

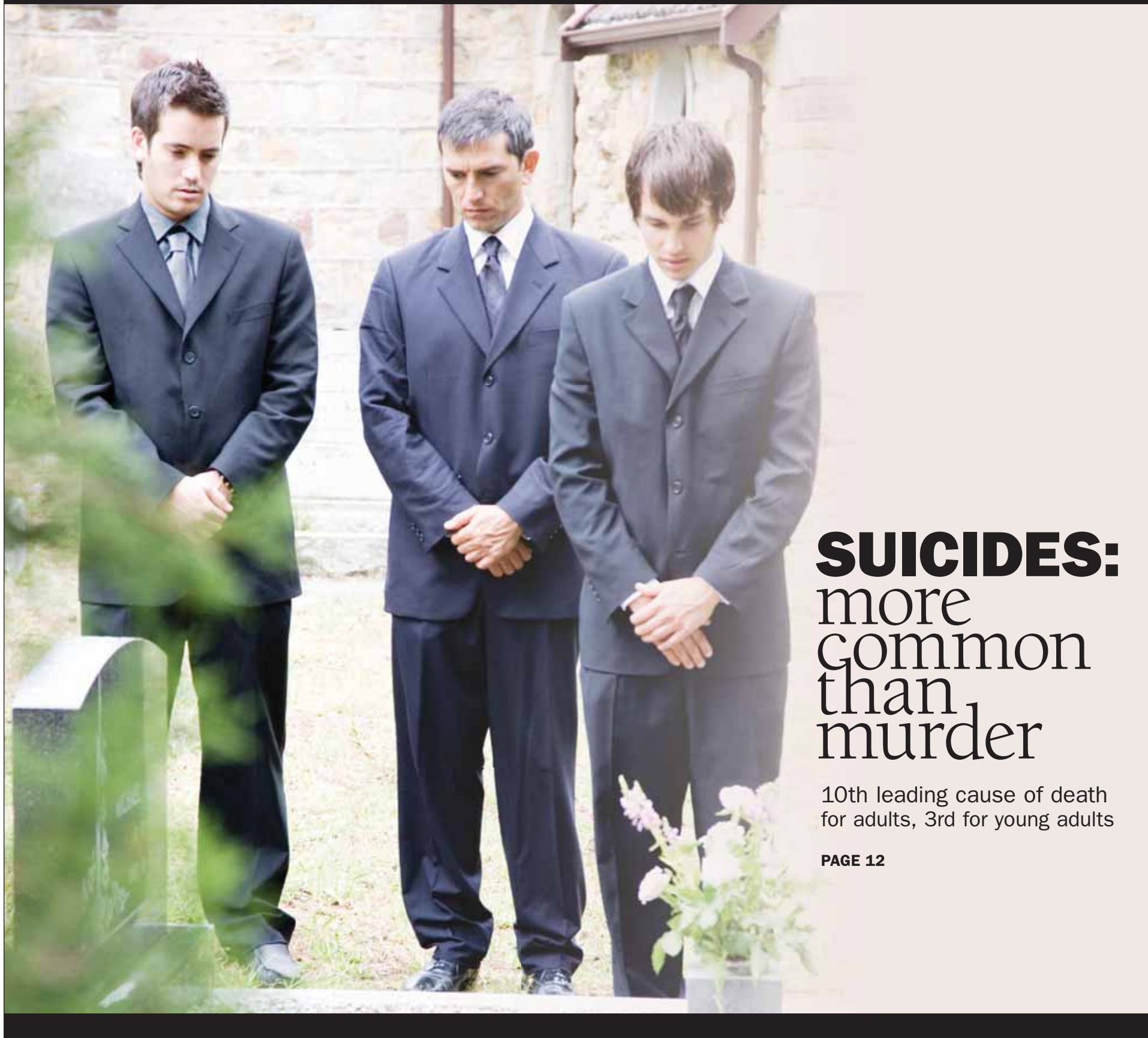
# Pleasanton Weekly

Soccer season  
soars ahead  
» 19



VOL. XIII, NUMBER 37 · SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

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## SUICIDES: more common than murder

10th leading cause of death  
for adults, 3rd for young adults

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**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$4,000,000**  
193+/- Acres privately owned known as Blessing Ranch. All utilities run to edge of property offering numerous buildable pad options. Perfect for escaping city life while only minutes from town. 9480 BLESSING

**MARK KOTCH**

**SAT&SUN 1:00-4:00**



**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

**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

**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

**ANNI HAGFELDT**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$1,399,000**  
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

**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

**LINDA FUTRAL**

**BY APPT**



**LIVERMORE \$925,000**  
Never turn on a light during the day, this home beams with cheerful light and great privacy. All the custom features you'd expect plus in a court and sideyard access. Enjoy beautiful sunsets. 1444 MILAN CT

**DEBI BODAN**

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



**LIVERMORE \$640,000**  
Charming family style home. Lounge around on warm evenings on the large tiled front porch or take refuge in the spacious backyard while entertaining family and friends poolside. 969 DANA

**SALLY MARTIN**

**BY APPT**



**CASTRO VALLEY \$630,000**  
4bd/2.5 bth, possible 5th bdrm. 2,100 +/- SF on 11,752+/- SF lot. New hardwood flooring, vinyl, carpet & paint. Laundry shoot upstairs. Backyard w/pool, patio & deck. 5787 COLDWATER DRIVE

**DAN GAMACHE JR.**

**OPEN SUN 1-4**



**DUBLIN \$599,950**  
Great floor plan,Dublin Ranch home, kitchen overlooking the family room. This property is in a great location close to freeways, shopping and schools. 6150 SHADOW HILL DR



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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## At 50th high school reunion, who are all these people?



JEB BING

Gary and Nancy Harrington

Whenever the time comes to join your high school graduating class for its 50th reunion, be sure to go. That's the call Nancy Harrington has put out after attending hers at David Douglas High School in Portland. Nancy and her husband Gary, well-known Pleasanton benefactors in the public art world, drove back to the east Portland high school last weekend for what proved to be a fun trip, but one also filled with surprises. It started when Nancy ran into "Bobby," or at least that's what he was called at Douglas High. The class of 1962 jock, his interests were strictly sports, where he excelled, and cars. Remember, the 1962 cars were easier to fix than those we drive today.

Bobby, Nancy remembered after identifying him through the name badge he was wearing, had no interest in the girls and was often teased about that. So the surprise for Nancy came when Bobby introduced his wife Rita, the class "knockout," as Nancy put it. Classmates since the seventh grade, Nancy recalls that Rita was the girl who developed a bit early, wore tight sweaters and short skirts, but drew no glances from Bobby. Obviously that changed, and the two, much heavier than they were back then, and Bobby (now Bob) now bald, seemed a happy couple with children and grandchildren.

While at the class reception last Saturday night, another classmate wrapped her arms around Nancy, who at age 68 looks much like her graduation photo. "I kept thinking who the heck are you?" Nancy said, unable to see the woman's nametag. It turned out it was Rita, her best friend since the seventh grade and all through high school. With bleached hair and a bit more weight on the bones of this once-skinny girl, it was a shock for Nancy to realize how much people can change over a 50-year time span.

Some hadn't changed all that much and a few who Nancy remembers having heavy builds were much thinner. Coach Hebert was recognized still as "coach" by everyone at the reunion, even though he's now in his late 80s. The Harringtons played golf with him Saturday and marveled at how the school's former

football and golf coach is still a champion on the course, even after having both knees replaced two years ago.

Nancy identified David, the class president, only after he was introduced as the emcee at the Saturday night dinner and dance. A preacher's son who always seemed destined for seminary school, he now sports long gray hair, has trouble breathing and is about three times larger, working as a professional writer. Shannon, always a shy, too skinny coed at Douglas, is now much more outgoing and looking even better.

There were 450 members of the graduating Class of 1962 at Douglas High. A total of 132 showed up for their 50th reunion; 40 of those had served in the military, most of them in Vietnam; 30 have passed away. The others chose not to come for the reunion or couldn't be reached. Most of Nancy's classmates have since married; together they have 578 children, 620 grandchildren and 53 great-grandchildren, and many have left Oregon for other states.

As for the high school, David Douglas was once the largest high school in Oregon with 4,500 students when the baby boomers reached their teenage years. Since then, enrollment has dropped below 2,000.

The 50th reunion was the first for Nancy and likely the last for the class. Gary Harrington, who went along for the fun, graduated from a high school in Los Angeles but has more allegiance to UC Northridge, where he earned his degree.

Nancy also notes that the long drive to Portland, which many of us know is a bit tedious and tiring, can be more fun if you break it into stops for golf. They played three courses on the trip to Portland, another three on the trip back. Those games gave Nancy a break from trying to remember all those faces from 50 years ago. ■

## About the Cover

Death by suicide now occurs more often than traffic deaths, leaving mourning families to ask themselves, "Why?" Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XIII, Number 37

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**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

<b>Nicole Jeffrey-Starr, MD</b> <i>"Importance of Breast Clinical Exams"</i>	<b>Rakesh Patel, MD</b> <i>"Radiation Therapy: Less May Be More"</i>	<b>Angela Byars, OTR</b> <i>"Understanding and Preventing Lymphedema"</i>
<b>Ruby Chang, MD</b> <i>"MRI of the Breast. Is it the Best Test?"</i>	<b>Vanni Manthiram, MD</b> <i>"Should I Have a Mastectomy?"</i>	<b>Mary Prishtina, RN, OCN, CBPN-IC</b> <i>"Facing Cancer Together. Better Outcomes Through Navigation"</i>
<b>Rakhee Shah, MD</b> <i>"New Paradigms in Surgical Management of Breast Cancer"</i>	<b>Kavitha P. Raj, MD</b> <i>"Breast Cancer Genetics. Know Your Genes."</i>	
<b>Rishi Sawhney, MD</b> <i>"Personalized Breast Cancer Therapy and Survivorship: One Size Doesn't Fit All"</i>		

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20th 6:00– 8:00pm

26th 6:00– 8:00pm

27th 6:00– 8:00 pm

Tours depart the museum each 30 minutes. Tours are approximately 2 hours long.

\$18 Adults

\$13 Children 12 & under

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For more information or to purchase tickets visit Museum on Main, at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton or call 925.462.2766.



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# Streetwise

ASKED AT PAWS IN THE PARK

## What makes your dog special?



### Jessica Harkleroad

*Professional volunteer*

Daphne is a 9-year-old Yorkie Silky. Besides my husband, she is the best support system I've had in my life; she seems to know if I'm sad or sick. She is the first gift that my husband gave me when we were dating, and we both love her.

### Jim Shofstahl

*Software writer/president,  
Greyhound Pets of America*

We think our Greyhound has beautiful eyes; it looks like she has eyeliner on. Sandy is 7, and we've had her since she was 3. She is a retired racing dog. We're here today to adopt a brother for her, another Greyhound named Daddy.



### Joan Williams

*Retired*

Rosie's a great companion, and is the best snuggler. She is a 14-year-old Bichon and she sleeps with me every night.

### John Dekoven

*The Digital Handyman*

Just look at him. Tiger's got a great personality; he's so friendly, and he has a great temperament. He has hair instead of fur so he doesn't shed, and he has always loved me. He's a 10-year-old Schnoodle, and back then I was scared to get a small dog because I was single and thought it would demasculinize me. But now I'm married and we both love him!



### Rachel Sheppard

*Veterinary technician*

He has the best personality, and all he wants to do is have fun with any dog or human, anytime, anywhere. He's a 2-year-old Corgi, and I adopted him about six months ago. He came crate- and potty-trained, and has been just wonderful.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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

# PLEASANTON



## JERRY PENTIN for COUNCIL

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## DIGEST

### Breast Cancer 2012

The Breast Center at San Ramon Regional Medical Center is holding a free community seminar, "Breast Cancer 2012 — Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment," from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday.

One in eight American women are at risk of developing breast cancer in their lifetime. Men have a one in 1,000 risk of getting the disease. The hospital's physicians and staff will discuss:

- Surgical treatments from lumpectomy to mastectomy;
- Research, clinical trials and chemotherapy;
- Hormonal therapy and biological therapy;
- Genetic risk factors;
- Lymphedema treatment and physical therapy; and
- Recovery after treatment.

The seminar will be held at the hospital, 7777 Norris Canyon Road in San Ramon. Reservations are required; call 800-284-2878 or pull down "Cancer Services" on Find an Event at [www.OurSanRamonHospital.com](http://www.OurSanRamonHospital.com).

### Thanks to Grantham

The Amador Friends of Music is holding a "Thanks a Thousand!" celebration to honor Jonathan Grantham on completing his 10th year as Director of Bands at Amador Valley High School and being named 2012 Teacher of the Year by the school district.

Students, friends, colleagues and community members are invited to send a thank you note, written memory or photo to be compiled into a book that will literally contain "1000 Thanks!" They should be 8-1/2 by 11 inches and emailed to [afmthanks1000@gmail.com](mailto:afmthanks1000@gmail.com) or mailed to Sally Baker, 3147 Lansdown Court, Pleasanton 94588, who can be reached at 518-5916. A template is available at: <http://bit.ly/RZLmS6>.

The celebration will take place Saturday, Oct. 13, at Amador Valley High, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the stadium when the 2012 Amador Valley Marching Band and Colorguard will present a field show, followed by the presentation honoring Grantham.

### Commission openings

Pleasanton has openings on the Civic Arts Commission, Committee on Energy and the Environment, Economic Vitality Committee, Human Services Commission, Library Commission, Youth Commission, Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee, and the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) Citizens Advisory Committee.

Applications, due by 4 p.m. Oct. 5, are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main St., or at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov). For information, call 931-5027.

## TVCF files for liquidation bankruptcy

Owes more than \$150,000, including debts to local groups

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

The Tri-Valley Community Foundation has filed for Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy with more than \$153,000 in debts, and leaving some charities without funds owed them, according to bankruptcy documents filed Sept. 24.

Among the debts left behind by the TVCF is \$33,000 owed to the Tri-Valley Rotary Club; \$25,000 owed to Amador Valley Education; and \$11,000 owed to the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center, court records show, along with many smaller debts, including \$4,081 owed to the Livermore Valley Joint

Unified School District.

The foundation fired CEO Dave Rice in May after financial discrepancies were found, and former judge Ron Hyde stepped in to take the reins. The TVCF's offices were closed in late June and its telephone and websites have been shut down for more than a month.

Hyde said in a June interview that the foundation was more than \$3 million in debt and he expected it to close and file liquidation bankruptcy. He also said the TVCF was seeking to file criminal charges against Rice.

The Alameda County District

Attorney's Office said no charges had been filed against Rice as of Sept. 26.

Hyde seemed unsurprised about the bankruptcy filing; he said, however, he knew little else, adding, "We haven't had a board meeting in months."

He referred all questions to two local attorneys. Sblend Sblendorio of Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel is the foundation's bankruptcy attorney; he did not return telephone calls made before press time Wednesday. Kirsten Barranti is representing the board of directors. Barranti would not comment on

whether the board members would hold any person financial liability as a result of the collapse of the charity and its outstanding debts.

Court records show the foundation took in \$1.375 million from July 2011 through June 2012, and \$2.944 million from July 2010 through June 2011. Hyde has blamed Rice for making financial commitments the charity couldn't keep and using the foundation to feed his ego.

The foundation also misapplied money it received from big-name donors, including Sandia National

See **TVCF** on Page 6



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Five-year-old Aranami Ling gets a ride on a Segway courtesy of Jim Heldberg, owner of Pacifica-based Silicon Segway.

## Green Scene energy event brings in more vendors and more consumers

1,000 turn out, despite construction work blocking traffic

Pleasanton's Green Scene environmental fair is growing, with its highest attendance so far last Thursday: About 1,000 people turned out for the lunchtime event, despite roadwork on Hopyard Road that made it difficult to reach.

Part of the high turnout is a change in the focus of the event, according to Laura Ryan, the city's energy and sustainability manager.

"This is more consumer oriented," Ryan said, explaining that the original concept was to draw professionals, such as contractors and building managers.

The event was a success for the vendors, too, as the crowd took advantage of foods and desserts for sale, and fresh foods from the farmers market, one of several organizations that set up two booths. Information was also available from dozens of firms selling or promoting energy-saving products.

"We had 100 exhibitors. Last year, we ended up with 87," Ryan

said. She said this year she worked to draw in more local vendors.

On hand were firms offering green home and garden designs, eco-friendly products and gifts, energy efficiency, water conservation and solar information, along with resources such as public transit firms to help people shrink their carbon footprints.

"Awesome event," Santino Bernazzani told Ryan. "Every year, it gets better and better."

Patti Chung has attended all three Green Scene fairs so far to find out more about "how to go green."

"I found really great information," Chung said, chatting with Jan Barcus from Wheels, the Tri-Valley bus service.

Beyond promoting energy efficiency, the Green Scene fair is energy efficient itself. The fair, which was held outdoors for the first time, is a "zero-waste, carbon-neutral event."

—Glenn Wohltmann

## Pleasanton Weekly candidates forum set for Thursday

2 seeking mayor's post, 3 for City Council to face voters at free, public debate

Voters will have a final chance to hear candidates for Pleasanton mayor and City Council talk about how they would govern the city at a free, community-wide forum this Thursday before ballots can be cast by mail starting Oct. 8.

The forum, sponsored by the Pleasanton Weekly, will be held in the City Council chambers starting at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m. Doors at the Civic Center, located at 200 Old Bernal Ave., will open at 6 p.m.

Those attending the forum will be given cards as they enter which they can use to write out their questions of individual or all candidates. The moderators of the forum, Gina Channell-Allen, publisher of the Pleasanton Weekly, and editor Jeb Bing will then ask the candidates to answer these questions as well as others they will ask.

The forum will be videotaped for later broadcast on community television's Channel 29 and also on

the Pleasanton Weekly's website at [www.pleasantonweekly.com](http://www.pleasantonweekly.com).

The candidates are Council Members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne, who are seeking election to the mayor's post, and Karla Brown, Erlene DeMarcus and Jerry Pentin, who are seeking election to the City Council, where two seats need to be filled. Mike Harris, a fourth council candidate, has dropped out of the race although his name is listed at the top of the council ballot, which

is already printed and distributed and cannot be changed.

Thursday's 90-minute debate will give the public an opportunity to ask questions about where the candidates stand on vital issues facing the city as well as a chance for candidates to respond and tell voters why they should be elected.

Questions for individual or all of the candidates may also be sent by email to [editor@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:editor@pleasantonweekly.com). ■

## FALL IS FOR PLANTING! FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS

**Saturday, Sept. 29 at 10 am  
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Our own Tyler will present an informative class on preparing and planting a fall vegetable garden. Along with selecting the best varieties for our area, he will discuss how to get a bumper harvest by properly preparing your soil using organic soil amendments and fertilizers.

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## Study continues on reopening waterslides

Park District getting ready to ask for project bids

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

A report on the Shadow Cliffs waterslides has concluded that the popular facility could be reopened after repairs are made to the mechanical equipment, plunge pools, decks, fences and electrical gear, and to the slides themselves.

"The four-slide complex that is Shadow Cliffs is over 30 years old and exhibits a significant list of deficiencies after all these years while at the same time providing signs of tenacious durability," according to the report by Water Ventures, a water park developer based in Lake Forest.

In order to be successful, according to Water Ventures, the facility should in the future offer more opportunities for water play, such as wave pools, leisure pools and lazy rivers. But improvements needed before reopening the current facility would total \$885,100.

"The cost estimate for the renovation work would be \$1.4 million when you add up all the engineering costs, permitting, inspection," said Jim O'Connor, assistant general manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, who reviewed the report with the district operations committee Sept. 20.

"In our opinion, this site is an excellent venue for such a water park," the report also stated.

The next step is for the Park District to develop a request for proposals so companies can submit bids to renovate the popular

facility. Water Ventures offered to prepare this package for \$6,800, noting it is not a candidate to develop the facility.

The Park District Operations Committee will review the request at its Oct. 10 meeting, then it will be posted and the Park District will wait for bids on the project, O'Connor said.

"They will be due back to us sometime in mid to late November, then in January we'll take our recommendations to the committee," O'Connor said. "If it's approved to move forward we'll take it to the full board in February."

O'Connor was doubtful that the waterslides could reopen for the 2013 season since the developer would need to have funding in place to get permits, including a building permit from Pleasanton, health and safety permits as well as others from the county that would require inspections.

"It's a hybrid between a public pool and an amusement park," O'Connor noted. "State laws will apply as well."

The Rapids Waterslides was opened in 1981 by Glenn Kierstad under a 25-year contract. After its expiration, the operation continued with year-to-year agreements.

Inspections last winter, when the waterslides were always closed, led the Park District to conclude that the facility had too many safety issues to open for the 2012 season. Park administrators recommended

at a March meeting that the slides be closed permanently in light of the fact that the district's long-term land use plan called for them to be phased out in another 10 years.

But after an outcry from the community, the Park District instead instructed staff to reevaluate the site and put out bids for its renovation/rebuilding and operation.

At a meeting held at the Veterans Memorial Building in Pleasanton in June, Mimi Waluch, revenue and administration manager with the Park District, said the district had estimated it would cost \$6.4 million to replace the facility, but original operator Kierstad also addressed the committee to say he estimated it would cost \$280,000 to bring the facility up to snuff. He also explained that when he was put on a year-to-year lease he could not afford to make capital improvements.

The concession area is about 3.5 acres and includes the four waterslides, a maintenance building, office, storage, separate men's and women's restrooms with dressing areas and lockers, and a picnic area with a shade structure, picnic tables and barbecues. Structures also must be made ADA compliant.

"It was great facility for many, many years, especially for the folks in Pleasanton," O'Connor said. "But my job is to make sure that what happens in the future will be safe."

The report will be on the Park District website, www.ebparks.org, this week, said O'Connor. ■

## Bob Several, journalist at Independent, dies

Fought for Pleasanton Ridge, urban growth boundaries

Robert Several, 75, who worked at The Independent newspaper in Livermore from the day it opened, died Sept. 21 of pancreatic cancer at the VA Hospital in Martinez.

He was born in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., and moved with his parents and his younger brother Michael to Southern California. He graduated from UCLA with a degree in history and served in the U.S. Army. He worked for a daily newspaper for only a few months before signing on with The Independent in time to help put out its first issue.

"Behind his typewriter and then his computer, he was a warrior, passionately fighting for social justice and the environment," said Independent publisher Joan Seppala. "In his 49 years with the paper, he

helped to transform the Valley into a better place to live."

Mr. Several worked to curb development, such as the Save All Valley Environment Initiative in 1972. He also supported initiatives to preserve Pleasanton Ridge in 1993, as well as the Sunol Ridge, and to establish the urban growth boundaries in Pleasanton, Livermore and Alameda County.

He also wrote to support fair housing legislation in Livermore and affordable housing, plus was an advocate for Tri-Valley Haven and its work to halt domestic violence. He encouraged reaching out to members of society who might be overlooked, such as the homeless, farm workers and those with disabilities, and has been

described as "making a big difference in what happened in our communities."

His editorials were described as "hopeful and inspirational," and co-workers praised him for his quiet and calm demeanor, even under deadline pressure.

Mr. Several was also an Oakland A's fan, and enjoyed painting and photography.

He is survived by his son Aaron Several and grandson Dylan of San Leandro; his son Jacob Several and granddaughter Grace of Berkeley; his mother Beatrice; his brother Michael; and his cat Shalom.

Services will be private, but there will be a public memorial commemoration at The Independent at a later date. ■

## TVCF

Continued from Page 5

Laboratories. Hyde said earlier this year that he expected insurance to cover all the money that was either misapplied or promised without permission from the board of directors.

"Nobody is going to lose any money," Hyde said in June. "We can and will get things worked out to everyone's satisfaction."

Much of the debt seems to have

been covered. Court documents show no claims from Sandia, for example, and no claims by many of the smaller charities supported by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, such as Open Heart Kitchen.

However, the TVCF owes nearly \$80,000 to a host of small businesses, including \$9,855 to Tri-Valley Community Television and \$1,500 to former local television personality Mark Curtis, who flew in regularly to tape shows for the foundation. The first

meeting of creditors is set for Nov. 3.

Hyde stopped commenting about the TVCF in June, referring all comments to the public relations firm Full Court Press, which has yet to respond to questions from the Pleasanton Weekly. Full Court Press was not listed as a creditor in the court papers filed this week.

The court filing also shows a postal machine rented on a month-to-month basis by the foundation was stolen in early August. ■

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## Federal parolee arrested in Sept. 11 Bank of America robbery

Taken into custody while driving in car spotted at robbery site

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

An Oakland man on federal parole for bank robbery was arrested Sept. 19 as a suspect in the robbery of the Bank of America branch at Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road on Sept. 11.

Royland Rice, 59, was caught on Black Avenue near Via Espada after police spotted a vehicle matching the brown, '70s-era Ford Ranchero with a white camper shell used

during the holdup.

The stop occurred at 8:40 a.m., and during the investigation, officers discovered evidence connecting Rice with the bank robbery.

He was arrested on one count of forcible robbery and booked at Santa Rita Jail.

Rice used a threatening note in the holdup, according to police. That's the same motive Rice used in the early 2000s, when he was

dubbed "the potbelly bandit" who police at the time described as "having kind of a beer gut on him," according to a June 13, 2001, newspaper article.

Rice was arrested for robbing more than a dozen banks in San Ramon, San Francisco, Albany, Fremont, San Leandro, Berkeley, Union City and San Lorenzo in a four-month spree between April and June 2001.

In his June 2001 arrest, Rice — who was already on parole for prior bank robberies — was caught in a car with an expired registration at Eastshore State Park in Berkeley. A federal warrant for his arrest had already been issued after a botched June 4, 2001, robbery attempt in Orinda where he dropped a credit card with his name on it as he fled. In that robbery, a teller pretended she couldn't read the note he passed, which read, "Holdup — 50s and 100s," according to court records from the 2001 case.

Rice was convicted in 1990 for robbing four banks in Berkeley, Richmond and Union City and was sentenced to serve the maximum of nine years, seven months in that case. No information on his 2001 conviction was available. ■



**Royland Rice**

## We're looking for a few good men and women

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

These are the individuals or groups who keep doing what they do to make our community and lives better, but very rarely get the recognition they so richly deserve. These true, yet

often anonymous, Tri-Valley Heroes will be honored this holiday season through a series of feature articles. Awards will be given in the following categories:

- ▲ Arts and Culture
- ▲ Community Spirit
- ▲ Courage
- ▲ Environmental Stewardship
- ▲ Innovation
- ▲ Rising Star
- ▲ Role Model
- ▲ Lifetime Achievement



**Nominate a hero today!**

Complete the form at <http://tinyurl.com/Tri-ValleyHeroes>.

We are also looking for sponsors for the program and for the individual awards. Please contact Gina Channell-Allen

at [gallen@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:gallen@PleasantonWeekly.com) or 925-600-0840 for information.

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## Raeside out as Tri-Valley Convention Bureau chief

'Leaving to pursue other avenues'

The Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has announced that Grant Raeside resigned from his position as president and chief executive officer effective Sept. 10.

Raeside served as president and CEO of the Convention and Visitors Bureau for 10 months. He was appointed late last year.

A statement posted on the CVB website says that Raeside "is leaving to pursue other avenues."

"We wish Grant well in his new venture, and appreciate the efforts he has made on our behalf to promote tourism to the Tri-Valley region," Faye Cater, chairman of the board of directors, said in a statement. She said Raeside's resignation will "absolutely not" affect the bureau's efforts to increase tourism and promote the region as a "weekend destination in the East Bay of San Francisco."

The CVB's board of directors is preparing to conduct a search for a new president and executive officer. Meanwhile, its staff and the executive board will manage the day-to-day activities.

Circumstances surrounding Raeside's departure were not immediately available. One source told the Weekly that Raeside's management style was in conflict with the board's preferences, and that he was put on notice to make changes but those efforts were not successful.



**Grant Raeside**

Even so, Raeside told members of the Valley Real Estate Network earlier this month that there's been a 6.5% increase in the occupancy rate of the Tri-Valley's 38 hotels with Danville's one hotel, the Best Western, leading the way at 85% occupancy. He said the CVB could take credit for those gains.

Raeside also worked with the San Francisco Examiner to produce an eight-page special section promoting the Tri-Valley, and earlier this year, the CVB began running 1,500 30-second spots on local portions of the Travel and Food networks in the San Jose market. Last July, it sponsored a 12-

page promotional section in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Prior to his tenure at the CVB, Raeside was executive director of the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance.

When he was named CEO, he filled a position that had been vacant for much of 2011 after Amy Blaschka, the CVB's long-time executive director, resigned "to pursue other interests" early last year without explanation.

—**Glenn Wohltmann**

## From Jerusalem to Tel Aviv

Lecture series begins Wednesday at Beth Emek

The fall 2012 lecture series at Congregation Beth Emek begins Oct. 3 with an exploration of the ancient city of Jerusalem and concludes Dec. 5 with a discussion of contemporary Tel Aviv. The presentations in-between will focus on Jewish resistance during World War II; and the Middle East's non-proliferation challenges that will confront the next presidential administration.

"Our series covers a journey of over 3,000 years and will focus on both historic as well as contemporary issues," said Jim Holtz, series chairman.

The series will open with popular lecturer Nitzhia Shaked, who will present an overview of Jerusalem's history. On Oct. 24, award-winning historian Fred Rosenbaum, author of "Taking Risks" and "Here There Are No Sarahs," will explore the different kinds of resistance, both mental and physical, that Jews used in their fight against the Nazis.

"Rosenbaum's talks are not to be missed," Holtz said. "He speaks with such clarity and depth that you are brought into the world he is describing."

Speaking Nov. 15 on non-proliferation challenges in the Mid-

dle East will be Michael Nacht, a professor with UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy. Nacht was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs from 2009-10, for which he received the Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest civilian honor. He also served as Assistant Director for Strategic and Eurasian Affairs in the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency from 1994-97. His current research is on modifications to strategic deterrence; assessing latent strategic capabilities; aspects of US cyber and space policy; and strategies in East Asia and the Middle East.

Noted scholar Ken Cohen will complete the series Dec. 5, tracing will the creation of Tel-Aviv in the early 20th century and how it evolved into Israel's cultural and financial center.

Lectures, which are sponsored by Congregation Beth Emek and the Jewish Federation of the East Bay, begin at 7:30 pm. Admission to all four is \$36; individual admission is \$10. Congregation Beth Emek is located at 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. For more information, call 510-318-6453.

—**Dolores Fox Ciardelli**

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

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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

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

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## LETTERS

### Food shopping on Main

Dear Editor,

Sadly I was not in town when people were interviewed about Domus closing and what they would like to see in its place. This would have been (yet) another time when I would have gladly pointed out how much I would like to see a little more variety in our town.

So how about a health food store/eatery? to make food shopping available in walking distance for downtown residents. And add a different aspect to the mainly Italian food offerings along Main Street.

Please hear me.

**Martina Harrison**

### Shadow Cliffs closure

Dear Editor,

My friends and I were supposed to meet at the back lakes of Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area for a dog and puppy swim on Saturday. My friend drove all the way from Hollister to meet at 10:30 at the lake. The park was closed at the gate for cars (for the See Jane Run Women's Triathlon). I walked in the back entrance so there were only runners to contend with. She didn't know the back way and there were no signs.

I thought Shadow Cliffs was a public park. Why was it closed for a single event? These events are also attended by law enforcement officers at taxpayers' expense. How is this justified?

**Donna Darling**

### What Shuttle?

Dear Editor,

At approximately 7:45 a.m. this morning, Sept. 21, I was on my daily walk, when I encountered a young man, approximately 16 years of age, walking to high school. Upon our paths crossing on the sidewalk, I asked him if he and his classmates would be out looking for the arrival of the "Shuttle" as it approached the Bay Area.

He responded, "What is a shuttle?"

I then said, quite befuddled, "You know, the one that went into space and was called Endeavour."

He replied that he had never heard of the Space Shuttle or the Endeavour.

Needless to say, I have lost all confidence in the Pleasanton school system or its teachers, and they will no longer have my support. Wow!

**Bill Williams**

### Thorne for mayor

Dear Editor,

As president of the Board of Directors at the Museum on Main in downtown Pleasanton, I would like to add my voice to those urging a vote for Jerry Thorne for mayor.

Over the years that I have been associated with our museum, I have seen and worked with Jerry and his wife Sandi, who is on the museum board of directors, many times.

Jerry doesn't just "work the crowd" at museum events, Jerry will work behind the beverage bar, man a booth at First Wednesdays, help out at the picnic for museum volunteers and even "dress the part" as he did recently at a museum fundraiser.

This down-to-earth assistance for our nonprofit organization is done without seeking praise or self profit, it is heartfelt, with great interest in seeing that residents learn about our hometown museum whose goal is to keep Pleasanton's history alive.

For these reasons and many more, I urge voters to select Jerry Thorne for mayor. As his campaign says, Jerry really does "stand up for Pleasanton."

**Patti Takens, longtime Pleasanton resident**

### Sweeney's success

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your outstanding article about Matt Sweeney's accomplishments ("A Falcon Family," Sept. 21). The accolades accorded to him are well earned by Matt — and the support of his family.

His accomplishments are due to hard work, dedication, passion for his mission. His success also speaks highly for the core values of his parents, brothers and sisters. He is a living demonstration of the characteristics that make for a great school, family, community and nation.

**Brad Hirst**

### Yes on Prop 38

Dear Editor,

California schools have faced big cuts in funding over the last four years. Because today's students become tomorrow's taxpayers, cutting education funding is risky. Proposition 38 will help restore needed funding for our public schools.

Prop 38 dedicates new funds directly to each public school on a per-student basis. Prop 38 is endorsed by the state PTA and by CASB (the California Association of School Boards). Prop 38 is unanimously endorsed by PUSD's Board of Trustees. If passed, Prop 38 will generate over \$12 million for Pleasanton's schools in 2013-14.

With Prop 38, I will have a say in how my taxes will be used in my daughter's school, and those who create gridlock in Sacramento will be taken out of the loop. School districts will be required to provide a transparent budget for each school. Each school will be required to involve community members in the development of a plan for how to use Prop 38 funds. More local control over funding is a big benefit of Prop 38.

We have only five elected school board members in Pleasanton, and Prop 38 will dramatically expand the number of community members to whom school administrators will be held accountable.

When thinking long term about California's future, an investment in education is wise. I want my tax dollars to benefit students in the town where I live. Please join me in voting Yes on 38.

**Sandy Piderit**

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### i-GATE proving to be a winner for Tri-Valley

i-GATE, with the same small "i" that Apple has made trendy with its iPhone, iPod and iPad products, may be less known but its mission is huge and could span the globe. Its name is also an abbreviation of the more complicated formal identification: Green Advanced Transportation Excellence. It's a 36-month-old program providing collaborative opportunities, entrepreneurial education and assistance, an Academic Alliance and a business incubator for development of high-growth green businesses, with startup offices at the eastern edge of Livermore.

Pleasanton is one of a number of cities that support i-GATE with an annual contribution of \$25,000. The others include Dublin, Tracy, West Sacramento, Fremont, Lathrop and Brentwood. The organization's \$222,000 budget, as of last July, includes major financial and "in-kind" contributions from both Lawrence Livermore and Sandia national laboratories and the city of Livermore. In fact, Rob White, the economic development director of Livermore, currently serves as i-GATE's interim chief executive officer.

Although some cities outside of Livermore have been skeptical over how i-GATE will help their communities, they have now given strong approval over the organization's need and search for a full-time CEO who will not only relieve White of his dual job responsibilities but also give i-GATE a boost in finding additional sponsors and getting its incubators and entrepreneurial goals moving more swiftly. The decision was a good move that will allow the organization to continue to grow, hopefully giving it an experienced leader with credibility on the industry side of the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem.



**Brandon Cardwell**

White and his small i-GATE staff that includes Brandon Cardwell, vice president, and Rik Walters as vice president of marketing, have already succeeded in building the credibility for i-GATE in the federal, state and local agency networks. They've also made significant inroads in the academic and research sectors, bringing together the research and laboratory capabilities at the nearby national labs as well as now a unique partnership with UC Davis. An i-GATE/iHub chart showing its current partners at last month's board meeting is a colorful schematic showing cities, industry, research and academia and finance coming together to help i-GATE succeed.

Writing about i-GATE in PG&E's "Currents" magazine last month, David Kligman cited the innovative organization for creating inroads for green transportation startups. His story included a photo showing Bruce Balfour riding a portable electric vehicle produced by Trikke, a startup green transportation company. Balfour, who is paid by his employer, Sandia National Laboratory, to help run the i-GATE program, often involves himself in products being produced by entrepreneurs now using i-GATE facilities. Financing, regulation barriers and being able to cost-effectively produce products, such as this electric vehicle in America instead of China, are just a few of the hurdles i-GATE has helped young start-up companies overcome.

The nonprofit i-GATE was created for small businesses, giving their leaders a chance to network and use the resources of other companies, academic partners and the two national labs in the area now affiliated with i-GATE. So far, it's proven to be a great start at bringing more of the Silicon Valley-type technologies, entrepreneurs and even Palo Alto-based venture capitalists to the Tri-Valley. ■



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

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# Business News

Edited by Jeb Bing, [jbings@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:jbings@pleasantonweekly.com)

## Build-A-Bear Workshop store to open at Stoneridge

Outlet to feature family-friendly entertainment throughout the day

Build-A-Bear Workshop, an American retailer that sells teddy bears and other stuffed animals, will open a store Oct. 5 in the Stoneridge Shopping Center.

At the store, customers go through an interactive process in which the stuffed animal of their choice is assembled and customized during their visit to the store. It's the largest chain that operates in this style.

Build-A-Bear Workshop has

been acclaimed for the quality of its working environment, especially as a workplace for teenagers. The company's motto is "Where Best Friends Are Made."

Festivities planned for the grand opening celebration include a special ribbon-cutting at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct 5, to be led by representatives of the American Red Cross. Pleasanton City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio will join Chief Information and Inter-

active Bear Dave Finnegan for the ceremonies.

The first 100 guests at the store will mail special bears for free to the American Red Cross, which will then distribute the bears to children in need of a teddy bear hug.

There will be family-friendly entertainment throughout the day, including appearances by Bearemy, the Build-A-Bear Workshop huggable mascot. ■



### WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Agendas for the following meetings are available on the City's website at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov).

#### Civic Arts Commission

Monday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

#### City Council

Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: P12-1691; City of Pleasanton – Consideration of a General Plan Amendment to the Housing Element to amend Program 9.1 and Background Section on Potential Governmental Constraints to Housing

#### Human Services Commission

Wednesday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

#### East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force

Thursday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Drive

- Review and discuss opportunities and constraints within the East Pleasanton Specific Plan Area

#### COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Applications are being accepted for the following vacancies:  
Civic Arts Commission – 2 members & 1 alternate  
Committee on Energy and the Environment – 1 member  
Economic Vitality Committee – 1 member from each of the following categories:

- Commercial Services Firm
- Commercial Real Estate Developer
- Green Economy/Environmental Industry
- Financial Services
- Medical Technology
- Professional Services Firm

Human Services Commission – 1 alternate

Library Commission – 1 member & 1 alternate

Youth Commission – 1 member from each of the following categories:

- Village High School freshman or sophomore
- Thomas Hart Middle School 6th or 7th grade

Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee – 1 middle school parent  
Alameda County Transportation Commission Citizens Advisory Committee

- 3 Pleasanton representatives

Applications are available on the City's website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/newcommapp.pdf> or at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street. For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027. Applications due by 4:00 p.m., Friday, October 5, 2012.

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

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

## Pleasanton's permitting process goes online

New 'e-government' service part of city's efforts to streamline, expedite building improvement process

As part of its continuing effort to simplify and expedite the permitting process, the city of Pleasanton has launched a slate of new services which allow building permits to be handled on the Internet and by telephone.

Using the new Citizen Access online portal, residents, developers and businesses can schedule inspections, check the status of a permit or inspection or check for property information directly from the Internet, 24-hours a day, seven days a

week. A Voice Permits system allows customers to schedule, re-schedule, and listen to inspection results from any touch-tone phone.

"Increasing citizen access to government services is an important goal for the city of Pleasanton, and this new service delivers an easy and convenient way for us to expand our e-government services," said Brian Dolan, director of community development. "This also increases the efficiency level of city services by better maximizing staff

resources to focus on more complex applications."

The new Citizen Access system is powered by software from Accela, Inc. of San Ramon. The new Voice Permits telephone system is powered by software from Selectron Technologies of Tigard, Ore.

For more information, contact Dennis Corbett of the Building and Safety division at (925) 931-5304 or visit the city's new epermitting Citizen Access portal at [www.pleasantonpermits.com](http://www.pleasantonpermits.com). ■

*Find out where the mayoral and city council candidates stand on a range of issues*

#### Mayoral



Jerry Thorne



Cheryl Cook-Kallio

#### City Council



Karla Brown



Erlene DeMarcus



Jerry Pentin

Join the Pleasanton Weekly for a debate and candidates forum!

**6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4**

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Debate begins at 6:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers  
200 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton

#### Moderators:

Pleasanton Weekly Publisher  
Gina Channell-Allen  
and Editor Jeb Bing

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# POLICE BULLETIN

## Bathroom burned in arson

A baby changing station in the women's room at Wayside Park in the 4500 block of First Street was set on fire Sept. 21, according to police reports.

Officer Dirk Hooper responded to a call around 2:46 p.m. and found smoke coming out of the women's room; Hooper found the changing station burning and put out the fire with an extinguisher from his patrol car. There are no suspects or witnesses in the fire, according to a report, which valued

the changing station at \$200.

### In other police reports:

- A complaint about suspicious people near Seminole Way led to the arrest of two men Sept. 21.

William JD Billbrey, 26 of Reno, Nev., was arrested at about 6:53 a.m. in the 4600 block of Ithica Way for possession of burglary tools — a bolt cutter — in his car. He was also arrested for possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance, Vicodin, and possession of a switchblade, all of which were discovered in his backpack, and a violation of probation.

John Edward Teixeira, 33 of North Highlands, was arrested on an outstanding felony warrant.

When police spotted the two

men, they said they were headed to a friend's house but went to the wrong place. Tiexiera told police he was "sort of on probation"; a warrant check led to the arrest of Tiexiera and the discovery that Billbrey was also on probation, which led to the search of his car and backpack.

- Five laptops worth \$800 apiece were reported stolen from Safeway corporate headquarters in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road on Sept. 20. There was no sign of forced entry in the burglary, which was reported at 8:55 a.m.

- Identity theft led to a \$2,900 cell phone bill for a resident of the 3200 block of Curtis Circle. The victim learned that an account had been opened in his name when he received a bill from Verizon, he said

in a report filed at about 7:37 a.m. Sept. 20.

- Electronics worth \$2,800 were stolen from an unlocked conference room at Four Points by Sheraton in a theft reported at 9:46 a.m. Sept. 25. Taken were two microphones valued at \$600 apiece, an \$800 LCD projector and an \$800 sound station, a device that allows multiple people in a room to participate in a telephone conversation.

- An unlocked bathroom window led to the theft of items valued at \$1,350 from a home in the 5400 block of San Juan Way in a burglary reported at 1:27 p.m. Sept. 24. Taken were a \$700 40-inch flat screen TV, a \$300 37-inch flat screen TV, a \$200 computer tower and a \$150 blue-ray player.

- A bank deposit bag with \$675 cash inside was stolen from Pastime Pool Hall at about 1:20 a.m. Sept. 20. The bag had been left on the bar near the cash register before closing; the theft was reported at about 9:57 a.m. the following morning.

- A 27-inch computer monitor worth \$999 was stolen from MIS-COwater in the 5900 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard in a theft reported at 5:39 p.m. Sept. 20.

- A Sept. 22 residential burglary from a shared garage in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive led to the theft of a \$60 vacuum and a \$40 cart. One of the occupants apparently left the door open, which led to the thefts.

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

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Sept. 19

#### Theft

- 1:24 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

#### Auto burglary

- 11 a.m. in the 3700 block of Thistle Wy

#### Battery

- 2:34 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

#### Alcohol violations

- 9:21 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue; DUI
- 3:18 p.m. in the 5900 block of Owens Drive; public drunkenness
- 9:52 p.m. in the 4300 block of First Street; DUI

### Sept. 20

#### Theft

- 1:48 a.m. in the 3900 block of Fairlands Drive; auto theft
- 7:37 a.m. in the 320 block of Curtis Circle; fraud
- 9:57 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; theft from structure
- 1:12 p.m. in the first block of

Stoneridge Mall Road; fraud

- 5:39 p.m. in the 5900 block of W. Las Positas Blvd; theft from structure

#### Burglary

- 8:55 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Public drunkenness

- 9:05 p.m. in the 800 block of Main St

### Sept. 21

#### Arson

- 2:45 p.m. in the 4500 block of First St

#### Theft

- 8:38 a.m. in the 5200 block of Springdale Way; auto theft
- 10:59 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting
- 5:45 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Ct and Owens Dr; auto theft
- 7:01 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 8:19 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

#### Battery

- 10:26 a.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue

#### Vandalism

- 10:46 a.m. in the 6700 block of

Hansen Drive

- 12:17 p.m. in the 3200 block of Stanley Boulevard

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 6:39 a.m. in the 4600 block of Ithica Way; possession of a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, possession of burglary tools, possession of a switchblade
- 6:22 p.m. at the intersection of Ray Street and Walnut Drive; DUI

### Sept. 22

#### Burglary

- 11:28 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:08 a.m. at the intersection of St. Mary Street and Peters Avenue; DUI
- 1:27 a.m. in the 4300 block of Second Street; public drunkenness
- 2:52 a.m. at the intersection of Kamp Drive and Mohr Avenue; DUI
- 5:46 a.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession
- 8:51 p.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road; under the

influence of a controlled substance

- 8:59 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; public drunkenness

### Sept. 23

#### Theft

- 2:56 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:49 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; auto theft

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:18 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness
- 10:42 p.m. in the 100 block of Mission Drive; DUI

### Sept. 24

#### Shoplifting

- 1:54 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Burglary

- 1:27 p.m. in the 5400 block of San Juan Way

#### Threats

- 12:01 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive
- 4:44 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

#### DUI

- 5:10 p.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue; DUI

### Sept. 25

#### Theft

- 8:33 a.m. in the 1100 block of Shady Pond Lane; fraud
- 9:46 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; theft from structure
- 1:13 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from structure
- 4:59 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:49 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession, under the influence of a controlled substance
- 5:21 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; marijuana possession, possession of an open container
- 6:01 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; paraphernalia possession
- 8:27 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; drug violation

# OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

## Eugene Wilfred Gadd

Eugene Wilfred Gadd, age 80, went to be with the Lord on September 22, 2012. Eugene was born to Wilfred and Ellen Gadd on December 15, 1931 at Trinity Lutheran Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

Gene is survived by his adoring wife Mitzie, his seven children: Mike Gadd (Anne), Cathy Perotti (John), Patty Santin, Rebecca Walker (Jon), Jeff Gadd (Jennifer), Kevin Gadd (E'Lese), Brett Gadd (Ashlee), and his ten grandchildren: Rachael, Emily, Eric, Cameron, Brian, Kelsey, Austin, Jason, Jessica, and Everett. He was the oldest of three boys; he leaves brother Bob behind (Overland Park, KS), and was preceded in death by brother Dick. Gene was also cared for by in-laws Bob and Anne Turner.



An accomplished Eagle Scout, Gene served in the Navy during the Korean War from 1951-1955 as a plane director on the USS Philippine Sea (CVA-47). While on the ship, Gene tried out for basketball and baseball, and was selected for both teams. He was also very proud to be chosen for the 1954 San Diego Naval Air Station "Skyraiders" basketball team. After his honorable discharge, he continued playing

basketball and baseball for the University of Missouri Kansas City, where he graduated with a business degree in 1961. Gene was hired by Burroughs Wellcome as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative, where he worked his way up to District Sales Manager of the Bay Area and Hawaii in 1969. His district became the number one in sales for the pharmaceutical division in the entire country. He retired in 1994.

Known as "Coach", Gene was passionate about working with young men and women. Over the span of forty years, he coached more than eighty different teams in basketball, baseball, soccer, and football, including several all-star teams. Gene served on the Valley Christian School Board and became President of the board in 1990.


Gene will always be remembered as a loving husband, hard worker, loyal friend, and an on-the-floor type of dad. When Gene spoke, people listened. He was confident, likable, protective of his family, and above all else, a faithful man of God. Gene always told his family "If anything ever happens to me, just know that I've had a good life."

Gene leaves behind many friends and a huge family, but he had a heart big enough to hold all of us.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at 1:00pm at Valley Christian Church, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin, CA.

In lieu of flowers, Gene's family asks friends to shoot a couple of free throws in his memory, and/or make a donation to the Valley Christian Athletic Department. [www.vcsathletics.com/contact\\_us.html](http://www.vcsathletics.com/contact_us.html)

Submit a memorial (including photos and video), search recent obituaries and write a remembrance through Pleasanton Weekly's obituary directory at [PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries)




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BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

# SUICIDES: more con

Seventeen-year-old Tricia Martin may be Pleasanton's latest casualty in an ongoing trend that claims nearly 34,000 people every year in the United States.

Martin, a senior at Village High School, was one of two people found dead in a Newark motel on Sept. 14, in what police describe as a double suicide or murder-suicide. She was with her boyfriend, a young man from Livermore.

At Martin's service Sept. 22, five of her friends said a few words, and none of them made it through without crying. All had to stop at least momentarily.

"You could just feel how much they were hurting," said a friend of the family. "You wanted to do something, anything, to help them, and there's just nothing you can do."

Martin's death is not an isolated case. Friends and family members were shocked earlier this year when Roy Dronkers, a well-known, well-respected Realtor took his own life, although Dronkers had battled for years with depression.

While Dronkers might have felt alone — those who survive a suicide attempt often say they do — he was not. One in 10 Americans suffer from depression, one of the leading causes of suicide, according to the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the country. A new study published in the American Journal of Public Health claims suicides now claim more lives than car crashes.

In Pleasanton, 19 people killed themselves in January 2010 and September of this year. In 2010, seven in 2011, and at least eight so far this year. Alameda County shows 380 people died by suicide in the area during that time: 158 in 2010, 139 in 2011 through August, although the coroner says that some deaths are still under investigation.

Danville has recorded six deaths over the past year: two in 2010, three in 2011, and one so far this year. While San Ramon shows two suicides in 2010 and none so far this year. In Contra Costa County there have been 301 suicides during the same period, with 118 in 2010, 116 in 2011, and 67 this year.

Local suicides seem to be taking place in public. In recent months, one person hanged himself in a public parking lot in Danville, and a Pleasanton man hanged himself at Pleasanton Ridge. Two people died by suicide in separate incidents at the two stations. A Danville woman drove her car

## THOSE LEFT BEHIND

While those who commit suicide hope to end their own pain, the suffering they leave behind can last family members and friends for the rest of their lives.

Akio Takami's son, Satoshi, committed suicide in April 2009 after several prior attempts. He'd been diagnosed with depression and anxiety disorder.

"This was not out of the blue but the exact timing of his final attempt was a surprise to my wife and me," Akio Takami said. "It was the day after Easter Sunday. My wife talked to him Easter and he was in a good mood. He talked to several friends the week leading up to his suicide, thanking them for being such good friends, probably his way of saying goodbye. He died the following afternoon, Monday, after having bought donuts for the local skate-park kids."

While Takami lives in Pleasanton, Satoshi was living on the California side of Truckee when he died.

Different people deal with the stress of losing a loved one in different ways, as evidenced by Takami and his wife.

"It has been three years and a few months but we have been going through the grief process pretty much on a different path. For example, I don't mind talking about my son's suicide in public, and I have been attending a suicide support group. My wife likes to talk about him anytime one on one, just not in a group," he said.

Takami also joined hundreds of others in June at an overnight walk, "Out of the Darkness," to raise money for suicide prevention, to increase awareness about depression and suicide, and to bring together those who have suffered the loss of a family member or friend through suicide.

"My stepdaughter also participated. We made it through and it was a very emotional and empowering experience," Takami said. In an online blog about the walk, he noted that he "turned inward" after Satoshi's death.

"I felt invisible walls surrounding and suffocating me. More often than not, I feel little energy to deal with others," Takami said, pointing to monthly meetings to the Tri-Valley Survivors of Suicide Loss support group, as one exception. "It is then that I sense instant connections with others and I feel replenishment of positive energy and support."

The group meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at a private home in Livermore and can be reached at 872-5634.

One thing those who live on after someone who has committed suicide have in common is the doubt and questioning that follows.

"I think, 'Why?' 'How?' and, 'What could I have done?' all of those things," Takami said.

Those are the same questions asked by Tristan Haller and her son Tristan about David Woolman, who stayed at their Pleasanton home on and off for about three years. Woolman committed suicide in March after moving to China to teach English.

"I never saw it coming. I had Skyped with him maybe two weeks before and I knew he had a problem with the girl he was with. There's always questions — if I had Skyped him more, asked him more questions," said Patricia Haller.

"He had tried so many other things to get his feet, he was so excited and talking about what he was going to do after China, maybe Spain or Russia. He had finally found a direction. I had driven him to the airport, if I hadn't given him my luggage — I guess you always second-guess yourself and think of something you could have done differently," said Patricia Haller.

Tristan Haller described Woolman, who was "a very happy-go-lucky guy."

"My guess is he'd have been in a more manic state of mind than a depressed state of mind. He was impulsive," Tristan Haller said of his friend.

Woolman left for China in the summer of 2009.

"He seemed to be doing well. He went to Thailand. He had a girlfriend. I think that's what precipitated (his suicide) — it was a difficult breakup," Patricia Haller said. "I never saw depression in my sister told me there is a history of bipolar disorder in his family, especially in the men. I didn't see it as a danger sign. I didn't recognize it as depression. I wish with hindsight that he had called somebody. Even his mother that he Skyped with regularly, it came as a shock."

Patricia and Tristan Haller also participated in the Out of Darkness walk in June.

"I walked with a woman who had lost a baby and a grandson all to suicide. You think you're over it but you're never very far away," Patricia Haller said.

"So many people who have been touched by suicide hide it as if it's something that's shameful. It's not," she continued. "Talk to someone, reach out to someone because there are people there. Mental health professionals, like pneumonia, like diabetes. They can make it not OK or shameful, the harder it is to get help. There is help." ■

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Sometimes our stories hit too close to home.

The package of stories written by Glenn Wohltmann on suicide in this week's edition was slated to run in the issue of Sept. 14. However, when our friend and Pleasanton Weekly colleague Kathy Martin reported her daughter Tricia missing, we decided to hold the stories until Tricia was safely back home.

We lost Tricia on Sept. 14 to what is

being investigated as a murder-suicide or double suicide.

It hurts to run these stories. It hurts more to watch Kathy and Tricia's friends grieving over their loss.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. We pray running these stories will cause anyone contemplating this act to reconsider and spare his or her loved ones from the excruciating pain felt by those left behind.

*G. M. Channell-Allen*

See warning signs of suicide and ways to help someone who is threatening suicide on **page 13**.

# Common than murder

10th leading cause of death for adults, 3rd for young adults

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on Mount Diablo, and, in a particularly tragic incident, Pleasanton resident Amy Burton Freeman fatally shot herself after killing her 13-year-old daughter, Ainslee.

Beyond that, a Fremont man leaped onto Interstate 580 late last year. A San Ramon man shot himself in the head during a traffic stop last November. A 2007 Amador Valley graduate shot himself after killing his ex-girlfriend, a 2006 Amador Valley grad, in a San Diego murder-suicide in December 2011. One person, whose sex was not released, committed suicide in April 2011 in the creek bed that runs through downtown.

Earlier this month, an inmate at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin committed suicide on by hanging himself in his cell, and late last year, a man in custody after running off with a local

high school girl tried to kill himself by jumping off the top tier of the jail, leaving him partially paralyzed.

At least four other teens have died from suicide in recent years.

An Amador Valley High freshman jumped in front of a train in April 2010. A 13-year-old attending Opportunity Middle School shot himself in April 2011. A San Ramon Valley High School sophomore jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge in May 2011. A middle school girl from Diablo Vista Middle School killed herself in 2008, apparently despondent over poor math scores.

The CDC reports suicide is the third-leading cause of death of people 15 to 24 and the fourth leading cause of death for children between the ages of 10 and 14.

Those are just the ones that made the news. The Pleasanton Weekly, as is the case with most publications, does not cover suicides unless they occur in public places, the victims are public figures, or when the loss affects a great number of people, such as when a teen dies and classmates, teachers, teammates and others are mourning.

"By reporting these stories we are able to show how prevalent suicide is. Perhaps making community members aware will bring about discussion, and perhaps discussion will bring about help for people who are

struggling with the idea, have a loved one struggling with the idea, or have lost someone to suicide," said Gina Allen, publisher of the Pleasanton Weekly. "We can't pretend suicide is not an issue."

Suicide has become such a big issue nationwide that the Obama administration this month, National Suicide Prevention Month, announced a major initiative to help prevent suicides, especially among veterans, who commit suicide at a higher rate than civilians. A New York Times article in June said veteran suicides had risen 18% between 2011 and 2012. The Obama plan will boost staff at the national crisis hotline (800-273-855) for both civilians and members of the military and provide \$55.6 million for state and local programs.

Local police organizations, including the Pleasanton Police Department, are also receiving crisis intervention training to teach officers how to better interact with people threatening suicide or who are mentally ill. Dronker's death inspired his brother and sister-in-law, Ron and Brenda Dronkers, to create the "I am Here" foundation, "to provide a safe, no judgmental website that will provide online resources" and to eventually have a 24-hour hotline and online chat room "for those who need a friendly, confidential ear." ■



## SURVIVORS' STORIES

While the bulk of people who attempt suicide are suffering from depression or another treatable mental illness — 90 percent, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness — that's not always the case.

Caitlin Coblentz, now 22, attempted suicide in 2004 during her freshman year at Amador Valley High School. She was 14.

"I took pills, a handful," she said. "The pills that I took, they were my antidepressants. They were supposed to make me feel better. They weren't."

Coblentz compared her feelings leading up to her suicide attempt to the feeling of sinking in a pit.

"People keep walking by and walking by and walking by. Or sometimes they throw down a rope and it's not long enough. Or they say they'll get help and they never come back. I had to have someone climb down in the pit and tie a rope around me and help me climb out," she said.

She said doctors couldn't diagnose what led her to make the attempt.

"At first we thought it was depression, then we thought it was bipolar disease. It turned out it was anxiety gone horribly wrong," Coblentz said. "My freshman year of high school I had such bad anxiety that I basically cracked."

While she said she couldn't remember about the time leading up to her attempt, Coblentz said no one, including her parents, recognized her as a risk for suicide.

"From what I found out later, it came out of the blue for them. They did not see it coming," she said. "I was really good at lying to myself, so they couldn't know because I didn't know until that moment."

Coblentz can't tie any specific thing to turning her life around, although she points to her family saying they love her, encouraging her to "stay here," and a return to faith.

"There are thousands of things that people said and did that helped me along the path. I can't point to any definitive thing. A little bit of it was realizing my support system and a lot of it was just learning what was going on," she said.

"Some of it was a change in my school system. When I was in the main school system, I was fluctuating between all grade levels, mostly I was around the C range, but once I got to Village (High School, the district's alternative school) I was an A student, I was basically the valedictorian."

Coblentz graduated in 2007 and is currently attend-

ing St. Mary's College in Moraga to earn a teaching credential.

She also said she had to learn that feeling suicidal didn't mean she was a bad person.

"It's not a choice, feeling that way is not a choice. No one wants to feel that way," Coblentz said. "It's not something that you can consciously do, you can't turn that frown upside down."

She added that the best piece of advice came from her father.

"He told me when you hit rock bottom, the only place to go is up. Whether you crawl, whether you climb, whether someone pulls you up, whether you sprout wings and fly, keep looking up," she said. "It has made me stronger as a person."

Coblentz encouraged others to watch out for those around them.

"Ask, 'Are you OK?' Provide a safe place. If someone comes to you, offer them help," she said. "Some people are really good at making themselves invisible. That's part of the tragedy of suicide."

For those who find themselves thinking about suicide, she said, "Find professional help. There is always someone willing to listen, there is always someone who wants to help you, to hold out their hand and get out of that pit. There will be somebody left behind. There will be somebody who will be hurt by that loss. There will be somebody that misses them."

Kevin Hines could easily be described as a miracle man. He's one of a handful of people who jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge and lived to talk about the experience.

Hines was 17 when he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

"I didn't know what that meant and it was very scary and I didn't want to have a mental illness and I was in denial," he said. "I was so ill with the symptoms of bipolar disorder: mania, paranoia, hallucinations, both auditory and visual, and severe depression. All those things were going on and I was just losing my mind, for lack of a better term. I would pretend to follow my treatment plan and taking my pills, but I wouldn't be."

That came to a head Sept. 24, 2000. At 19, after months of pretending he was OK and hiding his symptoms from his friends, Hines spent the night contemplating killing himself.

"I didn't know how to cope," he said. "I didn't want to die, but because of my psychosis I believed that I had to die. I thought that everybody hated me, they were just pretending to be nice to me."

After a night of pacing the room, Hines wrote a note to his family and his girlfriend, telling them he loved them. Having made his decision, he said he was at peace.

"Part of my story is when the 25th came, when my Dad came into my room, I was completely calm," he said, adding his father thought, "I can go to work and he'll be OK." I was euphoric, a peace had come over me that my brain would stop attacking me, and I would be free."

While not often discussed, Hines said many people who decide to commit suicide seem to be at peace once their decision is made: They're convinced that their pain will be over.

Part of Hines' story is that he hoped someone would reach out to him and tell him not to jump. He took a bus to the Golden Gate Bridge and arrived at about 10 a.m., surrounded by tourists.

"I said to myself, 'If just one person, just one, comes up to me and asks me if I need help, I'll tell everything,'" Hines said. Instead, a tourist asked him to take her picture.

Convinced no one cared, Hines climbed over the rail, let go and realized immediately he wanted to live.

"The millisecond I hit freefall, when my hands and feet left the rail, I said, 'What have I just done? I don't want to die. God, please save me,'" he said. "People get shocked into reality and they realize immediately they've made a mistake and I knew I made a mistake."

Hines survived the fall with two shattered vertebrae. Now, he's a public speaker, talking about suicide prevention and mental illness.

"If you're considering suicide right now, if you've ever thought about suicide and it haunts you — suicide is never the solution for any problem. But when you feel that way, you have to know you're not alone, there are millions of people who have thought about suicide," Hines said. "Hope exists, and a future, while living with a mental health issue or a suicidal thought, exists. It's not easy. You have to work hard."

For Hines, that means sticking to a rigorous routine that includes taking his medications on time every day, exercising, eating healthy and sleeping seven to eight hours a night.

"If I slip on one thing of that routine, I slip mentally," he said. "I've made the active decision to do all these things all the time so I can feel better." ■

MORE STORIES ON THE NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

## ADOLESCENT ISSUES

With more young adults dying from suicide than from cancer, the Pleasanton school district is paying attention to the problem and is encouraging others to do as well.

Educators are aware of the numbers of students considered “5150s,” a California police code meaning a person may be a danger to themselves or others. At Village High, for example, a student is immediately referred to a counselor if he or she says or writes something about not wanting to live, according to Principal Greg Giglio. He said sometimes, a student might just be blowing off steam.

“We look to have a deeper conversation with the student as to why they are saying what they are saying, what exactly do they mean by the statement,” Giglio said. “Sometimes the student just says it was a figure of speech or that they were frustrated so they said it — we try to determine if that is true or if they are just covering up. If the student starts to be more specific about how they would hurt themselves or when they would hurt themselves then we look to involve a school resource officer.”

He said school officials also consider other factors, such as a history of depression, prior threats or attempts, and if the student “has the intent as well as the means,” meaning a plan, or access to weapons or drugs.

The majority of adolescents ages 15 to 24 use firearms, with suffocation the next most-often used, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control. Young women are at more risk than young men: About 17% of females have considered killing themselves, about 13% have planned it, and about 8% have attempted suicide. Less than 10% of young men have considered it, about 8% have planned a suicide attempt, and fewer than 4% have attempted to kill themselves.

Village, which has had to cope with three suicides in the last five years, has a plan in place for when a student kills him or herself.

“The first thing we do is try to alert the staff and get together to go over the plan as quickly as possible,” Giglio said. “In each of the last three, we have met before school and then had an assembly to address the students. We do not go into detail or dwell on the reasons but focus on supporting those who are going to need it. We set aside a room where students can come after the assembly and through the next few days if they feel the need.”

During that time, he said, if staff sees a student who is particularly hard hit, they might talk one on one with her or him.

“Since Tricia’s (death) occurred on a Friday, we opened school Saturday morning with messages spread out by Facebook, emails or phone calls. Several staff members, counselors and I were available for those who showed up,” Giglio said. “We would also personally call some families if we know the student was

close to the student who passed away. We also begin to put together a list of students to watch over and make sure they have services available and that parents are notified.”

Giglio said that process will continue, with students added to or removed from their watch list.

“This process usually lasts several weeks, as we will see students who manifest behaviors or issues well after the incident has passed,” he said.

Giglio also said the staff makes sure to check on each other as well, which is particularly important because as professionals, they hold their emotions in check during a crisis.

“We check in frequently with each other, make it OK for staff members to get needed breaks or some counseling if necessary,” Giglio said. “We will try to debrief at the end of the day to go over not only details and students, but how we are doing. We might also debrief at staff meetings and have even brought in outside help to process.”

Although the small Village school community has been especially hard hit, the district is aware that it’s not alone.

“We’re seeing an increased number of students with 5150s,” said Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil service. “We have to be open to recognizing mental health issues that need to be dealt with.”

Johnson said the district has become more proactive, sending more to school counselors and more to outside counselors as well. He said it’s difficult to pinpoint the underlying causes that could lead a student to consider suicide.

“I don’t think you can point specifically at any one thing. You have to look at these things as different circumstances,” he said. “People are individual and their individual circumstances are different.”

Johnson added, however, that relationships and family stress play a part.

Although the district has a list of signs to watch out for, Johnson’s advice to parents is more straightforward: Trust your instincts and don’t be in denial.

“There is nothing that any of us care about more than our children. When you see drastic change, trust your intuition, and reach out and get help. Don’t think it’s just going to go away and don’t ignore it,” he said. “Care and let your student, your child, know you care, that your child never feels that they’re alone.”

He said that people should react to someone with mental health troubles in the same way they react to someone with another kind of health problem.

“What I would encourage is that we be open about mental health issues and try to help the individual in the same manner that we help with physical issues,” Johnson said. “If someone breaks their arm, we go for help. People need to help each other when someone is going through hard times.” ■

## Excerpt from “The Book,” A Guide for Pleasanton Parents to the Things that Really Matter, prepared by the Pleasanton Police Department

IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS THREATENING SUICIDE, TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.

Get this person to the nearest hospital that deals with suicide.

“Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.”

### Warning signs of suicide

- Depression — there is a link between depression and suicide
- Feelings of hopelessness and guilt
- Pervasive sadness, anxiety, restlessness, fatigue, loss of interest in activities, changes in eating and sleeping habits
- Verbal threats or talk about committing suicide: “I wish I were dead.” “I don’t want to be here anymore.” “I’m a loser.” “All of my problems will end soon.”
- A previous suicide attempt (and/or a suicide attempt or death by a loved one)
- Changes in behavior — isolation, risk-taking behaviors
- Loss of interest in personal appearance
- Withdrawal from previously enjoyed activities, social activities, hobbies, friends
- Problems at school; change in school performance, falling asleep in class, emotional outbursts
- Trouble eating or sleeping
- High risk sexual behavior
- Crying spells
- Sexual identity crisis
- Frequent accidents or reckless behavior
- Sudden, unexpected happiness after prolonged depression
- Giving away prized possessions
- Increased use of alcohol or other drugs
- Preoccupation with death or dying
- Talking about death, obsession with music or art that features death or suicidal themes
- Verbal threats or cues such as “Nothing matters anymore” ... “Things would be better if I weren’t around” ... “I just can’t take it anymore.”
- Recent major loss or crisis (death, divorce, break-up)

It is important to recognize that the crisis may be insignificant to other people, but very significant to the teenager.

### Ways to be helpful to someone who is threatening suicide

- Be aware. Learn the warning signs.
- Get involved. Become available. Show interest and support. Let the person know you care.
- Ask if he or she is thinking about suicide. Be direct.
- Ask questions about suicide — does the person have a specific plan? Has he/she taken steps to carry out the plan?
- Be willing to listen. Allow expressions of feelings. Accept the feelings.
- Be non-judgmental. Don’t debate whether suicide is right or wrong, or feelings are good or bad. Don’t lecture on the value of life.
- Don’t dare him or her to do it.
- Don’t leave a suicidal person alone.
- Don’t give advice by making decisions for someone else to tell him or her to behave differently.
- Don’t ask “why.” This encourages defensiveness.
- Offer empathy, not sympathy.
- Don’t act shocked. This will put distance between you.
- Don’t be sworn to secrecy. Seek support.
- Offer hope that alternatives are available but do not offer glib assurance. It only proves you don’t understand.
- Take action. Remove means. Get help from persons or agencies specializing in crisis intervention and suicide prevention.
- Be aware of resources
  - If you experience these feelings, get help. If someone you know exhibits these signs or symptoms, offer help. For assistance, contact:
    - A community mental health agency;
    - A private therapist or counselor;
    - A school counselor or psychologist;
    - A family physician;
    - Suicide prevention:
      - Alameda County 24 hour hotline: (800) 309-2131
      - National Hotline: (800) 784-2433, (800) SUICIDE

### Suicide Facts

- Every 16.9 minutes another American commits suicide.
- The suicide rate for adolescents has increased more than 200% over the last decade. Teen suicide rate has more than tripled in the past 20 years.
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds, and the sixth leading cause of death for 5 to 14 year olds.
- An average of 15 suicides per year have occurred in Alameda County since 1985 in the age group of 0-24.
- Gay and lesbian teens are at high risk for suicidal behavior.
- Males complete suicide 4 times more often than females, but females attempt suicide 3 times more often than males.
- American military veterans are at a high risk for suicide, with a vet taking his or her own life on the average of one every 80 minutes.
- Grief substantially heightens suicide risk. In the first year after the death of a spouse, the risk of suicide is 2.5 times greater than that of the general population.
- Drug and alcohol abusers are 6 times more likely to attempt suicide.
- Each year in the U.S., thousands of teenagers commit suicide.

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

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

If you like to smile, chuckle and laugh out loud, check out the Firehouse Arts Center this weekend. The Pleasanton Senior Players have been busy with final practices every afternoon for its production of "You Can't Get There From Here."

"It has everything I like in a play," said director Barbara David. "It's funny, it has a lot of good parts, it doesn't have any little kids, it doesn't have any dogs and it's not too racy — it's just a light comedy, and it makes us laugh while we're doing it."

Written by Pat Cook, "You Can't Get There From Here" is a play of hidden agendas, with a blossoming romance, a hard-headed heavy-tempered business woman and a serene old country philosopher. It also has a crazy actor.

At Monday's rehearsal the stage was set, and the actors slipped easily into character.

"Around here truth is relative," the editor of the paper in the small town explains to a big city journalist.

Arthur Lyman is investigating the disappearance of a Pulitzer Prize winner when he damages his car by running over a pothole. This means he has to spend the night at the Marvis Garner Bed and Breakfast. When Lyman realizes the pothole is a scam to force people to spend the night, he begins to investigate it instead.

The cast of kooky characters delivers a laugh in almost every line. Yes, some are corny but are they are nonetheless quite funny.

This is the second play David has directed for the Pleasanton Senior Players, who have made their stage productions an annual event for the last 11 years.

**"It's funny, it has a lot of good parts, and it's not too racy — it's just a light comedy, and it makes us laugh while we're doing it."**

**Barbara David,**  
director of "You Can't Get There From Here"

"They asked me to choose what play to do. They had a file full of prospects," said David, who is also director for the Asbury Players Community Theater in Livermore. "I like to do light comedies. If we're going to work on something for three or four months, it should make you laugh."

David has also acted but said she prefers directing.

"As George Clooney said, 'I'd rather be the painter than the paint,'" she said with a laugh.

The group of senior thespians meets at the Pleasanton Senior Center once a week, said Recreation Coordinator Raymond Figueroa. Throughout the year they read plays at assisted living and retirement communities throughout the area.

"This is their big production," Figueroa said. "Last year was their first time at the Firehouse Arts Center — they were elated."

Performances are at 7 p.m. tonight; and at 2 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday. Tickets are \$9-\$10 and may be purchased at the door, online at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), by phone at 931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Ave. in Pleasanton.

Parking is available at the large lot adjacent to the Arts Center and accessible from Spring Street. And it doesn't have any potholes. ■



DINO VOURNAS  
Pleasanton Senior Players (l-r) Jo, Cassidy and Lucinda, played by Jo Hunter, Jacki Hawk and Anne Pearson respectively, are the town "butt-in-skis" who solve a puzzle while taking the chill out of the morning with their flask in "You Can't Get There From Here" onstage this weekend at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Pothole  
leads to  
lots  
of laughs

Senior Players  
presenting cast  
of kooks this  
weekend



# Livermore Valley Opera presents classic 'La bohème'

'I want audience to feel the characters' struggles, triumphs, joys, lust and tragedies,' says director

Livermore Valley Opera's production of Puccini's dramatic love story, "La bohème," opens Saturday, Oct. 6, for two weekends.

"I want the audience to feel the characters' struggles, triumphs, joys, lust and tragedies," said baritone Eugene Brancoveanu, who is making his directorial debut with "La bohème." "This opera speaks to all and is why 'La bohème' has endured for over 120 years and is going stronger than ever."

The opera unfolds the tale of a painter, a musician, a philosopher, a seamstress and a singer, who all have big dreams but no money — and the rent is past due. But they are not starving for love of life or each other.

Brancoveanu will also sing the role of the painter, Marcello, a role he's done three times before and for which he received a Tony Award in 2003.

"Eugene's Tony award-winning performance in the Broadway ver-

**"I want the audience to feel the same heat that I as Marcello feel when Musetta kisses me violently at the end of Act Two."**

**Eugene Brancoveanu**



**Eugene Brancoveanu**



**Marie Plette**



**David Gustafson**

sion of 'La bohème' was a key factor in our choosing him to direct LVO's production," said Elizabeth Wells, LVO's executive director.

"This is truly an amazing and a tremendous privilege for me," Brancoveanu said about his directing. "I have spent the last six months preparing for this opera. I've imagined the design of the set, lighting, costumes, staging entire acts in my head and casting the roles to finalize our stellar cast."

"Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and think,

"Wow, rehearsals are just 15 days away. What did you get yourself into this time?" he added with a laugh. "Singing and staging one of, if not the most, beloved opera of all time — it's just amazing."

Brancoveanu's vision for "La bohème" is to bring the characters in Puccini's drama to an emotional level for the audience.

"I want to display for the audience the unbridled passion and intimacy between the characters," he explained. "I want the audience to feel the same heat that I as

Marcello feel when Musetta kisses me violently at the end of Act Two. They must cry with Rodolfo's tears in Act Four and think with Colline's philosophic mind.

"While maintaining a sense of fundamental truth to the opera, I want the audience to feel as I do as director and performer, that every second of the characters' Bohemian existence is filled with the timeless struggle of keeping their dreams alive, even at the cost of their own lives," he continued.

Singing the role of Mimi, the seam-

stress, is soprano and Metropolitan Opera artist Marie Plette, who sang the title role in LVO's production of "Tosca" earlier this year. Tenor David Gustafson sings poet Rodolfo, (he was Cavaradossi in "Tosca") and bass-baritone Phillip Skinner, who convincingly portrayed the evil Scarpia alongside Plette in "Tosca," will sing the role of philosopher Colline. Soprano Kristin Clayton will portray the singer Musetta.

Though some opera companies shy from traditional productions of the most often performed operas like "La bohème," LVO does not.

"Grand opera, the tried and true favorites, produced in a traditional sense as the composers intended is what LVO does best," Wells said. "This opera was built for the ages, it's timeless. With opulent sets, elaborate costumes and outstanding talent, LVO's productions are no longer a hidden treasure, but recognized as quality, professional experiences." ■

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## Tale of starving artists

**What:** "La bohème"  
**Who:** Livermore Valley Opera  
**Where:** Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore  
**When:** 8 p.m., Saturdays, Oct. 6 and 13; 2 p.m., Sundays, Oct. 7 and 14.  
**Cost:** \$39-\$74. Students 18 years and younger, \$10 off.  
**Tickets:** Box office at theater; call 373-6800; www.livermoreperformingarts.com  
**Other:** Pre-opera talks held one hour prior to curtain; artist reception in lobby immediately following performances  
**Special:** Opening Night Gala celebration dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, at 4:30 p.m.; \$75 through box office

**Opera preview**

Three cast members from "La bohème" will give a free one-hour performance at 2 pm., Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The OperaLIVE! event is part of the Livermore Valley Opera outreach and is sponsored by Friends of Pleasanton Library. It will be followed by a question and answer period.

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Classes

**COOKING AND SHOPPING FOR ONE**

Learn how to shop and cook for one. Planning ahead and a little savvy shopping can have you cooking like a pro. The class is from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11, at Pans on Fire, 3059 Hopyard Rd., Suite J. Presented by Hope Hospice and Pans on Fire. 1 of 4 classes in the Every Day Matters series. Preregistration required. Cost is \$35. Call 829-8770 or visit [www.hopehospice.com/EDM.html](http://www.hopehospice.com/EDM.html)

**EVERY DAY MATTERS -**

**REGISTRATION OPEN** Registration is open for a series of four workshops presented by Hope Hospice that address challenges following the death of a loved one: Get Moving-Get Healthy; Cooking & Shopping for 1; Legal & Financial Matters; When Things Break Down & Personal Safety. Preregistration required. Call 829-8770 or visit [www.hopehospice.com/EDM.html](http://www.hopehospice.com/EDM.html)

**LAS POSITAS COLLEGE: ACE THE SAT!** Eva Holtz — a perfect SAT scorer and graduate of Harvard University — will teach dozens of effective test-taking techniques to enhance performance on the SAT. Practice exams, strategy guide, and supplementary materials are included in the \$30 materials fee, payable to the instructor. Tuition is \$189. Not for college credit. This class is from 1-5 p.m. every Saturday in October at Las Positas College. Call 424-1467 or visit [www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed).

**PSAT CRASH COURSE** Las Positas Community College is presenting a three-hour PSAT Crash Course from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at Las Positas College. Instructor Eva Holtz — a perfect SAT scorer — will share dozens of tips and resources to help students shine on test day, which is coming in October. Course fee \$49. Not for credit. Call 424-1467 or visit [www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed)

**VIAGGIO IN ITALIA** Dublin Adult Education presents an interactive, fun and dynamic Italian class for travel in Italy. Based on typical situations you may encounter as a tourist, you will practice dialogues, key words and phrases as well as read and hear Italian. Classes are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays from Oct. 10-Nov. 14 (no class on Oct. 31) at Valley High School, 6901 York Dr. - Room P4, Dublin. Cost is \$90; materials are included and provided. Call 829-4322, ext.7921. <http://www.dublin.k12.ca.us/domain/32>

Clubs

**REPUBLICAN VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE SCREENING** Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will screen the vice-presidential debate at its regular dinner meeting at 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11, at Cattlemens Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore. David Wolfe, Howard Jarvis Tax Association, will also be speaking on the ballot propositions. Members \$26, guests \$30. For reservations contact Phyllis Couper at 462-4931 or email [couplan1962@pacbell.net](mailto:couplan1962@pacbell.net).

Concerts

**MARK ANDERSON, CLASSICAL PIANIST** Asbury Live Presents concert series is proud to host Professor Mark Anderson at the piano. Anderson also owns the New World Music Academy in Pleasanton. The concert is at 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 30, at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. Call 447-1950 or visit [www.asburylivepresents.com](http://www.asburylivepresents.com).

Events

**ANNUAL PICNIC** The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California would like to invite you to join them for their Annual Picnic at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at Highland Oaks Cabana, 4530 Sandalwood Dr., Pleasanton. This is an open event for friends and family. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for guests. For information, call Ruby at 462-9636.

**LIVERMORE AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE** The 17th annual Livermore Airport Open House flies into town on Saturday, Oct. 6. This event features aerobatic performances, exhibits, aircraft on display and entertainment for all ages. Food provided at nominal cost. Small group tours are available. The airport is located at 636 Terminal Circle, off of Airway Blvd. at the I-580. For more information, call 960-8220. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Livermore.

**NATIVE AMERICAN ART AND ARTIFACT SHOW** The Native American Art and Artifact Show will have Native American baskets, totem poles from the Pacific Northwest, Navajo jewelry, Pueblo pottery, a rug weaver and much more. The show is from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 29; and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday,

TAKE US ALONG



**Rockside reading:** Kurt and Chuck Hermanson catch up on hometown news while on top of the Rock of Gibraltar while on vacation in Spain.

Sept. 30, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$8 general and \$6 for seniors. Call 837-4996.

**PLEASANTON GEM FAIRE** Quality jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals & much more at incredibly low prices. The Gem Faire is from noon-6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 29; and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 30, at Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Over 60 exhibitors from all over the world will be on site. Jewelry repair on site while you shop. Admission \$7 weekend pass. Call 503-252-8300 or visit [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com).

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP-OFF** The Pleasanton Police Dept., 4833 Bernal Ave., is hosting a prescription drug drop-off from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 29, when residents are encouraged to drop off unused and expired prescription medicines. For more information, call the Pleasanton P.D. at 931-5100. Free. Pleasanton.

Exhibits

**INDIAN BASKETRY AT MUSEUM ON MAIN** Museum on Main, 603 Main St., is showcasing the traveling exhibit, "American Masterpieces: The Legacy of California Indian Basketry," through Oct. 14. Guided tours are available at 9:30 a.m. and

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

## Film

**'BAG-IT' DOCUMENTARY** You are invited to a free encore screening of the award-winning documentary, "Bag-It." The film, which started as a documentary about plastic bags but evolved into a wholesale investigation into plastics and their effect on our waterways and more, will be shown at 7 p.m., Oct. 15 & Oct. 17 at Cinema West, 2490 First St., Livermore. Call 960-8015 or visit [www.livermorerecycles.org](http://www.livermorerecycles.org).

## Fundraisers

**'A STARRY NIGHT' AUCTION AND GALA** "A Starry Night" is an annual evening gala with dining, dancing, silent auction and charitable giving to benefit RAGE soccer, First Tee of The Tri-Valley and School of Imagination. Hosted this year by KTVU Channel

2's Mark Ibanez, the event is from 5-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 29, at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, 410 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$150. Call 462-6007 or visit [www.astarrynight.org](http://www.astarrynight.org).

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

**4TH ANNUAL PARTY PALOOZA TO HELP CANCER PATIENTS** Party Palooza is coming to the Tri-Valley in Sept., Oct. and Nov. to benefit the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation. The non-profit organization will have 10 individual events to raise money to help local cancer patients. Donations do not go to research and development or to finding a cure. All proceeds go toward providing pain relief to someone suffering with cancer - today. These special events are smaller-scale social events, hosted by Tri-Valley residents and companies, each raising funds to support this 100% all volunteer foundation. A full list of events and details is available at [www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org/palooza](http://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org/palooza).

**BON APPETIT, TOASTS & TASTES OF FALL** Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation invites you to enjoy its ninth annual culinary event to benefit Pleasanton schools. Sample 15 tasty dishes and enjoy live entertainment and silent auction from 6:30-10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at the California Center Pleasanton, 4400 Rosewood Dr. Reserve your place at [www.ppie.org](http://www.ppie.org). \$65 per person. Pleasanton.

**DANCE FEST AND GLOBAL OUTREACH** The Dance Fest and Global Outreach event supports Taylor Zevanove's Gold Award project, which will benefit Thai refugees. The event is from 1:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Youth ages 10-17 and of all skill sets are invited to earn service hours as they take dance classes, watch performances, listen to outreach speakers, and engage in leadership training. \$12 minimum donation. Call 484-2513 or visit [www.dancefest.eventbrite.com](http://www.dancefest.eventbrite.com).

**FOOTHILL ATHLETIC BOOSTERS MEAT SALE** The athletic booster club's annual fall meat sale is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 6-7 in the Foothill High School parking lot. You can choose from premium quality USDA choice meats and FDA seafood -- all at warehouse prices. Visit <http://www.foothillfalcons.org/apps/events/2012/10/6/1281796/>

**FRESH & EASY SHOPPING NIGHT** Shop at Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market, 3903 Santa Rita Rd. from 4-8 p.m., Oct. 4. to raise funds for Mohr Elementary School. Shopping Nights are part of Fresh & Easy's Shop for Schools fundraising program, which provides a \$1 donation to participating schools for every \$20 receipt.

**JEANS AND JEWELS GOES GATSBY** The Tri-Valley Conservancy invites you to throw on your favorite jeans and jewels and join us from 6-10 p.m., Oct. 4, at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, 410 Vineyard Ave. Event includes a hosted bar, dinner, dancing, cocktails and live auctions. Cost is \$105 per person by Oct. 1. Register online at [www.trivalleyconservancy.org](http://www.trivalleyconservancy.org) or call 449-8706.

**REGAL SUPPORTS AMERICA'S KIDS** Regal Entertainment Group announced a donation drive in celebration of the new film "Won't

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



### Dinner dance to help injured veterans

Veteran Bill Smith and his dog Venuto will attend the dinner dance benefiting Paws for Purple Hearts being held tomorrow, Sept. 29, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. The USS Hornet Swing Band will play, and the evening includes a full course Italian dinner prepared by the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department with seatings at 5 and 7 p.m. Paws for Purple Hearts provides fully trained companion-service dogs for injured veterans and training of dogs by veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. Tickets are \$20; call Cindy Deming, Semper Fidelis Chapter OES, at 484-1285.

Back Down." Regal is asking guests to donate school supplies to support their after school programs and help America's kids. Make your donations through Oct. 4 at the Hacienda 20, 5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Contact Nate Cruse at 560-0900.

**SHOP FOR THE CAUSE VENDOR FAIRE** NAMI Tri-Valley (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will host a Shop for the Cause Vendor Faire from 1-6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at 522 South L St., Livermore, to raise funds for programs benefiting those whose lives are affected by mental illness. The fair will feature commercial vendors, arts, crafts and drawings. Visit [www.namitri-valley.org](http://www.namitri-valley.org).

**SHOPPING NIGHT TO BENEFIT SCHOOLS** Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market, 3903 Santa Rita Rd., is holding a Shopping Night with 5% of total sales from 4-8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 3, going to Jackson Avenue Elementary in Livermore. Pleasanton.

**TEAM KC SWIMATHON** Help raise money to support pediatric oncology patients and their families at the annual Team KC SwimStrong Swim-a-thon fundraising event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The event includes a bake sale and barbecue. To register to swim, visit [www.teamkcschwimathon.com](http://www.teamkcschwimathon.com). For information about Team KC, visit [www.korrinecroghan.blogspot.com](http://www.korrinecroghan.blogspot.com).

## Health

**BREAST CANCER COMMUNITY SEMINAR** The community is invited to a free seminar on Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment from 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 2, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Conference Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Speakers will discuss surgery, research, clinical trials, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, biological therapy, genetic risks, lymphedema and recovery. Register at [www.OurSanRamonHospital.com](http://www.OurSanRamonHospital.com), call 800-284-2878 or email [ask.srrmc@tenethealth.com](mailto:ask.srrmc@tenethealth.com).

**BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM** ValleyCare Health System will host its third annual Breast Cancer Symposium from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP by calling 1-800-719-9111 or visiting [www.valleycare.com/educationseminars](http://www.valleycare.com/educationseminars). Pleasanton.

## Kids & Teens

**FREE URINETOWN AUDITION PREP CLASS** Tri-Valley Young Performers Academy will hold a free audition prep class from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sept. 30 at Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Ln., Dublin. Bring yourself and a friend to our audition class and learn how to audition for our upcoming musical Urinetown! For ages 10 and up. Visit [www.TriValleyYPA.org](http://www.TriValleyYPA.org).

## Live Music

**'THE MAGIC OF MOZART'** The Pacific Chamber Symphony's all-Mozart program will include Cassation No.2 in B-flat, Concerto No.2 in E-flat, Symphony in D, Symphony No. 40. Special Artist Glen Swarts, PCS Principle French Horn; Maestro Lawrence Kohl. The event is from 8-10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 12, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30, \$36, \$45; students \$7. Call 373-6800 or visit [www.mylv-pac.org](http://www.mylv-pac.org).

**ASIA IN PLEASANTON** The rock group ASIA, featuring John Payne, comes to the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton, at 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6. This show will feature selections from the band's upcoming release, "Americana," and hits from both the John Payne era and the classic era. Tickets for adults \$35, \$40, \$45; group discounts available. Buy tickets at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office or [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), or by calling 931-4848.

**FREE OPERALIVE!** Livermore Valley Opera is pleased to showcase its singers from Puccini's "La boheme" at the Pleasanton Public Library at 2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 30. A Q&A session will follow the one-hour performance. Free and open to the public.

**LA BOHÈME** AT THE **BANKHEAD THEATER**



Livermore Valley Opera

OCTOBER 6, 13 AT 8 PM  
OCTOBER 7, 14 AT 2 PM

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## Sports community mourns coach Gonzaga

Fund set up to help family of baseball 'champion'

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The baseball community was struck hard when longtime Little League coach Joselito Gonzaga died suddenly of a heart attack Sept. 14 at the age of 48, and a fund has been opened to help his family.

"He was a sweetheart of a man, the nicest man I've ever met outside of my father," said David Ott, special assistant to the president of the Pleasanton Foothill Little League. "I met him in 2006. We were coaching together in PFL for 7-8-year-old boys and girls. He was always there to help people."

They continued coaching and managing teams until their sons turned 10 and began to play for District 57 All-Star teams.

"When the boys were 10, 11 and 12, from February to May we would coach against each other," Ott recalled. "Then from June to the end of July we coached together almost every day."

"Everybody loves to play All-Star Little League so we would do three or four of these tournaments throughout the summer," Ott said. "We would laugh and cry together. He was always there to help people."

Not just the baseball community felt the loss, Ott said, noting that Gonzaga also coached youth football, basketball and girls softball.

On Sunday, the Pleasanton



Coach Joselito Gonzaga died Sept. 14 at age 48 leaving a void in the sports community, which set up a fund at Wells Fargo for his family.

RAGE Black U10 dedicated their game against the Dublin United Firecrackers to Gonzaga, who was the father of goalie Kayla Gonzaga. Team members wore blue and white ribbons emblazoned with Joselito's coaching motto: "No excuses." Kayla made several critical saves, it was reported.

Gonzaga was born Dec. 14, 1963, in the Philippines and came to California in 1969. His family settled in Daly City where he

was a star athlete, playing baseball, basketball and football. He earned a degree in physical education at San Francisco State University and lived all around the Bay Area before settling in Pleasanton.

"He was our leader by example of patience," Ott said. "He helped the rest of us to stay calm."

Gonzaga not only knew people through sports, Ott pointed out. He knew hundreds through his work as a massage therapist at Club Sport. His memorial service, held at the baseball fields at Bernal Community Park, drew around 700 people, Ott said.

At the memorial service, the Pleasanton Foothill Little League presented the Junior 90's District 57 Tournament of Champions banner won by his 13-14 year old Junior 90's Little League team to his wife, Kimberlee Gonzaga, to be buried with him.

"It's worth its weight in gold — if anyone deserves it, it's Joselito," Ott said. "He taught them a lot about baseball and a lot about character. He went out a champion in baseball."

The Joselito M. Gonzaga Fund has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank to benefit Gonzaga's wife and children, Kourtney Renee, Jadon Tyler and Kayla Rae. Contributions can be made at any Wells Fargo Bank. ■



## Ballistic snaps

Imran Matin of Ballistic Premier 99 snaps a header and scores vs. Real Atletico Black from Watsonville, pushing the score to 2-0 on Sunday in the Division 1 U-14 match-up. Ballistic won, 6-1. Top offensive players were Blake Tucker, Youki Chiba, Sam Christensen; top defensive were Jimmy Thompson, Ryan Murray and Jacob Dremalas.



CLIFF WU

## Crushing out a victory

Gracie Ose of the U12 Orange Crush, wearing gray, displays her tenacity on offense as the Orange Crush continues its winning ways with a 4-0 victory over the Xtreme Tigers on Saturday at the Sports Park. The Crush got balance scoring from Gracie Ose, Mollie McKay, Lindsey Schroeder and Marissa Fredricks. The defense turned in a strong performance by Emma Tsztoo, Allison DeFazio and Elisabeth Balicanta.

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Youth basketball

Registration is under way for the city's Pleasanton Youth Basketball, operated through the Community Services Department. It is a recreation-based sports league for boys and girls in grades 1-12 with teams organized by gender and grade level.

Games are held on Saturdays at all three Pleasanton middle school gyms with one game and one scheduled practice per week. Game play for boys in grades 1-4 begins the week of Dec. 8 and ends Feb. 23 to avoid overlapping with baseball season. The remaining boys and girls teams start their seasons the week of Jan. 12.

To register, through Oct. 3, visit [www.pleasantonfun.com](http://www.pleasantonfun.com). For

more information, call Nilo Velazquez at 931-3

### Correction

The story "Lady Dons win tennis tourney" in the issue of Sept. 21 contained two errors: The Amador Valley High girls did not play Foothill at the James Logan Tournament; also, Monte Vista High was not at the tournament.



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## Home builders' awards contest deadline nears

Awards to go to firms, professionals who have improved safety in their industry

By JEB BING

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) is now accepting applications for the 2012 NAHB/Builders Mutual Insurance Company Safety Award For Excellence.

The awards program recognizes home builders and contractors who have developed and implemented high quality workplace safety programs, and also honors government officials and NAHB-affiliated associations who work to advance safety in the home building industry.

"These awards were created to honor those who go above and beyond making safety a priority in our industry," said NAHB Chairman Barry Rutenberg, a home builder from Gainesville, Fla. "We are pleased to be able to recognize the advances in jobsite safety programs, and those industry professionals who have taken strides to improve safety in the industry."

NAHB member companies in good standing that build residential homes or town homes using light construction methods are eligible to apply. Specialty trade contractors, remodelers and light commercial and multifamily builders, as well as NAHB-affiliated associations and federal or state occupational safety and health officials who have been nominated by an NAHB member or association, are also welcome to participate.

Award categories include Safety Program of the Year for single-family builders, remodelers, specialty trade contractors, multifamily builders and more.

For a detailed list of categories, requirements and an online nomination form, visit [www.nahb.org/SAFE](http://www.nahb.org/SAFE). Applications are due by Nov. 2.

Award winners will be recognized at a ceremony during the 2013 NAHB International Builders' Show in Las Vegas on Jan. 21. ■

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2012.

### Dublin

- 8645 Beverly Lane** J. Buffer to T. & P. Rhodes for \$572,000
- 3590 Capoterra Way #56** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to S. & T. Torres for \$604,000
- 3501 Corsica Court** Standard Pacific Corporation to R. & A. Castillo for \$754,000
- 3420 Finnian Way #300** Toll Dublin Limited to C. Chen-Wu for \$399,000
- 3420 Finnian Way #332** Toll Dublin Limited to A. Kundra for \$368,500
- 5863 Hillbrook Place** N. Hoang to RCMR Enterprises for \$460,000
- 7961 Millbrook Avenue** P. Burdock to N. Cukar for \$495,000
- 6366 Monterey Way** KB Home to J. & S. Vistosa for \$434,000
- 6372 Monterey Way** KB Home to V. Boochireddy for \$449,500
- 4795 Perugia Street** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to N. Nawbar for \$425,000
- 6309 Ventura Way** KB Home to J. & S. Wilson for \$597,500

### Pleasanton

- 351 Amador Court** Faber Trust to C. & J. Winter

- for \$760,000
- 8172 Arroyo Drive** RJ Dublin to Y. Zheng for \$226,500
- 5063 Blackbird Way** Clevenger Trust to Cummings-Davidian Trust for \$755,000
- 6463 Calle Esperanza** Scrivner Trust to E. & M. Molitor for \$915,000
- 6915 Corte Barcelona** RWW Properties to M. Ayyanar for \$680,000
- 7825 Driftwood Way** M. Drottz to S. Galli for \$580,000
- 3881 Foothill Road** Arteaga Trust to E. & O. Hansen for \$1,300,000
- 1535 Kolln Street** S. Franco to A. & R. Soni for \$578,000
- 933 Laguna Creek Lane** B. Hajian to S. Aliabadi for \$1,465,000
- 433 Los Rios Court** Shalk Trust to D. Montes for \$1,175,000
- 249 Rachael Place** M. Brown to J. Littrell for \$225,000
- 4724 Saginaw Circle** Last Mile Properties to W. Goodwin for \$260,000
- 1080 Sycamore Creek Way** R. & J. Awasty to I. & D. Andrawess for \$1,225,000
- 5991 Via Del Cielo** Radojevich Trust to Hunter Trust for \$950,000
- 2210 Via Espada** Sandoval Trust to Y. Ding for \$690,000

Source: California REsource

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### Livermore

- 4 BEDROOMS**
- 4706 Bel Roma Rd.** **\$1,799,500**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
- 10 Terra Wy** **\$825,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
- 969 Dana** **\$640,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

### 5 BEDROOMS

- 176 Prato Way** **\$869,000**  
Sun 1-4 Blaise Loffland 846-6500

### Pleasanton

- 3 BEDROOMS**
- 4730 Del Valle Pkwy** **\$749,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Tim McGuire 462-7653

### 4 BEDROOMS

- 7553 Trotter Way** **\$748,500**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

- 803 Bonde Ct** **\$769,000**  
Sat 1-4 Mike Carey 963-0569

- 7924 Spyglass Ct** **\$879,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Sherri Stoneberger 510-504-7177

- 3116 Devereux Ct** **\$1,375,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-3 Flashberger Team 463-0436

### 5 BEDROOMS

- 463 Montori Ct** **\$1,070,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

- 337 Yearling Ct** **\$1,999,000**  
Sun 1-4 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500

- 22 Castlewood Dr** **\$1,699,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

- 364 Linden Way** **\$1,299,000**  
Sun 1-4 Laura Glovin 518-4800

### San Ramon

### 2 BEDROOMS

- 7446 Stoneleaf Road** **\$489,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500



Visit [pleasantonweekly.com/realestate](http://pleasantonweekly.com/realestate) for sales information, current listings and open homes. For marketing opportunities call 600-0840.

**7924 SPYGLASS COURT, PLEASANTON**

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4**  
**TEXT 510-504-7177 FOR GATE CODE ACCESS**

This delightful 2 story home reflects quality, craftsmanship and pure delight. Located in the desirable Golden Eagle gated community featuring 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, the home is complimented with its stunning interior architecture. It boasts a gourmet kitchen, gleaming hardwood like flooring and fireplaces in the formal living room, dining room and family room. The serene and private rear deck boasts breathtaking views of the mountains. This amazing home is perfect for entertaining or just relaxing. This is a rare find and truly a must see. **Listed for \$879,000**



Incredible 100 acre estate nestled in the rolling hills of the Sunol Valley. This property boasts sweeping views of San Francisco, Mission Peak and Mt. Diablo. The stunning main house is introduced by a 22' rod iron double gated entrance continuing onto a 3/4 mile tree-lined driveway. The interior of the home spans 5,033 Sq Ft of living space and features 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, den and wine cellar. This contemporary home was thoughtfully designed for a privacy-minded executive or celebrity. The country setting gives this home a true feeling of peace and tranquility **Listed for \$3,999,000**

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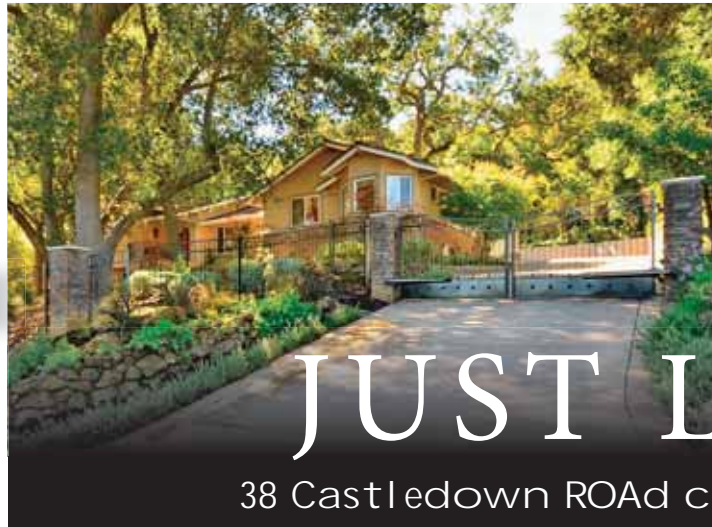
1545 Yukon Pl., Livermore **PENDING**



4264 1st St., Pleasanton **Just SOLD**



993 Summit Creek Ct., Pleasanton **SOLD**



## JUST LISTED

38 Castledown ROAD castlewood, pleasanton

Located in the desirable and historic Castlewood Country Club on Pleasanton's West Side, this gorgeous home overlooks the beautiful lower Castlewood golf course on a private .37 acre, gated, oak tree studded lot.

Completely redesigned and rebuilt in 2002 with a unique Great Room concept, spacious, open living areas, high ceilings, Brazilian cherry floors, and crown moulding.

Featuring a 2850 square foot single level floor plan with 3 spacious bedrooms plus office, 3 full baths, separate Guest Suite, and a high end gourmet Kitchen.

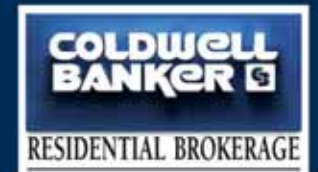
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**BEAUTIFUL ARDENWOOD TOWNHOUSE**  
34201 TEMPEST TER \$550,000  
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### LIVERMORE

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5403 CARNEGIE LOOP \$789,000  
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**3834 ORION COURT, PLEASANTON**

Quiet court location near downtown, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2800 plus square feet. Lot size is 9074 sq. ft. Highly upgraded custom home, gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, expansive master suite with retreat, fireplace and upgraded bathroom. Large family room with fireplace, plantation shutters and crown molding. Newer landscaped private rear yard with built-in BBQ, refrigerator, sitting area, fire pit and beautiful stone patios and landscaping! **OFFERED AT \$988,500**

**PRIMA**

**NEW LISTING - OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

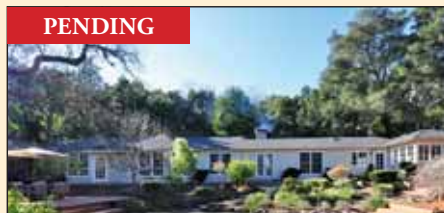


**176 PRATO WAY, LIVERMORE**

Upgraded 5 bedroom, 3 bathrooms, approximately 3325 square foot Centex home. Spacious gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, island, and breakfast bar! Expansive master suite with spa tub and walk-in closet. Plantation shutters, crown molding, custom tile and Brazilian cherry hardwood floors throughout downstairs. Dual heating & air conditioning. Beautifully landscaped front and rear yards, in-ground pool/raised spa and private courtyard area, three car garage with electric gated private driveway. Close to golfing, Ruby Hill Country Club, renewed downtown and adjacent to the Livermore Wine Country! **OFFERED AT \$869,000**

**OAK LANE**

**PENDING**



**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**

**DANBURY PARK**

**JUST SOLD**



**1431 GROTH CIRCLE, PLEASANTON**

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

**MURIETTA MEADOWS**

**SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYERS**



**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**

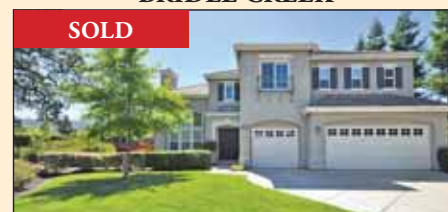


**6513 ARLINGTON DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

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! **OFFERED AT AND SOLD FOR \$1,399,000**

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Family of 4 seeks 4ba/2ba, 2000+/-sq.ft with side yard access and large yard up to \$875,000

**OPEN HOME SAT & SUN 1-4**



**4730 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton**

3bd/2ba, 1,722+/-sq.ft, Granite kitchen with Travertine floor, remodeled Italian tile baths, Pella windows, Cathedral ceiling, Distressed Chilean Maple hardwood floor, new carpet and paint, spacious and private backyard with patio pavers and electric canopy. **Offered at \$749,000**

**NOT ON MLS**



**Heritage Valley, Pleasanton**

4bd/2.5ba, 1802+/-sq.ft Updated Corian kitchen with tile floors, remodeled tile baths with all new fixtures, new windows with plantation shutters, inside laundry, sparkling pool and spa with covered patio and side yard access. Walking distance to K-12 schools, Orloff park and shopping. **CALL FOR DETAILS.**



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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, long driveway. This home is a "10+". **Offered at \$429,000**



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



Pending!

**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**



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

**Thinking Of Selling  
Your Home?**  
Inventory Is Low And Many  
Buyers Moving To This Area!  
Please Call If You Would  
Like A Complimentary  
Market Analysis.



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



**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**



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



**Coming Soon in Ruby Hill, Pleasanton!**

Luxurious custom estate, 8,000 sq. ft. with 5 bedrooms and 7 baths on gorgeous lot. Call for preview information.

We also have a few smaller custom and non-custom homes we're preparing. Call for advanced information.



**The Fabulous Properties Team**  
Donna Garrison & Susan Schall  
925.980.0273 925.519.8226



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



Premier Showing Sat & Sun 1-3

**3116 Devereux Court**

Lovely Laguna Oaks! The neighborhood everyone dreams of! Situated on a quiet court, this home boasts 3874 sq ft, 4 bdms, a bonus rm and a den. Formal entry, beautiful curved staircase and soaring ceilings are just a few of the wonderful features. Expansive family rm, 3 fireplaces and a granite slab kitchen. Large master suite and marble bathroom. Serene and private, the yard is almost 15,000 sq ft w/patio, arbor and spa! \$1,375,000.

**COMING SOON — Seldom available in Grey Eagle Estates!**

This stunning estate has over 5000 interior sq feet of pure elegance. 4 bdms, 2 dens and a media or bonus room. Wonderful views of Mt. Diablo, the Valley and the Pleasanton Ridge line. Call for a sneak peek!



**Dave & Sue  
Flashberger**  
REALTORS®, GRI, CRS, SRES  
925.463.0436  
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**GARAGE SALE**

**PLEASANTON**  
Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale  
**OVER 10 HOUSES**  
Saturday, Sept. 29, 8am-2pm

Follow signs at **Hopyard Rd. & Parkside Dr.**  
(Next to the Pleasanton Sports Park).

**Ingrid Wetmore & Natalie Kruger**  
Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty  
DRE 00923379 & DRE 01187582 **925.316.8006**



**1817 Spumante Place, Pleasanton**

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



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



**2561 Glen Isle Ave, Pleasanton**  
Great open floorplan, 2330+ sqft, plus large loft. 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA. Hardwood floors, neutral paint décor, stainless appliances. Back yard includes: garden area, pool & spa w/outdoor shower. Please call for a showing. **SOLD at \$705,000**  
Multiple offers



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



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

**Pending in 5 days**  
Hayward Hills with spectacular views of the Bay & City Lights. 2785 Sqft., Large Kitchen, Family Room & Living Room. Built in 2000 **List price \$579,000**  
- Multiple Offers  
**SOLD at \$606,000**

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"extra" mile  
for you**



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