Center site. ■

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 5

man said. "Regardless of family income, small class sizes allow for more individualized attention and an opportunity to catch learning differences early on before a student develops serious skill deficits."

Kullman hopes that a targeted parcel tax focused specifically on reducing student-teacher ratios will be enough to motivate voters to approve a ballot measure. Two parcel tax campaigns have failed so far to garner the minimum two-thirds plus one vote required to pass. ■

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SEMINAR LOCATION

San Ramon Regional Medical Center
South Conference Room
South Building
7777 Norris Canyon Road
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SPEAKERS

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Blue Devils champs

Pleasanton high school students participated in the Concord Blue Devils B Drum Corp International World Championships this summer, coming in second place to win a silver medal. The drum line won the gold medal, coming in first place. Three of the drum line are current and former Foothill Band members: Grace Miller, class of 2012; Kyle Banda, 2013; Cameron Creek, 2014). Miller is a three time DCI Gold Medal World Championship member. Show in the photo are (back row, l-r) Brendan Ziefel (Amador), Matt Aubel (Amador), Matt Abbey (Foothill), Cameron Creek (Foothill), Alex Gooyandeh (Foot-



hill), Brandon Lawson (Foothill), Kevin Little (Foothill), Kyle Banda (Foothill); front: Andrew Odello (instructor), Grace Miller (Foothill), Tiffany Castelan (instructor), Ryan

Myers (Foothill), Sohrab Nawim (Foothill), Paige Arcieri (Foothill), Mikey Sowell (Foothill), and Eren Aktari (instructor). For more information, go to www.bluedevils.org.

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Harvest Festival heads to Pleasanton

The Pleasanton Harvest Festival Original Art and Craft Show returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds next weekend for its 40th anniversary tour.

The show, which opens at 10 a.m. next Friday, will feature over 24,000 handmade arts and crafts, including jewelry, woodturnings, art and photography, specialty foods, clothing, dEcor and more. In addition to the handcrafted wares, this year's show will offer special entertainment and live music, artist demonstrations, foods and prize drawings.

"Forty years ago, we never imagined how much this event would grow," said Nancy Glenn, Harvest Festival show manager.

"We started as a small community marketplace in San Francisco where artists could congregate to create and sell their products," she said. "Now, we hold eight shows in California, one show in Arizona and one show in Nevada. We're so proud to have such a wonderful group of talented craftspeople and loyal attendees year after year."

The Cash Tribute Band featuring James Garner will headline this year's outdoor stage with musical hits of the legendary "Man in Black" — Johnny Cash. Also appearing on the main stage will be comedian and entertainer John Park with his



A customer browses for vases at a recent Harvest Festival. The festival's Original Art and Craft Show returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds starting Sept. 14.

"Funny Waiter Show."

For the fourth year, the Harvest Festival will support the Alameda County Community Food Bank by offering \$2 off admission to anyone who brings a monetary donation or non-perishable food items to the show. The Food Bank serves one of every six residents living in the county, Glenn said.

The event is also partnering with the Oakley Raiders as the official show charity and will offer the youth sports organization half of the proceeds from every shopping bag sold. The Oakley Raiders also will host the interactive KidZone, which is an area set aside for children to participate in hands-on arts and crafts.

All artisans featured at the Harvest Festivals are vetted by the Harvest Festival management team to ensure products are all handmade and made in the U.S. The juried process also ensures a rich mix and diversity of merchandise.

Festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Sept. 14-15; and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16.

Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors at least 62, \$4 for teens between 13 and 17, and no charge for those 12 and under. Tickets are valid for re-entry all three days of the show. For more information, call 800-346-1212 or visit www.harvestfestival.com. ■

BART schedules hearing on extending service to Livermore

BART officials will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19, over its plan to extend train service to Livermore.

The project, which is being developed in partnership with the city of Livermore, would extend BART 4.8 miles from the East Dublin/Pleasanton station along I-580 to a new station in the vicinity of the Isabel Avenue/I-580 Interchange.

The new station would accept bus to BART transfers and would include express bus services linking inter-regional rail service, both Livermore and Sandia laboratories, major residential and business dis-

tricts in Livermore and from proposed offsite parking lots.

BART is soliciting comments on the scope of the proposed Draft Environmental Impact Report needed before the extension project can begin. At the Sept. 19 hearing, the public will be invited to talk about alternatives, impacts and mitigation measures that should be studied as part of the EIR process.

The meeting will be held in the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. ■

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

While not perfect, the state's pension reform proposal has merit

On the final day of the 2012 state legislative session, the Legislature passed AB 340, a pension reform measure that while a long way from solving California's ongoing problem with unfunded pension liabilities, is a significant step forward in a Democratic-controlled Statehouse and Legislature that has long hesitated to address an issue that both unions and its own party members prefer to ignore. The League of California Cities which supported AB 340, applauded both the Assembly and the Senate in passing the measure by large margins.

In a statement, the League board of directors last Thursday said that it views this legislation as a substantial step forward in implementing pension reform largely in keeping with the League's own comprehensive pension reform principles. The League recognized that there are numerous questions of implementation and interpretation that will need to be resolved in the days and months ahead. The League and the cities it represents, including Pleasanton where Vice Mayor Jerry Thorne is a League officer, must now continue to be vigilant in advocating for effective pension reform to ensure the intent of this historic legislation is respected. The League board also congratulated the elected and appointed city leaders of California for their pension reform actions to date, including Pleasanton's, and urged them to continue their leadership on this vital issue at the local level.

If signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, and his signature is expected, the legislation would save an estimated \$42 to \$55 billion over the next 30 years according to a statement issued by CalPERS, the state's employee retirement system. The proposal applies to all public employers and pension plans on or after Jan. 1, 2013, with the exception of the University of California as well as charter cities and charter counties that do not participate in CalPERS.

AB 340 makes changes to public employee pensions including establishing a cap on the amount of salary that can be used to calculate a retirement benefit, raising the retirement age for both public safety and miscellaneous employees, implementing cost-sharing, using the average of the final three years to calculate final compensation, implementing a 180 day sit-out period for retired persons to return to work in the retirement system in which they receive a pension, defines ipension compensation, a pension forfeiture requirement for public employees convicted of committing a felony in connection with their job, the elimination of airtime, pension holidays and pension spiking. All aspects of the legislation apply to new employees after Jan. 1, 2013. Four provisions, cost sharing, the six month sit-out requirement, and the elimination of airtime and pension holidays, also apply to current members in the system.

Many of the provisions of AB 340 are also contained in the new contract negotiated between the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton and the unionized firefighters in the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. It's good to see the legislature in sync with at least two municipalities that are taking strong action to start putting their fiscal houses in order when it comes to unfunded pension liabilities that are affecting our state and communities. ■

GUEST OPINION

By JOAN LAURSEN

No school board election this November — what does it mean?

One might argue that no challengers mean that the community is mostly satisfied with the performance of its school board. There is probably some truth to this. While there may be concerns with particular decisions made by the board, or by individual votes of any single trustee, it takes a lot of passion and resources to fight and win a seat against three incumbents. But perhaps even more daunting is the leap one must make from individual advocacy to making policy.

However, I would argue that there is more than a little fatalism evidenced in our local election cycle. Do folks really believe that they can make a difference? School communities feel pretty powerless in the face of never-ending bad news from Sacramento. Despite our continued success story as a school district, board members have had four years of increasingly difficult decisions to make. Even in good times, the job is challenging! And 40 years of court decisions and legislative policies have resulted in fewer and fewer truly local decisions. It seems the only time legislators trust local leaders is when there are cuts to make — when there's money, it always comes with strings attached!

So since school districts are, in fact, state agencies carrying out the state function of providing public education, why do we need locally elected boards anyway? Actually, there are a number of so-called education reformers who think elected school boards should be abolished.

No less than Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, has said "he favors mayoral control, appointed school boards or some type of top-down authority ... elected school boards in urban districts lead to a perpetual churn of superintendents, leadership and policies." (The Times-Picayune, 2009)

Reed Hastings, Netflix CEO and formerly State Board of Education president, feels that elected school boards are too subject to political pressure, and to maintain student achievement growth we need longer-termed leaders. "It is the system that says you have to make a difference in your short term," Hastings said of school board members, "that is the fundamental problem." (The Advocate, 2011) A charter school advocate, Hastings thinks a better model is an appointed nonprofit board, where sitting members select new ones.

But where in appointed self-perpetuating boards is the voice of the public? According to the National School Boards Association, we've had community members overseeing the public education of our youth since 1721 — with elected members since 1826! I believe that in a republic such as ours, it is not efficiency that is most valued, but the ability of the local community to have a voice in its own governance and the education of its children.

For Pleasanton, a highly educated wealthy community, our task is to deepen our "bench." We must encourage others to get involved and mentor future board members, whether parent volunteers or business leaders. We must, by our actions, show that their participation does make a difference. And we must continue our efforts to promote our excellent school district and help our community understand the challenges and opportunities we face together. Our students depend on it.

Joan Laursen was elected to a four-year term on the Pleasanton Unified School District board in 2010. She currently serves as board president.



Joan Laursen

Don't leverage city's name

Dear Editor,

I respectfully disagree with Fred Norman's request for the formation of a Peace Commission.

I would defend Fred's right to speak his mind and have his opinion heard. However, if he wants to have a platform from which to speak his mind he has many options. For example, he can pay for and form his own political action committee. He can also hold rallies (at his own expense) in the town square and draw like-minded people.

I object to giving any group access to a platform that leverages the "Pleasanton" name. If anyone or any group would like to have the use of

our town's name, they should get themselves elected or get a ballot initiative approved by the citizens of Pleasanton that authorizes the creation of any given commission.

The citizens of Pleasanton should have the right to directly vote on how our name and reputation is used within our city, state and nation. Fred's intent may be noble but it opens the door for abuse by unelected and unaccountable citizens.

Rick Juarez

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

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LETTERS

Staggered reading 'causing havoc'

Dear Editor,

I am a Pleasanton resident and a parent of kindergarten, second- and fourth-grade children here at Pleasanton schools.

I would like to point out how incorrect your statement in the Weekly (Aug. 31, "PUSD revises plan for special education students") was regarding the staggered reading. You stated that the "initial flak has died down." This is so far from the truth.

Janel Sloan may have been the only one to attend the meeting this time but she speaks for so many of us parents. You stop by any of the elementary schools and you will find that nearly all of the parents are dissatisfied with the change. It's causing havoc at the schools, totally disrupting parents' schedules and work days, and we fail to see any benefit to our kids' education, nor has any benefit been proven to us.

It's a mess. I do understand that there are budget cuts. I do understand that times are difficult for PUSD. But is this the way to fix the problem? I don't think so. And Janel and I are far from the only ones of this opinion.

Marie Stapleton

POLICE BULLETIN

3 arrested in interrupted burglary

Three young men were arrested Tuesday afternoon in an apparent attempted residential burglary in the area of Blacow Street and Valley Avenue.

Officers initially responded to a citizen's report of a suspicious looking black Chrysler 300 sedan whose occupants were getting out, knocking on doors and appeared to be "casing" the area. Police observed the vehicle at the end of Blacow Court, solely occupied by a man on a cell phone who was attempting to conceal himself by lying down in the driver's seat.

Police dispatchers received several 911 calls reporting two men vaulting fences and running through yards in the same area; a contractor spotted the men fleeing a yard on Hall Court while another officer saw them running eastbound on Valley Avenue. Both were stopped and detained by Pleasanton police.

As officers questioned the driver and two men, a third officer checked the back yard of a home on Blacow Street and saw several indications of forced entry attempts. The yard backs up to the rear of the Hall Court home from which the two suspects fled, and witnesses placed all three subjects in the sedan.

Oakland residents Keandre Valentine, 18, and Torin Armbrust and Kenneth Joseph Jr., both 20, were arrested on charges of burglary and booked at Santa Rita Jail. No additional homes appeared to have been entered and po-

lice are unsure whether any property was actually taken.

In other police reports:

- A 21-year-old Pleasanton resident was arrested Aug. 29 after allegedly making threats to a Wells Fargo Bank teller.

Benjamin Horton, a customer of the Wells Fargo inside Safeway on Santa Rita Road, became upset at a bank overdraft fee, according to police reports. He told the teller he had an explosive device and would "blow everyone up," then left the store, police said.

Horton had arrived at the bank at 1:30 p.m., though the incident was not reported until about 3:30 p.m., according to reports. At that time, police did an area check and found Horton outside in the vicinity of the bank; he did not have explosives, police said. He was arrested on charges of making threats to commit crimes resulting in death or great bodily injury and was booked in Santa Rita Jail.

- Three men were arrested Sept. 1 after a resident called Pleasanton police about an auto burglary. The witness gave a description of the suspects' vehicle, a late-model black BMW, at the CVS on Rosewood Drive.

An officer spotted the vehicle and followed it from Santa Rita Road onto westbound Interstate 580, then pulled the car over on Dougherty Road at Dublin Boulevard. The men inside matched the description that the witness at CVS gave.

Three men, one from Antelope and two from San Francisco, were arrested on charges of possession of property reported stolen, including an iPod Touch. All three were booked in Santa Rita Jail.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Aug. 30

Theft

- 11:32 a.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive; fraud
- 1:39 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; fraud

Auto burglary

- 6:55 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Dr
- 7:28 p.m. in the 400 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 8:05 p.m. in the 400 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 11:14 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Aug. 31

Theft

- 9:50 a.m. in the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; fraud
- 11:15 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; petty theft

- 5:41 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, possession of burglary tools

Auto burglary

- 3:40 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 11:15 p.m. at Rosewood Drive

Sept. 1

Theft

- 12:23 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 6:32 p.m. in the 6800 block of Paseo Santa Cruz; fraud

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:07 a.m. in the 700 block of Main St, DUI
- 4:09 p.m. in the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road; paraphernalia possession
- 5:26 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 11:20 p.m. at the intersection of First St and Arendt Wy; public intoxication

Sept. 2

Theft

- 11:24 a.m. in the 2100 block of Rheem Drive; fraud
- 3:25 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Auto burglary

- 5:42 a.m. in the 5500 block of Pleasant Hill Road
- 12:50 p.m. in the 4100 block of Suffolk Way

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:40 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; marijuana possession
- 10:54 p.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

Sept. 3

Theft

- 4:37 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:38 p.m. in the 900 block of Riesling Drive; fraud

OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

Arline Mills

TRACY — Arline Mills, a long-time Pleasanton resident, died here at her daughter's home on August 17, 2012. She was 90.

Mrs. Mills moved to Pleasanton in 1952 with her husband, Frederick "Ed" Mills, and they lived in the same home on East Angela Street for more than 55 years until Ed died in July 2008.

The only child of Charles and Alice Clifford, she was born June 8, 1922 in Dunmore, PA. She graduated from Dunmore High. She was the valedictorian of both her 8th grade class and her high school class of 1942.

She was active in Girl Scouts and achieved the organization's highest honor, the Golden Eaglet Award. After moving to California, she was a leader and a trainer for 30 years with the Girl Scouts.



While raising her children, she volunteered with the Amador Valley High School Parent-Teacher Association and was named an honorary life member in 1967. She was active with the PTA throughout her girls' education. She also was honored by Rainbow for her service and led a variety of charitable activities in Pleasanton.

After graduating from high school, she attended and graduated from the Palmer School of Business in Scranton. She worked as a secretary in Scranton and, after relocating to Pleasanton, worked for 24 years as a church secretary at what is now Centerpointe Presbyterian Church.

During her childhood, Ed lived a few houses down the street. He was six years her senior. They married on July 4, 1942 while he was on leave from the U.S. Army during World War II.

After the war, they moved to California in 1950 because Ed's profession as a surveyor was no fun during the harsh Pennsylvania winters. A couple of years later, Ed went to work for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and worked for nearly 30 years before retiring.

They enjoyed a long life together in retirement, taking many cruises and vacations. Arline's favorite cruises were

in the Hawaiian Islands and Alaska.

One of their favorite hobbies was square dancing. Their square dancing club refurbished the second floor of the barn on the Golden Eagle Ranch when it was owned by Walter S. Johnson. It's now the gated Golden Eagle community. They also volunteered as docents at the Museum on Main.

She was a long-time member of the Presbyterian Women. After moving to Tracy, she enjoyed lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with friends.

She is survived by her daughters, Charline Whitaker (David) of Stockton and Jerry Lynn Rocha (Danny) of Tracy, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Burial will be next to her husband at the San Joaquin National Cemetery in Gustine.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15 at Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. A memorial service also will be celebrated in Tracy at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9 at Fry Memorial Chapel, 550 South Central Avenue.

The family prefers contributions to Presbyterian Women Memorial Fund at Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton, 94566.

THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- PCUP 291, Pleasanton Jazzercise Fitness Center
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow more than 20 students at one time at the existing Pleasanton Jazzercise Fitness Center located at 5424 Sunol Boulevard, Suite 4.
- P12 1665, Ryan Koh, Global Classic Collection, Inc.
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a warehouse to store classic vehicles inside an existing building located at 2158 Rheem Drive.
- P11-0824/P12 0798, City of Pleasanton
Work Session on the Draft Downtown Hospitality Guidelines for commercial businesses and special events within the Downtown Specific Plan Area (Downtown) and related Pleasanton Municipal Code (PMC) amendments, including the creation of new hospitality districts and new hour, noise, and operation requirements for hospitality uses Downtown; and a City-wide PMC amendment changing when a restaurant serving alcohol must apply for a Conditional Use Permit.
- P12-1691, City of Pleasanton
Application to recommend approval to the City Council of an amendment to the City of Pleasanton General Plan Housing Element to amend Program 9.7 and the section on Potential Governmental Constraints to Housing in the Background information.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us for information regarding this meeting.

Library Commission

Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Adult, Teen and Children's Summer Reading Report
- Commission Goals
- 25th Anniversary of the Library Building

Youth Commission

Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

City Offices – 157 Main Street, Conference Room #3

- Selection of a Youth Commissioner to serve on the Park and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee
- Review FY 2011/12 Community Grant Final Performance Reports
- Approval of the Community Grant Program Sub-Committee Recommended Changes for Inclusion into the FY 13/14 Community Grant Program Process
- Selection of Youth Commission representative to the Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee
- Selection of Youth Commission representative to the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Committee
- Selection of Youth in Government Day Committee
- Review Commission Meeting Schedule for 2012-13
- Review of Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee 2012-13 Work Plan

City of Pleasanton Seeks Members for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee

Applications are currently being accepted for Pleasanton's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to be a significant planning tool to help the city plan for the changing scope of recreational activities. As such it will summarize themes, trends and community priorities, assess available resources, review existing and anticipated demographic conditions and provide strategies for parks, recreation programs and open space needs.

To serve on the Steering Committee and assist with the master planning process, the City Council is seeking two (2) Parents-At-Large representatives from the community who currently have a child or children attending preschool, elementary school, middle school and/or high school. All applicants shall be residents of the city of Pleasanton and willing to attend at least one or two meetings per month for a period of six to nine months. The City seeks committee members who are able to do background reading and research, work collaboratively, and strive for clear communication, a balanced perspective and inclusion of a wide range of viewpoints.

Interested parties should submit completed applications to the City Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2012. The Pleasanton City Council will confirm the members of the committee at the Tuesday, October 2, 2012 City Council meeting (tentative date).

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, located at 123 Main Street in Pleasanton, or can be downloaded at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/prmpcommittee.pdf>. For more information, please contact Susan Andrade-Wax, Community Services Director, at (925) 931-5340 or sandrade-wax@cityofpleasantonca.gov

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

CAN YOU DIG IT?

ARCHEOLOGIST WRITES KIDS ADVENTURE STORY: 'CHLOE DIGGINS AND THE ETERNAL EMPEROR'

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Fresh out of college, Jennifer Less arrived in Israel ready to dig. She was part of an international crew from Italy, France and the United States that stayed in a monastery on a hill above a Byzantine period pilgrimage site, dating from 750-1200 AD, near Jerusalem.

"Not only was the history of the site intriguing but the site was chock full of artifacts with a church, ancient mosaic floor, and oil presses," Jennifer Less Amiel recalled recently.

In 1996, she had earned a degree in anthropology from UC Santa Barbara with an emphasis in archeology. This work in Israel was an opportunity to use her knowledge and skills, honed by work on digs at the former home of the Chumash people north of her college town and their ceremonial site off the California shore, on Anacapa Island.

"Although there were exciting and memorable moments on each site, the Byzantine site was my favorite," Amiel said. "The whole experience was unique."

The work was also hot and dirty, she noted with a smile in her cool Pleasanton home, where she lives with husband Meir and children Ben, 8, and Maya, 6. It also meant waking up at 4 a.m. and walking a mile to the site.

"You can work all day in 100 degree heat, move buckets until you can't feel your arms, and go home covered in dirt having found nothing of significance," she explained.

But one day was different and is still fresh in her memory.

"I noticed a small blue object as it fell into the dirt at the bottom of the trench," she said. "After cleaning it off we came to discover it was a piece of a glass bracelet worn by a woman over one thousand years ago."

"I wondered what her life was like and what kind of person she was," Amiel continued. "I wondered if she could have ever imagined another woman so many years later would admire her piece of broken jewelry."

Such moments of discovery make the work worthwhile, Amiel said. She treasures that fragment of blue glass still; although it has no monetary value, to Amiel it's a strong emotional link to another woman from centuries past.

Amiel studied Peruvian ancient cultures and archeology for three years, planning to head for a dig in Peru after college, but terrorist activity prevented it and she joined the dig in Israel.

She remained fascinated by Peru and the Inca Empire discovered by Spanish explorers in 1526 so she made it the setting for with her newly released book, "Chloe Diggins and the Eternal Emperor."

It is the story of 12-year-old Chloe, who accompanies her UC Berkeley professor father on his summer dig to the ancient capital of the Inca Empire in Peru, along with her younger brother, Quinn, who is 9. Their mother has died recently, which is why they can't stay home in Berkeley, but this fact also adds maturity to Chloe's character.

"It's written for ages 9-12," Amiel said. "It needed to be accessible to a wide range of readers."

She noted that when writing, it's a struggle for those who want to write for a specific age group.

"I needed Chloe to show she can persevere through difficult situations while being smart."

After the book's prologue, the last Inca emperor, Chapa, is at the excavation in Peru. But things quickly pick up as she takes several mysterious steps in the face of the dad. It's left to sort things out. For start, she's an enemy?

The adventure keeps going through museums and the city where she meets with historical facts and legends.

As a mother of two children,

wanted to create a story that

would demonstrate the

of a young girl who is

and adventures with

girls to cheers and

and parents.

"It's an ode to a trip I took years under my belt of exploring Peru. People say I got a lot out of it."

Chloe is intelligent, strong, and a bit afraid "to get some dirt under my nails."

"As a mother of two children, I wanted to demonstrate that smart, warm and adventurous girls can be heroes. So cheers to girls, boys to read, and parents to support."

Chloe's attributes come from her mother, said: "the friendliness and kindness of her sister, and a strong need to push boundaries." Chloe is a good friend, a great sister, and a great person.

"I started writing it several years ago. It was two years in the making. It started off more fantasy-



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Archeologist Jennifer Amiel, director of education for the Museum on Main, shows artifacts from her dig at a Byzantine period pilgrimage site near Jerusalem; she is especially thrilled by a small piece of blue glass bracelet worn by a woman over a thousand years ago.

9-12 because of the mother dying,"
 conflict."
 you take one person out of a family,
 who remain.
 now inner strength, that she could
 ulties," Amiel said. "Chloe doesn't
 gue, which tells of the demise of the
 ter One begins with Chloe's family
 a on a hot, ordinary day at the dig.
 up with a discovery. Then the plot
 s turns -- including the disappear-
 o Chloe and her new friend Tom to
 ters: Who is her friend? Who is the
 up a fast pace amid the ruins, mu-
 re they are staying, blending fiction
 sites.

then I wanted it to be something that could happen, more realistic."

A recent reading and book signing at Towne Center Books drew a huge crowd.

"I have received calls from mother-daughter book clubs, and I'm excited about that," she said.

Amiel says she was always interested in history and the people who came before us. As a young girl growing up in Los Angeles, she subscribed to National Geographic and archeology magazines.

"I like having pieces of history around me," she said. "When I was 10 years old, I was saving my money and going to antique stores, buying antique poetry books."

She also collects old children's books, which her children often pick up, she said.

After getting her master's degree in museum studies with an emphasis in education, Amiel worked at the Lawrence Hall of Science managing its education programs. She is now director of education for the Museum on Main in Pleasanton.

Amiel is looking forward to speaking to middle school students about archeology.

"I love putting a potshard into a child's hand and seeing their awestruck face when I tell them it was crafted by someone over a thousand years ago," she said.

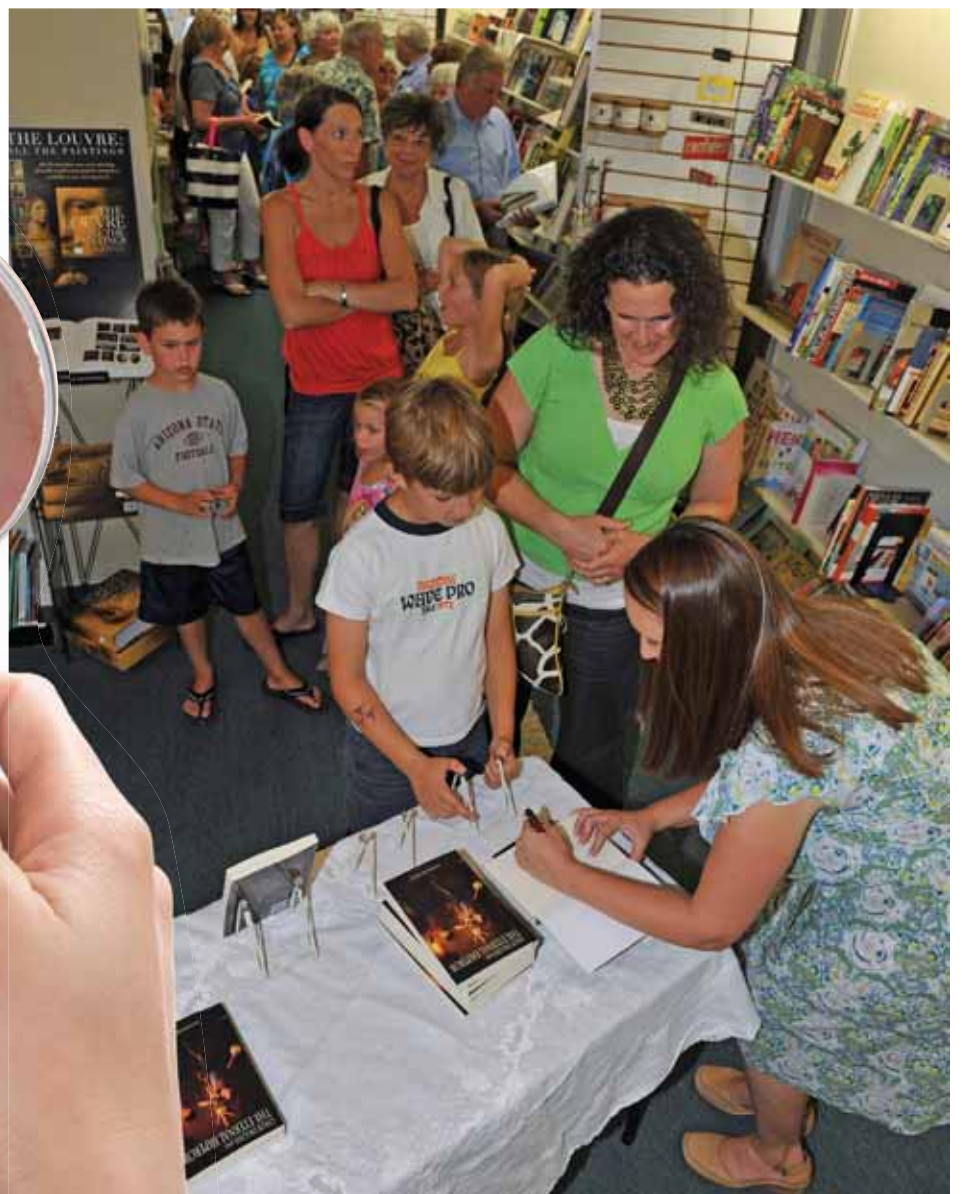
Amiel traveled extensively as a child; her grandfather was Gunther Less, whose television documentary show, "Journey to Adventure," ran for 39 years.

She would still love to go to China, where she has never been.

"I would be thrilled to participate in an active excavation at a site in that region," she said. "There is a lot of work being done now on sites of early agriculture and sedentism."

And Chloe? She's headed to Ireland for her next adventure, Amiel said.

"She has the potential to go anywhere in the world and I'm looking forward to feedback from readers to help guide Chloe on her adventures to come," Amiel said. "I hope readers will continue on this journey with Chloe. I think it's going to take her to some amazing places." ■



CHUCK DECKERT

Jennifer Amiel signs copies of her book, "Choe Diggins and the Eternal Emperor," at Towne Center Books.

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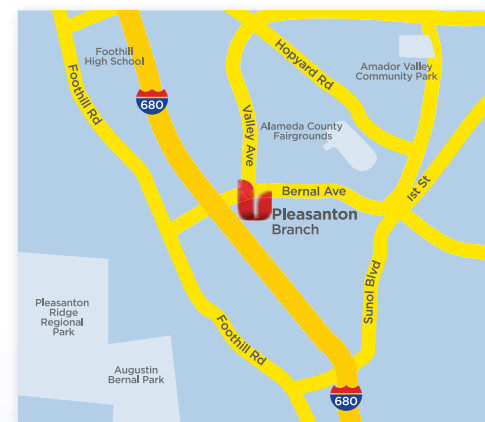
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE VALLEY — MUSIC, THEATER, ART, MOVIES AND MORE



Museum hosting annual Western fundraiser

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Gamblers, bandits, wild women — the Museum on Main is taking a look back at the rowdier side of historic Pleasanton as it hosts its annual Wild West fundraiser, *Brothels, Bar Rooms & Bandits*, on Sept. 15.

The event features a return to Pleasanton of the 1890s when it was one of the most desperate towns in the West. Guests will rub shoulders with characters from yesteryear such as the well-known Sen. George Hearst, Phoebe Hearst, Wyatt Earp and Leland Stanford.

A barbecue dinner, live entertainment and beverage sipping will add to the fun, along with gaming tables sponsored by the Pleasanton Lion's Club. Live and silent auctions are also on tap.

"Western attire encouraged, but not the law," according to the organizers. "Over 21 only — or we'll call the sheriff."

Cost is \$45; those buying a table of eight tickets will receive \$400 additional gambling dollars. Cash, credit cards, checks and gold nuggets are accepted. ■

WILD WEST FUN

What: *Brothels, Bar Rooms & Bandits*

Who: Museum on Main

When: 6-10:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15

Where: Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Tickets: \$45, includes dinner, gambling chips

Information: 462-2766; Museum on Main, 603 Main St.



The annual Museum on Main fundraiser, *Brothels, Bar Rooms & Bandits*, includes gaming tables and live music with Extended Roots.

CHUCK DECKERT

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food," "Best Meal Under \$20" and "Best Kid Friendly Restaurant," Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World

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BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

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, 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

AAUW WELCOME EVENT The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch of the American Association of University Women is hosting

ON THE TOWN ● CALENDAR

a Welcome Event from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Rd., Pleasanton. Guests are welcome. Park tour led by Eric Nicholas, City Naturalist; learn about interest groups; meet new members; light refreshments. Call 426-9957 or visit <http://lpd-ca.aauw.net/>.

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13, at Alisal School, 1454 Santa Rita Rd. Guest speaker is Trish Hildinger, a leader in gardening workshops in Santa Cruz, to discuss winter gardening. Visitors are welcome. Call Bev at 485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

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, David Haubert-Dublin City Council, Steve Cho-Fremont 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.

Concerts

GRANDPARENT'S DAY AT THE MUSEUM ON MAIN Children, bring your grandparents to the Museum



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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.

LOSE FOR GOOD Weight Watchers will be hosting a Lose For Good from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at Weight Watchers Center, 4811 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Join them for this very special one-day-only offer, prizes and more. The Open House will host a Lose for Good food drive to benefit Alameda Food Bank; bring a non-perishable item to donate. Learn more about Weight Watchers. Call 858-4055 or visit www.weight-watchers.com.

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 reception. 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.

SOCCER OPENING DAY PARADE The 44th annual Pleasanton Youth

Soccer Kick-off Parade will be held from 7:30-8:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, in downtown Pleasanton. BUSC and RAGE teams will be staged by age group and club from St. Mary's Street and Main Street, and along Peters Avenue. The parade will proceed down Main Street. Email Ben Castro at marketing@busc.org or visit www.busc.org/p/parade.php.

Exhibits

WHEREVER THERE'S A FIGHT Learn about the stories of California's unsung heroes and heroines at the Museum on Main's new exhibit, "Wherever there's a Fight," at 603 Main St., Pleasanton, run-

ning through Sept. 9. The exhibit is based on Elaine Elinson and Stan Yogi's book, "Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California." Admission is free; donations are appreciated. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Call 462-2766.

Fundraisers

HOMEAID'S 11TH ANNUAL TRAP SHOOT TO RAISE FUNDS TO END HOMELESSNESS HomeAid Northern California announces the 11th annual Trap Shoot from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13 at the

Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club. Everyone is invited, from beginners to sharpshooters. Since the inaugural HomeAid Trap Shoot in 2002, HomeAid has raised more than \$1.5 million to help fund the construction of shelters for the transitionally homeless through-

out the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information visit www.homeaidnc.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 down-

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Health

FREE PROSTATE CANCER COMMUNITY SEMINAR San Ramon Regional Medical Center's physicians will discuss advanced diagnosis and treatment options for prostate cancer. The lecture is from 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13, San Ramon Hospital, South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Register at 800-284-2878 or visit www.OurSanRamonHospital.com.

Lectures

HAWAIIAN QUILT ARTIST CARRIE FONDI Carrie Fondi will bring her modern and contemporary quilts to the Amador Valley Quilters meeting from 1:30-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Her patterns can be traditionally or machine appliqued.

Carrie has studied with Hawaiian quilters. Join them for this energetic afternoon. Their meetings are free. Call 510-209-1187(cell) or visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org. 1:30-4 p.m. Free.

MUNICIPAL BONDS: A CLOSER LOOK Many bond investors have found that the low interest rate environment of the last four years has made income generation more challenging, but bonds can still serve an important function in their portfolios. This Schwab series focuses on key trends in the bond market and investing strategies. 9-10 a.m., Friday, Sept. 14 Free, open to the public. (866) 999-2037. www.schwab.com/sf

Miscellaneous

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

PEACE VIGIL AND WAR PROTEST Pleasantonians 4 Peace is sponsoring a candlelight Vigil at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. They will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor our veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Call Cathie Norman at 462-7495 or email Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com.

Volunteering

EAST BAY STAND DOWN Volunteers are needed to give a "hand up" to



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Enjoy Arts Encounter at the Farmers Market

Artist Gail Ruvalcaba collects seaweed to make baskets, which she will display tomorrow at the Arts Encounter at the Pleasanton Farmers Market. She says that when she is serious she sculpts cats; when she is not quite serious she makes pots; and when she is playful, she makes baskets, using seaweed, shells, beads, leftover yarn and whatever else she'd like to upcycle. Tomorrow she will be teaching a traditional Japanese method of braiding bracelets and everyone is invited to join in. Arts Encounter is a joint effort of the city of Pleasanton, the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, and participating arts organizations.

men and women who have served honorably in military service and are now homeless. More than 1,000 volunteers with various skills and abilities are needed to support the operation of an East Bay Stand Down "tent city" at the Alameda County Fairgrounds from Thursday, Sept. 13, through noon, Sunday, Sept. 16. Volunteers must register by Aug. 31 at www.eastbaystanddown.org. Financial assistance is also greatly needed. Checks may be sent to Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation EBSD, P.O. Box 2133, Danville, CA 94526.

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The Babe Ruth Tri-Valley team at closing ceremonies; Tri-Valley came in third place against other all-star teams from throughout the country.

TV Babe Ruth 13-year-old All-Stars take 3rd in World Series

Dante Albanese named to All Tournament team

By DAVID OTT

The Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 13-year-old All-Star team came in third place in the Babe Ruth World Series tournament held in Kitsap, Wash., on Aug. 13-22.

Tri-Valley defeated New Jersey, 5-0, in the opening game Aug. 16, then went on during subsequent days to defeat Indiana, 6-1; North Carolina, 11-3; and Washington, 9-1. In the semifinals, North Carolina turned around and defeated Tri-Valley, 4-1, to end Tri-Valley's excellent run for the World Series title. Overall, Tri-Valley was 14-2 for the Summer World Series tournament.

Darroch Koel pitched a no hitter in the World Series against Indiana, only the sixth no-hitter in the history of the 13-year-old Babe Ruth World Series. James Cowick pitched and defeated New Jersey, Joshua Ott defeated North Carolina, and Ryan Bowman defeated Washington. Jack Maloon and Clark Eder also pitched for Tri-Valley.

Dante Albanese had the highest batting average for any left fielder in the World Series tournament, as well as the highest overall batting average for any player in the tournament at .571. Albanese was named to the All Tournament team and won the batting title for the tournament. Jack Fryer had the highest batting average for all shortstops at .417 and Koel earned a gold glove at first base for his outstanding defense.

Other team members are Jared Dawson, Max Moore, Jack Morgan, Matt Neswick, Saiki Roy, Nick Venezia and Nate White. Manager was Sean Venezia, and the team was coached by Rick Fryer and Todd Moore.

Kitsap put on a wonderful Babe Ruth World Series tournament, with a parade of the baseball teams in historic downtown Poulsbo, and a banquet dinner at the Kiana Lodge on the banks of the Puget Sound. The master of ceremonies for the banquet was Jim Lefebvre,

1965 National League Rookie of the year and former manager of the Milwaukee Brewers, Chicago Cubs and Seattle Mariners.

For the opening ceremony at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds baseball field, the U.S. flag and the baseballs used for the ceremonial first pitch were delivered by skydivers. Each team was led onto the field by U.S. Navy personnel carrying the team's state flag. The players stayed with host families, which provided additional connection with the community, and plenty of activities took place during the two-week tournament.

The Tri-Valley team was one of 10 in the Babe Ruth World Series tournament representing the 50 United States and two provinces in Canada. Tri-Valley won the Northern California Championship in Woodland on July 19, then the Pacific Southwest tournament in Surprise, Ariz., on Aug. 4 to qualify for the World Series. ■



Summiting at last

Kipling George Russell Van Horn, 9, reached the 14,162-foot summit of Mount Shasta in northern California in late July with his father Kim Van Horn. It was Kip's fifth attempt mountaineering on the Avalanche Gulch Route and his fourth time sleeping overnight at 10,400-foot base camp Lake Helen since he was 6 years old. The level of difficulty is very strenuous due to its distance of 11 miles and its elevation gain of 7,200 feet.

Last season, Kip made it above the Red Banks to about 12,800 feet, where, due to high winds and a whiteout, the decision was made to descend. During another ascent with his father guiding him this past June, extreme winds forced a turn around just below the Red Banks. Kip's desire was to return to the mountain and summit the peak a month later, which they did.

Dad Kim said his goal was to create a positive experience in the mountains for Kip, whose interest in climbing Mount Shasta developed at the age of 2 when his older sister, Kyla, encouraged him to hike the trail to the Sierra Hut accompanied by their father. Kip is in the fourth grade at Vintage Hills Elementary School.



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PET OF THE WEEK

Bubbly Sprite

Sprite is one very special little girl. Not only is she incredibly beautiful, she's got a gentle and affectionate personality that makes her an absolute joy to be around. All you have to do is look at Sprite, and she starts to purr; she loves to be cuddled and petted, and she's absolutely in heaven if she can sit on your lap. She's got a soft, fuzzy fur coat that's the prettiest shades of peach, gray and white, and her nose is as cute as a little pink button. Sprite's fully recovered from a broken leg, and now races around the house, up and down the cat trees and around corners at top speed. Sprite, 5 months old, is super playful and gets along very well with other cats and kittens. To meet Sprite, contact Terri at terrilduncan@yahoo.com or 487-7279.



Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Coldwell Banker adds new marketing VP, field manager

'Will help our Realtors stay at forefront of marketing for themselves, their clients,' says firm's president

By JEB BING

Pleasanton-based Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has named Lisa Norman as the company's new regional vice president of marketing.

She formerly was marketing director at Pacific Union International and has also worked with Christie's International Real Estate.

Norman's experience encompasses both luxury and international real estate marketing with a special emphasis on digital platforms, social media and field marketing programs



Lisa Norman

designed to support agents. In her new role, she will oversee all of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's marketing operations in Northern California, Colorado and Utah, reporting to Kevin Kay, chief operating officer for the company.

In addition, Coldwell Banker announced it is launching a new field marketing program and has hired another former Pacific Union veteran, Candy Bertoli, to be the first field marketing manager. The company will expand the initiative in the coming months with the hiring of additional field marketing professionals to support agents and staff in its local offices.

"Lisa's extremely innovative, creative and committed to helping our Realtors stay at the very forefront of marketing for themselves and their clients," said Rick Turley, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. ■



OPEN
SUN 1-4

5419 Montalvo Ct, Pleasanton
Immaculate townhome. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, Corian counters, new appliances includes refrigerator and wine cooler. Approx 1,614 sqft with two separate patios and two car attached garage. Premium court location! Offered at \$479,000



OPEN
SUN 1-4

1194 Blanc Ct, Pleasanton
4 bedrooms, 2 baths with large family room. Gorgeous hardwood floors and updated kitchen with new appliances. Huge detached studio/game room. Large pie shaped park-like backyard. Lot approx 14,837 sqft. A must see! Offered at 879,950



BACK ON
THE MARKET

5629 N. Dublin Ranch, Dublin
5 bedrooms, 4 baths plus a large bonus room, and approx. 3841 sqft. Gorgeous kitchen with island opens to the family room. Crown moulding, tile floors, neutral carpet. Approved short sale \$802,000

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BEAUTIFUL ESTATES HOME \$1,187,000
5 BR 3.5 BA pl/spa/putting green in bckyrd, 1/3 acre lot, 2 bds down, master w/fireplace, loft area upstairs
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LIVERMORE
1801 MARINI LANE
GORGEOUS HOME IN DUNSMUIR \$729,500
4 BR 3 BA Hrdwd Flrs. 2 bdrms on main flr. Gourmet Kit. w/refrigerator included. Newer paint & carpet.
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LIVERMORE
5464 MAYBECK LN
CRAFTSMAN STYLE HOME! \$710,000
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PLEASANTON
463 MONTORI CT. **PRICE REDUCED**
RUBY HILL COUNTRY CLUB \$1,070,000
5 BR 3 BA Lush & Private Backyard. Friendly Court Location. Walk to Community Pool & Tennis!
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CASTRO VALLEY

Open SUN 1 - 4 3743 SEPTEMBER CT
SOUTHWESTERN STYLE HOME \$913,900
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DANVILLE

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CUSTOM RANCHER W/POOL! \$1,448,000
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VERY NICE WELL KEPT HOME! \$57,500
2 BR 2 BA Copper plumbing, like new inside & out. Storage shed and rm for 2 cars under car port.
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HAYWARD

2449 DEPOT RD **PRICE REDUCED**
WELL MAINTAINED HOME! \$364,888
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LIVERMORE

4706 BEL ROMA RD. **PRICE REDUCED**
LOVELY RANCH HOME! \$1,799,500
4 BR 2.5 BA 6 stall horse barn w/pipe paddocks. Formal Din/Liv. Lg Fam. Rm. Lovely Kit w/granite. Pool.
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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!
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5403 CARNEGIE LOOP
BEAUTIFUL HOME W/POOL & SPA \$789,000
6 BR 4 BA Open Fir Plan. Gourmet Kit w/granite & island, SS appl., Hrd Wd Flrs, Lrg Mstr. Pool & Spa.
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523 HELIGAN LANE
CONTEMPORARY LIVING \$520,000
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Level Lot for Building! 925.847.2200

1752 MONTECITO CIRCLE
WELL MAINTAINED HOME!! \$60,000
2 BR 2 BA Open Fir Plan. Updated Kit. & Fixtures. Inside Laundry. Lrg Mstr. Central Heat. Private Bckyrd.
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PLEASANTON

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My Pendings: 4014 Jackie Ct., Pleasanton | 168 Gillette Place, Livermore
Recently Sold: 3399 Norton Way, Pleasanton



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Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

3 BEDROOMS

4707 Sandyford Ct \$485,000
Sat/Sun 12-5 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500

5 BEDROOMS

6893 Penn Dr \$579,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors Inc 855-4000

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS

2378 Peregrine St \$755,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

3627 Annis Ct \$635,000
Sun 2:30-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

5419 Montalvo Ct \$479,000
Sun 1-4 Delores Gragg 989-6500

500 Pine Hill Lane \$829,000
Sun 1-4 Fred Hempy 437-5830

369 Oak Lane \$1,399,000
Sat 1-4 Blaise Loffland 846-6500

4 BEDROOMS

2461 Romano Circle \$1,180,000
Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273

1194 Blanc Ct \$879,950
Sun 1-4 Delores Gragg 989-6500

5 BEDROOMS

1368 Bordeaux St \$1,329,000
Sun 1-4 Melissa Pederson 397-4326

July home sales, prices post strong gains

Bay Area leads in state's strengthening housing market

BY JEB BING

California home sales and prices both posted strong gains in July, with the sales pace showing positive year-over-year growth for the fourth straight month and the median price reaching a near-four-year high, the California Association of Realtors reported this week.

"It's hard to generalize the state of California's housing market because the markets are so diverse and are performing so differently," said CAR President LeFrancis Arnold.

"REO-dominated areas such as those in the Inland Empire and Central Valley are experiencing sales constraints due to an extreme shortage of available homes," Arnold explained. "On the other hand, a robust economy in the San Francisco Bay Area and a relatively larger inventory at higher price levels is helping to fuel sales and prices."

Closed escrow sales of existing, single-family detached homes reached a seasonally adjusted, annualized rate of 529,230 in July, up 2% from June's revised 518,680 rate, according to information collected by CAR from more than 90 local Realtor associations and MLSs statewide. July's sales pace was up 15.3% from July 2011's revised pace of 459,140 sales.

The statewide sales figure represents what would be the total number of homes sold during 2012 if sales maintained the July pace throughout the year and is adjusted to account for seasonal factors that typically influence home sales.

July marked the fifth consecutive month that California's median home price was up from both the previous month and year. The statewide median price of an existing, single-family detached home was \$333,860 in July, up 4.2% from \$320,540 in June and up

12.7% from a revised \$296,160 in July 2011.

The July 2012 median price was the highest since August 2008, when the median price reached \$352,730. July also marked the fourth straight month that the median price has posted above the \$300,000 level.

"The strong performance in the median price over the past few months reflects a sales shift away from homes in the lower price ranges of the market due to stark inventory toward sales of homes priced above \$500,000," said CAR Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton-Young.

"As an example, in July, sales of homes priced below \$200,000 declined 9.4% from the previous year, and homes priced above \$500,000 climbed 27.7% from a year ago," she said.

California's housing inventory was essentially flat in July, with the Unsold Inventory Index for existing, single-family detached homes at 3.4 months in July compared with 3.5 months in June. However, July's housing inventory index was down from a revised 5.6-month supply in July 2011. The index indicates the number of months needed to sell the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate. The long-run average is a 6- to 7-month supply.

Interest rates continued to remain at historically low levels in July, with 30-year fixed-mortgage interest rates averaging 3.55%, down from 3.68% in June and 4.55% in July 2011, according to Freddie Mac. Adjustable-mortgage interest rates averaged 2.69% in July, down from 2.76% in June and down from 2.97% in June 2011.

The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home edged down from 43.4 days in June to 43.2 days in July. It took a median of 51.9 days for a home to sell in July 2011. ■

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369 OAK LANE, PLEASANTON
 Former Friden Estate Hunting Lodge - "Moonlight Oaks." Private Driveway included in this 1.2 acre estate lot in premium wooded, secluded location. This is an entertainers dream home. Extensive use of quality Redwood timber. Recently upgraded, desirable single level with tastefully maintained historic charm. Panoramic views of nature and historic majestic Oaks. Approximately 3800 Square Feet with three bedrooms, three remodeled bathrooms, large gourmet kitchen, and incredible Great room with large Yosemite style fireplace and open beam ceiling. Large basement for storage and detached two-room wine cottage. **OFFERED AT \$1,399,000**

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PENDING!



1431 GROTH CIRCLE, PLEASANTON
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JUST CLOSED - REPRESENTED BUYER



27 ROCKROSE STREET, LIVERMORE
 SWEET!!! Stoneybrook Estate Home-shows nicely! Great curb appeal-sparkling clean. Hardwood and tile flooring downstairs. Vaulted ceilings in Living room & Dining room. Dramatic circular staircase. Large Master bath with separate shower and tub. Park like backyard with large patio and beautifully manicured lawns. 1 Bedroom/1 Bathroom downstairs. **SOLD FOR \$520,000**

HIDDEN OAK

SOLD



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**

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**

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! Attendance area for great schools. Walk to Mission Park & Downtown Pleasanton! **OFFERED AT AND SOLD FOR \$1,399,000**

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**

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**

VALENCIA

SOLD!



5019 RIGATTI CIRCLE, PLEASANTON
 Newer upgraded Valencia home. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2321 Sq. Ft. Downstairs bedroom/office (5th). Spacious master suite. Large family room with built-in entertainment center. Formal dining room. Modern gourmet kitchen has granite counter tops, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances. Community amenities include Club House, Greenbelt, Playground, Pool/Spa, and Tennis Court(s). Close to Owens Plaza Park, BART, & 580/680 access. **SOLD FOR \$825,000**

SUNOL

SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYERS



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

OAK MANOR

SOLD!



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

OAK PARK

SOLD!



247 TOMAS WAY, PLEASANTON
 Completely remodeled, single level in Oak Park. Remodeled gourmet kitchen, remodeled bathrooms, newer dual pane windows, crown molding, hardwood floors, upgraded baseboards, central air conditioning, and private rear yard. Newer doors, door trim, and hardware, upgraded light fixtures and fans. Close to downtown and shopping. **SOLD FOR \$527,175**





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Dave & Sue Flashberger
925.463.0436
www.SoldinaFlash.com

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

Coming Soon



Lisa Sterling & Ingrid Wetmore
DRE # 01012330 and 00923379
925.980.9265 925.918.0986
www.krugergroup.com

6270 Camino Del Lago, Pleasanton
Highly sought after Ponderosa, 4 bedrooms with bedroom and bath downstairs. Great floor plan with bonus room. Charming low maintenance back yard. Walking distance to tennis park and shopping. **\$789,900**

SOLD in 3 days!!



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

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.

Open Sun 1-4



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

1368 Bordeaux St, Pleasanton
Unique 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home w/ 3,864 sq ft. Home features an amazing custom gourmet kitchen, first floor master suite plus 2 more bedrooms, upstairs 2 additional private bedroom suites, an office, playroom and beautifully landscaped backyard. Walking distance to Vintage Hills Elementary School. Part of the Kottinger Ranch HOA w/pool, tennis courts and walking paths. **Offered at \$1,329,000**

PENDING WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS



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

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**

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

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**



Fran & Dave Cunningham
925.202.6898
www.RubyHill.net
DRE #01226296 DRE#00930892

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 \$2,690,000**



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

SOLD!
1908 Rheem Drive
3 Bed, 2.5 Updated Baths
Approx. 1,481 sq ft
Updated Kitchen with
Cherry Wood Cabinets
and Granite Counter



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

New Price!



DeAnna Armario
REALTOR® DRE #01363180
925.260.2220
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4444 Foothill Road, Pleasanton
4 BR and 2.5 BA. 3507 +/- sq. ft. Absolutely Stunning! Completely rebuilt in 2005, this custom, single story home offers a view from every window, including Mt. Diablo and the surrounding hills. Beautifully updated throughout with fantastic gourmet kitchen. Huge 2.26 +/- acre lot includes an entertainer's backyard with pool and spa. **Offered at \$1,750,000**

Pending in 10 Days!



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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**
www.williamsteam.net



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