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VOL. XIV, NUMBER 44 · NOVEMBER 29, 2013

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## From the Bering Sea to Christmas trees in Pleasanton

Those of us who have spent some time in the Midwest or East no doubt recall the bitterly cold, wintry days when we went shopping for a Christmas tree. Matt Shadle, who operates the Pleasanton Christmas Tree Lot at the corner of the Fairgrounds at Valley and Bernal, remembers those times, too. Only for a tree lot operator, the work starts before dawn to shake the snow off trees and open up the frozen branches before customers arrive.



JEB BING

Matt Shadle at his Pleasanton Christmas Tree Lot.

Shadle, a commercial fisherman who lives near the Bering Sea in Homer, Alaska, has tree farms in Washington and Oregon as well as a cattle farm in Utah. Born in Anaheim, he welcomed the chance to take over the Regan Bros. lot at the Fairgrounds to bring his trees to Pleasanton to sell. Regan sold trees at the site for three decades and many of Shadle's trees are from the Regan Bros.

Used to be that most customers sorted through lots of Noble Fir trees until they found one they like. Today, although Nobles are still the most popular, other varieties make tree shopping more fun and challenging. Shadle has Fraser, Alpine and Douglas firs all in various shapes, heights and symmetry. Needles hang down, point up, wrap around and seemingly weep. Grand firs have a fragrant smell, strong enough, Shadle says, that its very pleasant smell can be detected when you open the front door no matter where the tree is located in the house. So-called Charlie Brown trees are gaining in popularity because of the large spaces between branches that allow for the more exotic, large and even animated ornaments that are hard to place on bushy Nobles.

Nor are trees necessarily green, although most are. Shadle's crews flock and paint trees in a variety of colors to meet customer requests. There are pink trees in princess decor for little girls, red and blue trees, white trees, and new on Shadle's lot are black trees for Oakland Raider fans who can decorate them with silver balls to have next to their TV sets in their dens.

To customers who hesitate to see a tree cut down for their brief holiday enjoyment, Shadle says every farmed tree he sells actually allows

him to plant two to three new trees in that space. By cutting down a seven-year-old fir (the age of most marketed Christmas trees), there's more room and oxygen in the space it occupied. Every state grows Christmas trees and the business — from planting, farming, trimming, harvesting and selling — provides 100,000 jobs, according to Shadle. Plus, it's an American-owned and operated industry.

Shadle buys his trees from nurseries after they've been nurtured inside for two years and outside for another year. Those have passed the survivability test. He tells customers never to buy trees only grown in a nursery. They won't last through Christmas. Once planted, he and his crew "culture" the trees as they're growing, trimming them with thin-bladed machetes at least once a year so that the trees "bush out" and continue growing in the shape we like to see in our homes. When they reach seven feet, it's harvest time, although some firs, such as the Charlie Browns on Shadle's lot, are 26 feet tall, ideal for homes with atriiums and businesses.

When he's not cultivating or selling Christmas trees, Shadle makes his living fishing in the Bering Sea and as a cattleman in Utah. He has high praise for the folks from Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley he's seeing on his tree lot for the first time this year, although he's not quite used to the freeways. They don't have any in Homer, which is an artsy community of artists and craftsmen, oil workers, fisherman and a few with dreadlocks located about four hours southwest of Anchorage. ■

## About the Cover

Cover photo shows recipients of Pleasanton Weekly 2013 Heroes awards. They are (from left, front row) Kenneth Mano, Pleasanton, Special Olympics coordinator, Role Model; Taylor Dorsey, Pleasanton, freshman at University of the Pacific, Rising Star; Kenneth E. Behring, Danville, The Wheelchair Foundation, Lifetime Achievement; and Neil Gupta, Danville, 15-year-old student at Monte Vista High School, Innovation. Back row: (from left) are Mike Conklin, Sentinels of Freedom, San Ramon, Community Spirit; Bob Williams, conductor, Pleasanton Community Concert Band, Arts and Culture; and John Gallagher and Jim Cartan, Save Mount Diablo, Environmental Stewardship. Unavailable for photo: Kevin Laue, Courage. Photo by Mike Sedlak (mike@digitalsight.com). Cover design by Trina Cannon.

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

**When someone does something kind or helpful for you, how do you like to show them your appreciation?**



**Omar Shah**  
Student

Most of the time, like if someone lends me something, I offer to reciprocate.

**Loryn Watson**  
Interior Designer

Well, I love to bake and to cook, so when someone does something nice for me, I usually whip up some kind of yummy treat for them as a way of expressing my gratitude.



**May Brewster**  
Author

Whenever someone goes out of their way to do something nice for me, and especially if it's something that required time and effort on their part, I insist on giving them some money. And if they refuse to take cash, I get them a gift card to their favorite coffee shop. No one ever refuses to accept one of those.

**Tim Booth**  
Retired

Usually I just say thank you, and I try to sound very sincere, like I really mean it.



**Arianna Arias**  
Bar manager

I like to show gratitude by cooking and entertaining people. I like to hang out and cook people dinner to show people I appreciate their time in helping me because their time is invaluable.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### State Route 84 Expressway Widening Project Notice of Availability of Project-Level Conformity Analysis

**WHAT'S HAPPENING:** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) are widening and upgrading State Route (SR) 84 to expressway standards from Ruby Hill Drive to Jack London Boulevard in eastern Alameda County, California. An Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact for the project was completed in September 2008. The northern part of the project, between Jack London Boulevard and north of Concannon Boulevard, is under construction and will be completed in 2014. The southern part of the project, between north of Concannon Boulevard and south of Ruby Hill Drive, is in detailed design and will be constructed in 2015-2016.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated the Bay Area as nonattainment for the national 24-hour standard for fine particulate matter. Fine particulate matter, known as PM2.5, refers to particles smaller than 2.5 microns that can be inhaled deeply into lungs and cause damage to people's health. Particulate matter comes from combustion activities, including motor vehicles, and can cause dust from roads and highway construction to be re-suspended in the atmosphere. Therefore, some transportation projects must be evaluated for their potential to result in localized concentrations of PM2.5, known as "hot spots." The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is responsible for determining that projects included in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (including the SR 84 Expressway Widening Project) are in conformity with the State Implementation Plan for achieving the goals of the Clean Air Act.

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for PM2.5 required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This project is not considered a Project of Concern regarding PM2.5 as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1), as determined by the Air Quality Conformity Task Force on October 31, 2013. A detailed PM2.5 hot-spot analysis was not completed because Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements are met without an explicit hot-spot analysis. The project comes from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. Comment is requested regarding the project-level PM2.5 conformity analysis.

**WHY THIS AD:** This notice is to inform you that the project-level PM2.5 conformity analysis for the State Route 84 Expressway Widening Project is available on the Caltrans website ([www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdoc.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdoc.htm)) and the Alameda CTC website ([http://www.alamedactc.org/app\\_pages/view/12322](http://www.alamedactc.org/app_pages/view/12322)) for a 15-day review period. Project-level conformity analysis was previously performed and approved for other pollutants for which the project area is designated nonattainment or maintenance, and is not the subject of this request for comment.

**WHERE YOU COME IN:** Comments on the project-level PM2.5 conformity analysis must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2013, and can be submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail to: Valerie Shearer, Sr. Environmental Planner, Caltrans Office of Environmental Analysis, P.O. Box 23660, MS-8B, Oakland, CA 94623-0660, or E-mail: [valerie\\_shearer@dot.ca.gov](mailto:valerie_shearer@dot.ca.gov)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST A PRINTED COPY OF THE PROJECT-LEVEL CONFORMITY ANALYSIS:** Individuals who would like to request a copy or who require portions of the report in alternative formats or translated are asked to contact the Caltrans District 4 Public Information Center at (510) 286-4444, or the Office of Environmental Analysis at (510) 622-0803. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 711.



## PhotoGallery

Share your photos of sports, events, travel and fun stuff at  
**PleasantonWeekly.com**



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

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## DIGEST

### Holiday help

Tri-Valley Haven is looking for donations to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence, low income and homeless families celebrate the holidays.

The nonprofit asks for donations of gifts and food so families can create their own holiday traditions.

It's asking for donations of cash, gift cards and new, non-violent toys as well as gifts for men, women, teens and seniors. Donations can be dropped off at Tri-Valley Haven's holiday site, Asbury Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

Gifts will be accepted from Dec. 3-11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Both Valley EyeCare locations will also accept donations through Dec. 6. For information, call Christine at 667-2707.

### Casa de Cajun

Tickets for the upcoming Ragin' Cajun Dinner & Dance are now on sale. The event will be held from 6-11 p.m. March 7 at a new location, Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery. Tickets are \$105 apiece until Christmas Eve, and go up to \$125 after.

Ragin' Cajun is the main fundraiser for the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, which helps cancer patients get complementary therapies for the side effects of radiation and chemotherapy.

To donate for the live or silent auction, contact Pat Jones at 209-914-2116 or pajones@comcast.net. Financial sponsors reach Ken Perine at 292-5936 or ken@meritage-wealth.com.

### Tall tales

Creatures of Impulse, Pleasanton's teen improv troupe, will present the fifth season of its holiday show in two performances, Dec. 5 and Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

The show combines impromptu improv with the troupe's longer, story-based work. The audience will give suggestions to inspire improv games and scenes, and then vote on which scene the cast will perform as a complete improvised holiday story in the second act.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. They can be purchased online at [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org) or at the box office. A free preview will be held this Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

### Corrections

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

## City revenue beats expectation in 2012-13 fiscal year

### Golf course bonds paid, leaving Pleasanton 'construction debt free'

JEB BING

The city of Pleasanton ended fiscal year 2012-13 more than \$1 million over its projected municipal operating budget as sales and hotel taxes edged their way back from recession-year lows, the city's finance director Emily Wagner reported.

The actual budget for the year which ended last June 30 totaled \$92.3 million, well above the \$91.2 million the city had projected.

The projected operating budget for the current fiscal year, which started July 1, totals \$94.5.

Although property tax revenue at \$48.6 million was off by \$116,000 from projections, slightly higher sales tax revenue of \$19.1 million during the fiscal year along with increases in the business license and hotel taxes accounted for the gains.

Actual expenditures were \$690,000 less than budgeted as city management kept purchases and hiring to a minimum, Wagner said.

Property tax revenue, the single largest revenue source for the city, accounting for approxi-

mately 53% of total revenues, fell slightly, but is projected to recover significantly in the current fiscal year because of increased housing sales.

Sales tax revenue is the second largest revenue source for the General Fund, accounting for about 21% of the total. They were up \$102,977, or .5%, for the year and also are expected to increase this year.

Municipal reserves held steady during the year at \$25.3 million.

Last month, Wagner used part of the budget surplus to pay off outstanding bonds used to finance the Callippe Preserve Golf Course, totaling \$879,049. The City Council also agreed to increase a 10% budget reserve for economic uncertainties to 13% and to allocate another \$1 million to the CalPERS stabilization fund to reduce the city's unfunded pension liability.

Wagner said that while operating revenues at Callippe were less than budgeted during the year by \$131,500, expenses were down even further by \$281,078. She said 56,104 rounds of golf were played in the 2012-13 fiscal year,



Emily Wagner, Pleasanton Finance Director

down from 58,272 rounds played in the previous fiscal year.

In his "State of the City" address earlier this year, Mayor Jerry Thorne said that 2013 is turning out to be better in terms of municipal revenue, new busi-

See **WAGNER** on Page 6



JEB BING

Joining the holiday stroll festivities Saturday night in downtown Pleasanton is this group identified as the "Ugly Sweater Crew." They include Jessica and Michael Harris, Michelle Zvanich, Lindsay and Patrick Clow, Aaron and Jessica Freyler, and Joseph and Michelle Freschi.

## Hundreds downtown for festive holiday shopping

### Merchants get the jump on the season

Pleasanton's downtown came alive last weekend with special holiday events ranging from "Earlier Than the Bird" special sales at 22 downtown merchants to afternoon and evening strolls complete with wine, beer, music and tasty samplings.

Hundreds turned out at downtown stores and restaurants as the events, sponsored by

the Pleasanton Downtown Association, and got a head start on today's Black Friday and Cyber Monday next week, which cater to national retail chains and Internet shoppers.

Even Santa stopped by last Saturday at the Museum on Main so that children could share their gift lists and parents could snap a few photos for the scrapbook. ■

## Free Christmas concert Sunday

### 'King of Kings,' among melodies by Pleasanton Concert Band

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will present a concert of special Christmas music at 2 p.m. Sunday in the downtown Firehouse Arts Center.

The concert band's Holiday Concert will have an "International Holiday" theme with

Russian Christmas music, King of Kings from England and Christmas Fiesta from Spain.

Other melodies will include "The English Candle," "The Bells of Christmas," "Fantasia On A Hymn" by Praetorius, "And the Mountains Echoed: Gloria," "A Christmas Festival,"

"Shalom!" and "Sleigh Ride."

The doors of the Firehouse Arts Center, which is located at 4444 Railroad Ave., will open 20 minutes ahead of the scheduled concert, which is free to the public although donations will be accepted. ■

## Safeway launches holiday campaign to fight hunger

### Pre-packed food bags available in stores

Safeway Inc. of Pleasanton launched its "Help Us End Hunger" food drive this week in an effort to help people who rely on the assistance of food banks.

The company is joining with customers, Kraft Foods Group, local food banks and other partners to collect food donations at Safeway stores through Christmas.

To make the donation process easier, a specially-produced Every Bag Counts shopping bag filled with the items food banks need the most will be available for \$10 at all Safeway stores. The bag includes Chicken of the Sea Chunk White Tuna, Skippy Peanut Butter, Pantry Essentials Pasta, Hunts Pasta Sauce and Del Monte Canned Vegetables.

Kraft is providing a special holiday gift in the form of a \$1,500 grant to 100 food banks across the country, making for a total donation of \$150,000.

Teena Massingill of Safeway said the annual Every Bag Counts program is increasingly important as the problem of hunger in America becomes more visible and pronounced. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nearly 15% of families are food insecure, meaning they lack access to enough food for a healthy diet, she said.

In addition, the campaign helps the food banks during a time when the demand for food assistance is greatest, the holiday season.

Safeway has been a long-time supporter of hunger relief efforts, donating \$119 million in food to the cause in 2012, alone, Massingill said.

—Jeb Bing

## County employees donate 10,000 pounds of food for the needy

Campaign sees 3-fold increase over last year

By JEB BING

Alameda County's first-ever Stone Soup holiday food drive and design competition culminated this week with some inspired displays made entirely with boxes and cans of non-perishable food.

The imaginative creations, which included a Bay Bridge montage, a computer work station and a 3-D depiction of Alameda County replete with landmarks such as Mission Peak and the Altamont windmills, were created with 10,000 pounds, or 5 tons, of edibles donated by county employees in time for the holidays. The total donations marked a more than 3-fold increase over last year's total.

The Stone Soup competition is a new spin on what is an annual rite for Alameda County, a holiday food drive in which county employees pitch in to help families in need through donations of food and cash to the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

But by injecting friendly competition and new levels of inspiration into the tradition, Alameda County more than tripled its usual donations of food and raised about \$4,000 in cash as well. The Food Bank will distribute \$4 worth of food for every \$1 in cash that was donated.

"The level of creativity, determi-

nation and community spirit shown by our county employees is thrilling to behold," said Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator. "Not only have they brought in record numbers of donations through this effort, they also have created some powerful displays that drive home the message about hunger right here in our community."

Each year at this time, county employees are reminded to pitch in by contributing healthy, non-perishable food items to the signature red Food Bank barrels that are set up in most county buildings. The effort usually nets about 3,000 pounds of donated food as well as cash, as does a similar food drive the county conducts in the summer months.

The recent run of tough economic times, as well as a reduction in federal food assistance benefits that took effect on November 1, meant the Food Bank faced a particularly daunting task this year in seeking to ensure that all hungry families and individuals in the community are fed.

These factors prompted county leaders to call for a new level of creativity and community spirit this year. The idea of a Food Drive and Design Competition actually came from the county's General Services Agency, which used a similar format for an internal department Food Drive in 2012.

This was the first time the concept has been taken countywide, however, and the response was quite impressive. Participants now await the word of a panel of judges that will determine which county department created the most interesting and inspiring art pieces with donated cans and boxes of food.

Many of these creations are now on display in county facilities, including a "Scales of Justice" display in the lobby of the County Counsel's office on the fourth floor of 1221 Oak St., and a computer work station in the lunch room of the Information Technology Department at 1106 Madison St., both in Oakland. This work space is composed of computer, computer keyboard, table, chair and filing cabinets constructed entirely of containers of donated food.

"This project demonstrates the strong ties between county departments, county employees, community organizations and the community that we serve," said Keith Carson, president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

"At a time when many individuals and families are still struggling to put food on the table, county employees have responded by increasing their commitment to combating hunger through the annual Holiday Food Drive," he said. ■

## 4 busted for LSD use

Teens arrested after complaints about 'very intoxicated voices'

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Four teens were busted last week for being on LSD, a hallucinogen, after calls from people complaining about noise coming from an arroyo behind homes in the 5800 block of Corte Brazos, according to police reports.

Two 18-year-olds and two 17-year-olds were arrested Nov. 22 in a series of incidents that began at about 8:30 p.m. when police received a call about people fighting, yelling and running in the street. No one was found and it's unknown if the four arrested were connected, but about 90 minutes later, at 9:56 p.m., police received another call about "very intoxicated voices" coming from the creek area behind a house on Corte Brazos.

Officer Jeff Grave went into the arroyo and found three males "yelling and staggering around" on the creek trail. The three attempted to run, one fell and two stumbled away, but they didn't make it far before being taken into custody.

Christopher Chan Lojewski, 18,

of Pleasanton, Ian Wesley Mills, 18, of Dublin and a 17-year-old were arrested at around 10:10 p.m. in the 5800 block of Corte Brazos for drug intoxication, specifically, LSD, according to police reports.

Mills was also arrested on one count of resisting arrest; reports said he struggled and spun away in an attempt to escape while Grave was attempting to handcuff him.

Police later made another arrest near the same location in which a 17-year old was arrested for drug intoxication, again in connection with the use of LSD.

Officer Tony Repetto came to the scene to assist Grave in making the first arrests and discovered the fourth teen at about 11:16 p.m. at the intersection of Calle Santa Anna and Golden Road.

The two older teens were treated and released from ValleyCare before being booked into the Santa Rita Jail. The two juveniles' names were not released, and it could not be confirmed if they were treated or held at the jail. ■

## Fewer planning to travel this weekend

Despite 4% decrease, 5 million still will be on roads

Fewer Californians plan to travel this Thanksgiving, according to a survey released by the American Automobile Association's Northern California chapter.

More than 5.1 million California residents plan to travel 50 miles or more for the extended four-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend, a 4% decrease from last year, according to the AAA survey.

That includes 4.4 million who plan to travel by motor vehicle, a 4.6% decrease from last year, and more than 500,000 who plan to fly, a 4.9% decrease, the survey found.

On the other hand, the survey found a 1.8% increase in those planning to travel by other means, such as boats or trains.

"Californians will set aside thoughts of fiscal uncertainty to gather and feast with people who matter most in their lives," said AAA Northern California spokeswoman Cynthia Harris in a statement.

"While travel projections are lower than last Thanksgiving, this year's travel forecast is still well above the 2008-2009 levels when the recession caused a drop in travel of more than 25%," Harris said.

AAA found a smaller 1.5% decrease in the number of people planning to travel for the holiday nationally.

The average West Coast family of four is expected to spend \$681 over the holiday weekend, and those traveling by car will drive an average of 795 miles. ■

## Pleasanton man dead after bridge jump in Spain

In Seville on Cal Poly study abroad program

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

A Foothill grad is dead after jumping off a bridge in Spain after a night of partying with friends.

Matthew Yount, 20, was a business administration major at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and in Seville, Spain enrolled in a study abroad program from the school.

Yount and another student decided to jump from the 26-foot-tall San Telmo bridge for fun at about 3:30 a.m., according to the Spanish newspaper Diario Desevilla. A third student decided not to jump, according to the paper.

A witness called police after one of the jumpers came up with signs

of hypothermia and Yount did not resurface, according to Diario Desevilla. The water temperature was about 44 degrees.

The police searched the Guadalquivir River with flashlights, the paper said, and firefighters and divers were called in.

Yount's body was found hours later, at about 8:40 a.m. Nov. 20. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The 2011 Foothill graduate was a member of the Cal Poly golf team, where he helped lead his squad to a third-place state finish at Poppy Hills Golf Club in Pebble Beach, according to a posting on the school's sports site. He was due to return to

the school in January.

Yount attended St. Raymond's Catholic School in Dublin through eighth grade before attending Foothill. He was a junior at Cal Poly at the time of his death.

Diario Desevilla says police are continuing to investigate the death, although there appeared to be no sign of violence. It's unknown whether Yount drowned or struck one of the bridge's pillars.

Yount is survived by his parents, Greg and Sandy Yount, and his brother, Adam.

A memorial service has been set for 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 30 at St. Raymond Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin. ■

## Community television airing Foothill Band Review parade

39th annual parade showing on TV28 Mondays, Thursdays

Every year since 1974, on the fourth Saturday in October, the top high school bands in Northern California and Nevada have gathered in Pleasanton for the Foothill Band Review.

On October 26, for the 39th time, the city of Pleasanton and

Foothill High School hosted the biggest, most competitive, and one of the best-run band reviews ever with more than 50 high schools participating.

Those who missed this great event or want to watch it again can see the entire parade on Comcast

Channel 28 Mondays at 4 p.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m.

The 2013 Foothill Band Review can also be viewed on AT&T Uverse via channel 99 as well as streaming live on the Tri-Valley TV website at [www.trivalleytv.org](http://www.trivalleytv.org). ■

## WAGNER

Continued from Page 5

nesses, retail expansion and housing gains than last year, and "everything is just getting better."

He said Pleasanton's economy has rebounded from the recent recession. The combined assessed value of the city's commercial and residential properties was just over \$12 billion in 2012, resulting in property tax revenues coming in at higher than projected in fiscal 2012-13.

Building permit revenues are up 24% from last year and plan check revenues up 75%. Most of the activity is from the ongoing construction of the Stoneridge Creek retirement community on Staples Ranch and Pleasanton

Gateway Plaza, as well as Clorox's relocation to Pleasanton and the Safeway Corporate expansion at the former Farmers Insurance Building off Dublin Canyon Boulevard.

"Pleasanton is in great financial shape, a position envied by communities around the Bay," Thorne said. "Our conservative fiscal policies and comprehensive budgeting approach enable Pleasanton to deliver the high quality of services our residents deserve."

Thorne said the city has an AA rating by Standard and Poor's with assets exceeding liabilities as of last June 30 by \$872.4 million.

With the payoff last month of the golf course bonds, the city is construction debt-free. ■

## Watch for overhead power lines in hanging outdoor lights

Tips for holiday safety from PG&E

By JEB BING

Holiday lights bring joy to the season, but they can also bring hazards.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company offers these tips for decorating the inside and outside of homes:

Before stringing outdoor lights, check for overhead power lines. Never place yourself or any object, such as a ladder, in a position where you or it may come in contact with a power line. The result can be fatal.

Before stringing lights on outdoor trees, make sure tree limbs haven't grown into or near power lines. Branches, entire trees and even the ground adjacent to a tree can become energized when trees contact power lines.

Make sure lights used to decorate the outside of the house are approved for outdoor use. Never use indoor lights outdoors.

Follow the manufacturer's limits for the number of light strings that can be connected together safely.

Check all light strands for cracked or broken plugs, frayed insulation or bare wires. Worn cords can cause fires, so discard damaged sets of lights.

Route cords inside your home so they won't trip anyone. Don't place them under rugs, furniture or other appliances. If covered, cords can overheat or become frayed, increasing the risk of fire.

Always turn off decorative lights, indoors and outdoors, when leaving the house and before going to bed.

Do not place your tree near a heat source such as a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, making it more susceptible to fires caused by heat, flame or sparks.

Purchase energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) holiday lights. LED lights can reduce energy consumption by as much as 90% when compared to traditional holiday lights and can shine brightly for up to 20 holiday seasons. A string of 300 LED holiday lights can cost less than \$0.50 to operate during the holiday season, compared to nearly \$70.00 for a string of 300 large incandescent holiday lights. ■



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Paid for by Robert Byrd

## Downtown—Vision and the "Main Street Partnership"

**What is our vision for our downtown?** Isn't that the real question? Let's begin the public debate with the understanding that "all" of us want downtown to be successful. It's simple that there has never been agreement on what success is, or how to get there. Now if you're like me, and your vision of success is a downtown with an intensifying and expanding pedestrian environment, then anyone who knows, knows Livermore is kicking our rear ends. Why is that? Let's find out.

### When Livermore began its Downtown Revitalization process,

Livermore set rules. For example, only pedestrian-oriented businesses and restaurants are allowed on the ground floor along Livermore's "Old Town" main street (First Street, from L Street to the flag pole). And when non-conforming businesses leave, the space must be filled with a conforming business. Also, understanding that in today's car-dependent society the majority of downtown users arrive by car, Livermore planned ahead with a parking garage at the very beginning and a long-term parking plan for later on. Livermore's downtown revitalization strategy was simple. **Private businesses provide the pedestrian environment and the public provides the parking.** Momentum builds and pedestrian vitality spreads outwardly from the center. "Life attracts life," wrote Jane Jacobs. It's a partnership and the results are obvious.

**What about Pleasanton?** When we started our Downtown Revitalization process in 2002, property owners and business organizations like the Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) argued that Pleasanton's "Old Town" commercial district did not need rules — that the "free market" was the path to the Promised Land. Others argued there should be rules where by new businesses and new projects are measured by how pedestrian friendly they are and what they add to the whole — that it was a partnership. Ultimately, free market voices prevailed. And as predicted, once downtown started showing signs of success, low vitality automobile-oriented businesses exactly like the ones Livermore rejects



Main Street, Pleasanton in 1895.

started moving in. Another bank on Main Street with a lifetime lease, a few salons (one that Livermore rejected first), a botox clinic, and now a large chain hardware store. The truth is we don't even have a definition for pedestrian-oriented or automobile-oriented.

**Pretty soon,** Main Street's pedestrian continuum was pot marked with "dark places and empty spaces" to the point of near stagnation — a place where the lights still go out right after dinner. As one Livermore planner recently put it, "Pleasanton's Downtown Revitalization process got off to a good start, then stalled." Now we're running up and down Main Street like the Keystone Cops, putting out fires and rewriting the past, but never quite getting ahead of the present. "Hey! No more banks on Main Street!" "Okay, but what about the others?" "Forget the others, now we're running out of parking."

### "For crying out loud! Now what?"

Well, if you are a numbers person like me and deal in facts, then run these numbers past your downtown real estate agent, or better still, ask Mr. Craig Semmelmeier, the owner of several successful Main Street buildings, and the smartest partner in our own "Main Street Partnership," what he rents his south Main Street buildings for and why that is? Because over on north Main another partner just leased another large chunk of prime Main Street ground floor frontage to another low vitality automobile-oriented business for 10 years starting at \$1.27 per square foot "because of parking." So say real estate agents who should know.

**A buck twenty-seven!** Now there's a number that takes Main Street rents back to its antique store days of 20 years ago. I know I was there renting to antique stores. And partners, we

all know that falling rents discourages restoration and revitalization, lowering the value of the "Main Street Partnership" itself. Dang! I always thought when negotiating the idea was to negotiate the value of your product (Main Street) "up" not "down."

**Either way,** and though it all, our argument remained the same: "Downtown is already successful." And that may be true. But that's not the goal Livermore citizens envisioned. Livermore citizens asked, "How successful can our downtown be." And this takes us back to our original question. **"What is our vision for our downtown?"** And I argue that eleven years of recorded history reveals that we don't have one, and that there is no "Main Street Partnership," or long-term parking plan. We just make it up as we go along. And if that's true then where do we go from here?

**Consider this direction.** We look to the past to see where to go in the future. The idea is to find leaders with the will and the wisdom to lead us there. I've just presented one citizen's view of Livermore and Pleasanton's revitalization strategy over the last eleven years and an argument for pedestrian-based rules. I've asked PDA to give us their view of the past and argument for continuing free market policies in the future. But what's most important of all is what downtown users themselves believe. So, tell us what your vision for our downtown is. This way, with a clear vision in hand, we do what Livermore citizens did; we find leaders with the will and wisdom to lead us there. Isn't this the way real partnerships are supposed to work, and the only true path to the Promised Land?

—Robert W. Byrd

## Hacienda sees growth, business expansions

Growth will carry over into 2014, park manager says

Hacienda has seen a steady increase in occupancy over the last year and the park's tenants have been busy growing as well.

New tenant arrivals are from a variety of industries and are reflective of some of the stronger clusters found in the area, according to James Paxson, Hacienda's general manager. In addition, expansions within the park from existing tenants have also occurred.

"Hacienda has continued to see growth in 2013 that will carry over into the new year," Paxson said. "Beyond the business growth seen, what is particularly exciting to watch are the important contributions Hacienda companies make to their respective industries and to the local economy."

Paxson summarized some of the activities in Hacienda in the past three months:

### Clarity Medical Systems

Clarity Medical Systems has been awarded two patents related to technology in the company's latest offering. One was for a device for refractive cataract surgery, capturing and displaying with high-accuracy continuous streaming and real-time refractive wavefront measurements during vision correction procedures, including overlaying data on a live image of the patient's eye.

"We believe this unique capability will provide the opportunity to deploy HOLOS to help ophthalmologists more rapidly and

efficiently measure the patient's refractive state during vision correction procedures, including assisting surgeons as a refractive guidance tool intraoperatively," said Clarity President and CEO Keith Mullooney.

The second patent is for the attachment of the compact HOLOS wavefront sensor onto a surgical microscope.

### Adept Technology

Adept Technology, Inc. recently introduced a number of primary and secondary food packaging robots and peripherals which are designed specifically to help food processing companies to meet new government safety and sanitation mandates, lower labor costs and future-proof packaging lines.

"Food processors are looking to robotic automation with integrated vision and conveyor control to provide the speed and efficiency of hard automation but with flexibility for quick changeover between products," said Glenn Hewson, Adept senior vice president of Marketing.

"Robotic automation can also help processors dramatically lower distribution labor costs by process-

ing mixed-product specific store orders on the secondary packaging line and eliminating repacking at distribution warehouses," he added.

### New Tenants

Paxson said Hacienda also welcomed a number of new tenants to the park in recent months and had some businesses expand. These included:

AMS Consulting, 5627 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 320, a professional consulting firm specializing in infrastructure and facility asset management.

Baird Orthodontics, 5924 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 203, a provider of orthodontics services.

Better Homes and Gardens, 4733 Chabot Drive, Suite 100, a residential real estate company.

Fahrenheit Wood Fired Pizza (coming soon), 4747 Hopyard Road, Suite 5, a restaurant featuring artisan pizza cooked in a wood-burning oven.

ISC8, 4234 Hacienda Drive, Suite 206, a provider of cyber security technologies.

Langhong Technology USA (moved within Hacienda), 3875 Hopyard Road, Suite 165, the U.S.

branch of a company providing products to protect high-theft merchandise.

Navman Wireless (moved within Hacienda), 4473 Willow Road, Suite 220, a provider of vehicle tracking with GPS satellite technology.

New Galaxy Nail Spa, 4515 Rosewood Drive, Suite 200, a professional nail salon for women and men.

ProShred, 5635 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 405, a provider of on-site document destruction.

STS International, 4695 Chabot Drive, Suite 103, an IT firm providing managed services, managed projects, managed mobility services, software development services and field technical services.

Subway, 4515 Rosewood Drive, Suite 500, a restaurant featuring sandwiches.

Therapists Unlimited, 4309 Hacienda Drive, Suite 440, a provider of staffing services for therapy professionals.

Triverium, 5990 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 103, a provider of high level cyber security, privacy and regulatory compliance to a wide range of industries. ■



### WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

#### City Council

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing – Adopt a resolution levying the Pleasanton Downtown Association Business Improvement District Assessment for 2014
- Public Hearing - Adopt a resolution Making the Finding that Certain Development Impact Fees (AB1600 AND SB1693) Collected are Unexpended after Five Years but are Committed to Particular Projects
- Public Hearing: Adopt a resolution approving the Citizens' Options for Public Safety Program (COPS) Year 17 Appropriation
- Consider adoption of a resolution accepting the 2012/13FY Year-end Financial Report for the Capital Improvement Program Budget (CIP) and amend the 2012/13FY CIP Budget

#### Human Services Commission

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discuss "Draft" City of Pleasanton's Human Services Needs Assessment: Strategic Plan

#### East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force

Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Operations Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Discussions regarding Development Standards and Design Guidelines for Residential and Non-Residential Development

#### Commission Vacancies Recruitment

The City Council is accepting applications for the following Commission Vacancies:

##### Housing Commission

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

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 in top 3% for charitable giving

Holiday Fund great way to get started in philanthropy

By GARY ALT

Philanthropy is often an integral part of an overall wealth plan because those who've been blessed find ways to make a positive impact in the world.

It's no surprise then that Pleasanton ranks 316 out of 11,522 U.S. cities for charitable giving, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy. That puts us in the top 3% nationwide, a testament to the quality of people who've chosen to make this city their home. It's worth looking closer at why we give so generously.

### We've been blessed

When you look at everything we have in Pleasanton, it's easy to find many things to be grateful for:

- Schools that rank among the highest in the state and in the nation.
- A healthy housing market, weathering the recession better than many of our neighbors.
- Household incomes that are among the highest in the nation for cities of our size.
- Youth sports leagues for almost every team sport with coaches who

volunteer countless hours of their personal time.

■ An enchanting downtown area that continues to attract quality retailers and entertainment.

■ Cultural activities at the Firehouse Arts Center, and free community events such as the First Wednesday street parties, Friday night concerts in the park, free movies in the park and free Shakespeare in the park.

■ A beautiful park system, including Augustin Bernal Park atop Pleasanton Ridge.

### Happier people give more

Research by Harvard Business School found that happier people give more, and giving makes people happier, creating a positive feedback loop. I continually hear how friendly the people in Pleasanton are. That's not to say we don't have our political or neighborhood squabbles from time to time, but overall we're happy people who like to make good things happen.

Other research has shown emotional, spiritual and even physical health benefits that come from contributing meaningfully to the lives of others. Some simply think of it as "good karma," believing that whatever we give to help others will eventually be returned to us.

Regardless of the research, chari-

table giving makes us feel good, and it makes sense.

### But we're not all prospering

For the most part we don't see poverty here, but there are Pleasanton families who are silently struggling to make ends meet, due to tragedy, severe illness, job loss or any other setbacks. In some cases, basic family needs aren't being met. Many are looking to improve their situation, but don't have the means to pay escalating college costs.

### The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

With so many needs in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley, a donation to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is a great way to get started in philanthropy or to expand the reach of your current plans. Seeing the positive impact in our own backyard is especially rewarding.

Sure, there are tax breaks for many who donate, but the primary motivation is to help others. We give because we recognize our blessings, we have compassion for those less fortunate, and helping others makes us happier.

Gary E.D. Alt is co-founder of Monterey Private Wealth in Pleasanton. Send questions or comments to [gary@montereypw.com/](mailto:gary@montereypw.com/)

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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Editorial: Black Friday? That's so yesterday

If you can't find a place to park today as you make your way around town to start your Christmas shopping, think positive. Merchants from Macy's at Stoneridge Shopping Center to Clover Creek downtown will be ecstatic, glad to see you frantically searching for a parking spot to join the customers standing in line at their cash registers inside. It's what they've been waiting for. Today is Black Friday—the day after Thanksgiving—and traditionally one of the busiest shopping days of the year for retailers. Many of us no doubt stayed glued to our computers between turkey and pumpkin pie yesterday checking for door-buster deals that actually started right after the pie was served — at 6 p.m. at Walmart, 8 p.m. at some stores in the Mall and places like Best Buy, and even all day yesterday at K-Mart, wherever it has stores in the region.

There's a reason, of course, that those who sell want us to shop early and often. It's not been a terribly bang-up year in retailing. An unusually warm and dry fall has caused a drop in winter wear and rain gear, here in the Bay Area at least. The recent government shutdown, concerns over whether there might be another one and uncertainties over the cost of healthcare insurance in the coming months have dampened buyer enthusiasm along with sales. That's why Black Friday is important this year. It's also supposed to mark the time that takes retailers out of the red (losses) and into the black (profits).

In reality, though, Black Friday's shadow extends back to Halloween when we first saw promotions for Christmas shopping sales. Downtown Pleasanton stores jumped the gun last weekend with three special holiday shopping events that ran from 7 a.m. to late at night with Main Street and side streets filled with shoppers most of the day. Santa was at the Museum on Main, two weeks ahead of the day he traditionally paid a visit to Pleasanton during the city's annual Holiday Parade, which will be Dec. 7. But then Santa's been at Stoneridge all month.

Still, there's always some mystery and even fun in visiting all the stores on Black Friday, if not to grab that \$279 flatscreen TV set off the shelf but to watch the crowds sort their way through the merchandise. Even Home Depot added some suspense Wednesday with several aisles of tools covered securely in black tarp that warned: "Hands off until Nov. 29."

If you're one of the few stuck at work today, joining the thousands across the country who were called to work Thanksgiving Day to launch Black Friday, don't despair. Cyber Monday is just a weekend away, which officially marks the beginning of the Christmas online shopping season. Seeing all the specials already offered at Amazon.com, eBay, Crutchfield.com and others, it's hard to believe there's anything left for a price cut. But check anyway. Just don't forget that tomorrow is Small Business Saturday in Pleasanton and throughout the U.S. independent retailers' community. The best deals could be right here in our own backyard, where the sales taxes also stay. ■



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

## LETTERS

### Thanks from Sister City Association

Dear Editor,

The Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association (PTSCA) reached a major milestone this year and we were proud to celebrate our 30th anniversary with the Tulancingo delegation, PTSCA members and the Pleasanton community.

The annual Tulancingo Delegation visit took place from Sept. 24-30. We are appreciative to the Pleasanton Weekly for the recent cover article and to the community for welcoming our Sister City friends with open arms.

This year our great city rolled out the red carpet for our Tulancingo friends. Mayor Jerry Thorne, City Manager Nelson Fialho, and Community Services Director Susan Andrade-Wax personally showed the Tulancingo delegation the high quality and caliber of our public servants. The city and staff rolled out events at City Hall, the Police Department, the Senior Center, Veterans Hall, and, to wrap it up, at the Mayor's Award Dinner at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center. Thanks to the city for making this 30th year celebration the most memorable visit in memory.

We would also like to acknowledge these groups who have continually support the visits with significant contributions: The Lion's Club, Rotary Club of Pleasanton, Rotary North, Richert Lumber/Ace Hardware and the Soroptimists. Also thanks to our Gold Family sponsors: Athenour, Cardinali, Ferraro, Noble, Pino, Richert, Sanchez and Victoria.

As usual, the association members put hundreds of hours into planning, driving, hosting, preparing food, translating, fundraising, gifts, and fellowship. A huge thanks to all of our sponsors and donors who magnified our efforts. Please visit our website at [www.ptsca.org](http://www.ptsca.org) for a list of their names. We look forward to the next 30 years of friendship. Amistad para Siempre!

**Rita Galvin**  
President

**Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association**

### Fort McHenry on Main Street?

Dear Editor,

I recently attended the Veterans Day Parade in Pleasanton. As I was standing on the corner, across from 350 Main St. and the Berry Patch, I happened to look skyward and I was immediately made aware of the similarities between the American Flag atop the aforementioned building and the one that appeared at "Dawns Early Light" over Fort McHenry and became known as the Star Spangled Banner. However, this poor remnant, although tattered, torn, ragged and bedraggled, had not been subjected to shot, shell and all-night bombardment. No, it achieved this shameful appearance by sheer neglect and outrageous ignorance.

How any mayor or member of the City Council could allow this to happen is beyond my powers of comprehension. So I called the property's management company and they advised me that they "would look into it." No one seems to be aggrieved so shame on all of you. And yes, I am a veteran.

**William H. Mallery**

### Open letter to BART Directors and Senior Management

Dear Editor,

The current contract situation is simply unbelievable. First of all you did a very bad job of negotiating a new labor contract. Having said that, the recent family leave "clerical error" is inexcusable and unacceptable. You must have provided the clerical staff the wording. Your staff attorneys must have read the contract before your management and outside negotiator signed it.

Your fiscal and operational management is terrible at best. You now have an opportunity to show resolve and backbone.

Clearly you must vote to reject the new labor contract. Start hiring and training new labor workers and replace the surly, overpaid, under-worked labor force. The board directors and senior management must be replaced soon. Efficiency, responsibility and prudence should become part of your mission and everyday vocabulary.

**Brad Hirst, Equity Enterprises**

## YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com). Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.

## SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Volunteers working at Save Mount Diablo booths are often asked, "What's wrong with the mountain? Why does it need saving?"

Mount Diablo State Park covers only 50% of the mountain and its foothills, so just that area is guaranteed to remain a natural habitat for wildlife and vegetation — not to mention a pristine backdrop to our lives. The rest is privately owned and vulnerable to development: Those grazing cattle are on private ranchlands that could be sold. In 1971 when Save Mount Diablo began, only 6,788 acres were preserved in the state park; today, 110,000 acres are protected in more than 40 parks.

The views from Mount Diablo's 3,849-foot summit can reach 200 miles on a clear day, even beyond the Golden Gate Bridge, although Save Mount Diablo worries about the views of the mountain from the Valley.

However, more than our views are at stake, points out Seth Adams, Land Programs Director for Save Mount Diablo. Development on the fringe of natural lands interrupts wildlife corridors, while even a single large house introduces new elements, such as fencing and domesticated animals.

At any time, Save Mount Diablo might be responding to two dozen development projects. The staff knows about new projects even before they are on the planning boards and gets to work.

"We come to compromises where we can preserve a significant amount of land," Adams said. "Blackhawk was the first one."

When Ken Behring purchased the 4,200 acres climbing up the southeast side of Mount Diablo in 1974, he proposed donating 100 acres to Mount

Diablo State Park and developing the remainder into Blackhawk. With the intervention of Save Mount Diablo, the 100 acres was negotiated to 2,100 acres.

"We've preserved thousands of acres through developer dedications at no cost to the public, and thousands more through mitigation," Adams



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Congressman Jerry McNerney used this photo of snowy Mount Diablo, a symbol of the Tri-Valley, as seen from Alamo on his 2009 holiday card.

said. "Now we go all the way out to Byron and Livermore. Mount Diablo is the head of the Diablo Range but we don't want to get cut off at the Altamont Pass."

Save Mount Diablo announced Nov. 6 that it had secured the 1,080-acre Curry Canyon Ranch from the estate of Ettore and Geraldine Bertagnolli, after many years of effort. The purchase price is \$7.2 million, and Save Mount Diablo has three years to raise the funds.

"The acquisition is the culmination of decades of effort, especially over the past five years, to secure the largest and most expensive property in our history," said Scott Hein, president of Save Mount Diablo, thanking "two angels" for agreeing to loan them the funds.

Save Mount Diablo also works to inform voters about political issues, such as San Ramon's Measure W in 2010, when developers tried to break voter-approved urban growth boundaries and build on more than 1,600 acres of the Tassajara Valley.

And the organization helps people get to know the mountain. It publishes a comprehensive trails map and offers guided hikes. Every April it hosts Four Days Diablo, leading 20 outdoor enthusiasts on hikes across the mountain, a total of 30 miles, from Wednesday to Sunday.

"In the spring, the wildflowers are incredible, and the creeks are running," said Adams, who leads the hikes. "We go down canyons, up boulder-strewn ridges. We only cross two paved roads the entire time, and both of them barely qualify as roads."

After gourmet dinners under the stars, experts speak on the geology and history of the land traversed that day.

Members of Save Mount Diablo are hikers, bikers, equestrians and bird watchers as well as people who just love to look at the mountain. No matter where we live in the Tri-Valley, we know we are home when we glimpse the familiar contours of Mount Diablo, unfettered by development, thanks to Save Mount Diablo.

For more information, visit [www.savemountdiablo.org](http://www.savemountdiablo.org) or call 947-3535. ■



### Hero FYI

▲ Mary Bowerman, co-founder of Save Mount Diablo, was assigned Mount Diablo for her botany thesis at UC Berkeley in 1930. She began hiking the mountain, photographing and cataloguing; her resulting study, "The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo, California," is still the definitive work.

▲ Mount Diablo provides habitat for more than 100 species of animals and 650 species of plants; 12 species of endangered animals and plants have been identified.

▲ At sundown every Dec. 7, the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors gather to light the beacon at the top of Mount Diablo to remember the 1941 attack. The beacon only shines this one night of the year.

▲ Diablo's parks have more robust wildlife populations now than they did in 1971, mostly due to resource management.

▲ Save Mount Diablo has more than 8,000 members and supporters. Many volunteer opportunities are available.



SCOTT HEIN

Hikers enjoy the beauty of Curry Canyon, the latest natural habitat secured by Save Mount Diablo.

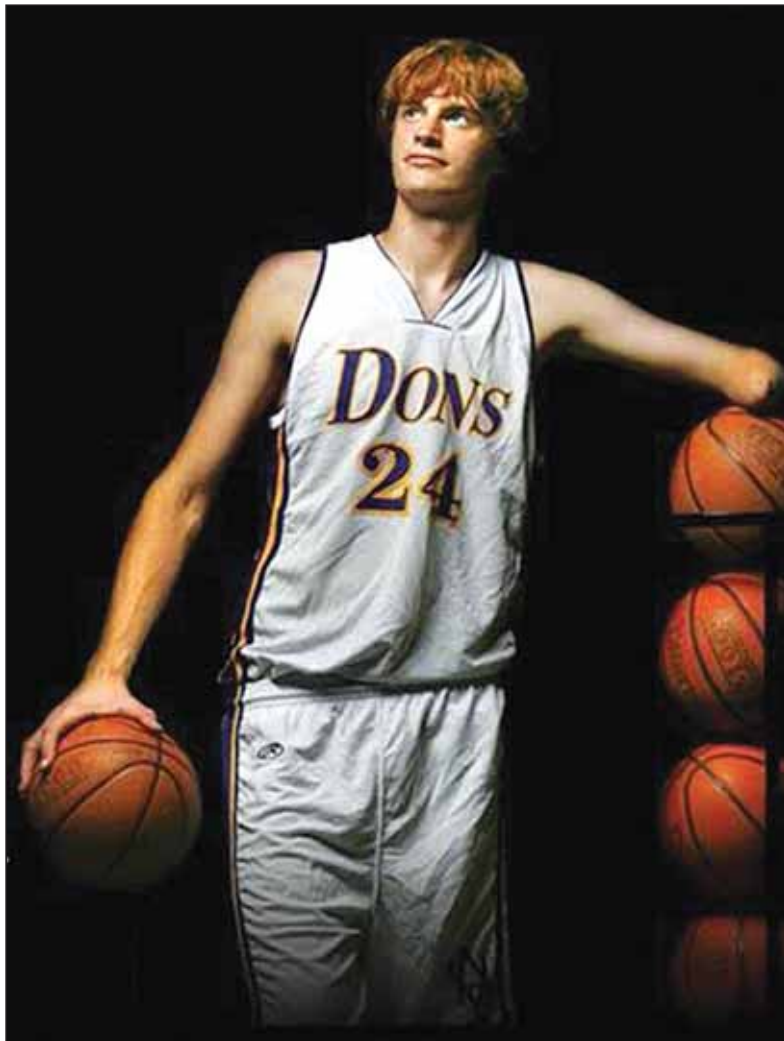
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## KEVIN LAUE



MOVIE POSTER FOR LONG SHOT: THE KEVIN LAUE STORY

“Kevin’s ability to overcome adversity is a testament to his character, and I admire his strong spirit and resolve. Kevin’s dedicated efforts are setting a fine example for people across America.” —George W. Bush

### ▲ Hero FYI

- ▲ Born in 1990
  - ▲ Wears size 17 shoes
  - ▲ Calls his left arm “the Nub”
  - ▲ Refused to get a prosthetic arm
  - ▲ Made his first dunk in eighth grade
  - ▲ Featured in The New York Times, USA Today, CBS
- News and the San Francisco Chronicle
  - ▲ Dubbed “the most exciting player in basketball” by Sport Illustrated in 2007
  - ▲ “Long Shot” called “Rocky” of documentary films” by Washington Times
  - ▲ Spoken about disabilities before the United Nations

By Glenn Wohltmann

### Basketball dreams

Kevin Laue is not someone who easily takes “no” for an answer.

Laue has been a fighter since before he was born, when his umbilical cord wrapped around his neck. He worked his arm under it, saving his life but cutting off circulation to the arm and ultimately leaving him with an arm ending at the elbow.

It was doubly unfortunate, since it was his left arm and he was left-side dominant, meaning he had to learn to do everything from writing to tying his shoelaces to playing basketball with his right hand.

When he was cut from his school’s seventh-grade basketball team at Pleasanton Middle School — despite already being 6 feet, 9 inches tall — he persuaded his mother to take him to Livermore to try out for a traveling team, where he met coach Patrick McKnight.

“My mom failed to mention that I had one arm. That was kind of a shocker when I walked in,” Laue said.

But McKnight gave him a shot. He saw something special in the young hopeful, and decided to do all he could to help Laue make the varsity team.

McKnight’s determination drove Laue to accomplish more than he might have on his own. The meeting was the start of a five-year relationship between the two: a white, one-armed basketball player and a black coach of an opposing team. Laue wound up on McKnight’s Amateur Athletic Union team, the Tri-Valley Outlawz, playing with older, more seasoned players.

“We traveled around the country and played games. All of the best players from all the high school teams were on this team,” Laue said.

Laue was 6 feet, 11 inches tall by the time he got to high school, and his work with McKnight began to pay off. He made the Amador Valley Varsity team, averaging eight points, eight rebounds and six blocks per game while being described by other players as the team’s star.

In 2007, Sports Illustrated called Laue “the most exciting player in basketball,” a nod to his ability to play well with just one hand.

As he continued to grow, so did his dreams. He was sidelined with a broken leg in his senior year at Amador, but began to talk about making a Division I college basketball team.

“It comes with the red hair, stubbornness,” Laue said. “My mom raised me with the mentality that I can do anything.”

Laue did a yearlong postgraduate stint at Fork Union Military Academy in late 2008, averaging 6.9 points and 7.4 rebounds per game, receiving recruiting letters from a number of Division III teams. In 2009,

thanks in part to an article in The New York Times, he received a scholarship to attend Division I Manhattan College.

A lucky meeting with an opposing coach at an AAU event gave Laue his current career path, and a little stardom along the way.

That coach, Franklin Martin, is also a filmmaker, and he recorded Laue’s day-to-day struggles, including coming to terms with the death of his father from cancer to his dream of a Division I basketball scholarship.

It was a meeting that almost didn’t take place. Martin had no interest in attending a summer AAU tournament in Las Vegas where temperatures were reaching 110 degrees, but a friend wouldn’t take no for an answer.

Martin described Laue as looking “exactly like a young Bill Walton with braces.”

“Twenty-five years of playing and coaching organized basketball on virtually every level, and I’d never seen anyone even try to play hoops with one arm,” Martin said of his first encounter with Laue. “It defied logic.”

Martin’s documentary, “Long Shot: The Kevin Laue Story” has made the short list for a potential Academy Award nomination — something Laue describes as “unbelievable.”

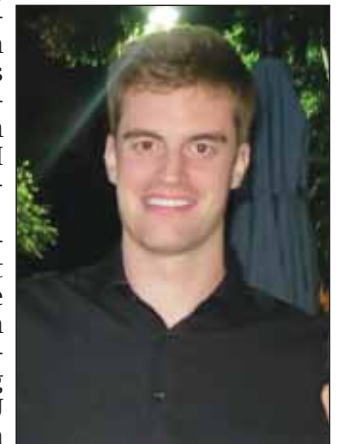
“To see yourself on the big screen in front of thousands of people,” he said, “feels like a dream.”

Laue said the message of the movie is simple: “Nothing is out of reach if you have the heart to grasp it.”

Now he’s spreading his message of hope and perseverance to others as a motivational speaker. He’s met with President Barack Obama and has spoken at business events and colleges across the country.

But basketball is still in his blood, and Laue has a tryout with the Harlem Globetrotters coming up.

“I would love to play on the Globetrotters,” he said. “I love playing basketball, and I always have.” ■





# Deck the Halls

## Eight steps to perfect holiday cookies

The time-honored popularity of holiday cookie baking remains strong even in today's grab-and-go society.

"Most of us are looking for ways to simplify the holiday hubbub, and focus on activities that truly have meaning for our families," said Ginny Bean, publisher of Ginny's catalog and Ginny's.com. Bean, who fondly recalls baking holiday cookies with her mother and three sons, offers the following easy tips for your holiday cookie baking tradition.

• Get organized. Read the recipe thoroughly. Gather your ingredients before even turning on the stove to make sure you haven't forgotten anything that would require an unanticipated trip to the store.

• Keep it simple. Bean recommends starting with this good, basic dough recipe and adding different ingredients to customize the taste and texture to personal preferences:

Cream 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, 3/4 cup granulated sugar and 1/2 cup brown sugar until fluffy.

Add 2 eggs and 1 teaspoon vanilla and beat until well-mixed.

In separate bowl, whisk 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour and 1 teaspoon baking soda together, then add slowly to creamed mixture, beating until combined.

"There's almost no end to what you can do to this dough," Bean said. "Get creative and experiment with different mix-ins like lemon peel, pumpkin pie spice, even instant coffee, or substitute toffee or peppermint chips for traditional chocolate and butterscotch."

• Use the right fat. Some cookie recipes only achieve their best flavor and texture with butter. Hopefully, those recipes will specify "butter only; no substitutes." Recipes calling for

butter or margarine will produce good results with either, as long as you use a margarine that contains at least 80 percent vegetable oil.

Check the nutrition label. The margarine should have 100 calories per tablespoon. Margarine with less than 80 percent vegetable oil have high water content and can result in tough cookies that spread excessively, stick to the pan or don't brown well.

• Measure accurately. Metal or plastic measuring cups are intended for dry ingredients such as flour and sugar. When measuring flour, stir it in the canister to lighten it and then gently spoon into a dry measuring cup and level the top with the straight edge of a knife.

Glass or plastic cups with spouts are meant only for liquids. If you use a liquid measuring cup for flour, you're likely to get an extra tablespoon or more of flour per cup, enough to make cookies dry.

• Chill dough properly. The chilling time given in a recipe is the optimum time for easy rolling and shaping. If you need to speed up chilling, wrap the dough and place it in the freezer. Twenty minutes of chilling in the freezer is equal to about one hour in the refrigerator.

• Use a powerful mixer. An electric stand mixer is the best way to mix heavy cookie dough. With a hand-held mixer, you'll probably end up needing to stir in flour by hand, which can be a nightmare.

• Choose the right cookie sheets. Look for shiny, heavy-gauge cookie sheets with very low or no sides. Dark cookie sheets can cause cookie bottoms to over-brown, and cookies won't bake evenly in a pan with an edge. Insulated

cookie sheets tend to yield pale cookies with soft centers. If you use them, don't bake cookies long enough to brown on the bottom because the rest of the cookie may get too dry.

Nonstick cookie sheets let you skip the greasing step. But the dough may not spread as much, resulting in thicker, less crisp cookies. Unless specified otherwise, a light greasing with shortening or quick spray with nonstick spray coating is adequate for most recipes.

• Know your oven. Experiment with the temperature of your oven. If your oven typically cooks items faster than the recipe calls for, adjust accordingly. Don't bake cookies for too long. They should be light brown around the edges and look a little underdone when they come out. Keep in mind that cookies will continue to cook from the heat of the cookie sheet after you remove them from the oven.

Cool the cookies on the cookie sheet initially and then transfer them to a wire rack once they can be lifted with a spatula without breaking them. Once they are cooled completely, you can decorate them or store directly in an airtight container.

—Brandpoint







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# Deck the Halls

## Making room for holiday entertaining

Every holiday party is as individual as the hosts and as interesting as the guests. Yet whether you plan a sophisticated dinner party or an afternoon buffet, all parties do have one thing in common: the need for entertaining space.

What did you do last year to make room for your holiday party? Move some furniture into the garage, pile coats in the spare bedroom and use the coffee table for dessert service? This may be your year to find a better way to maximize your entertaining space.

To ensure your holiday guests don't spend the party dodging furniture or looking for a place to sit, several days before the festivities, start planning how you will open up space.

Start with the entryway. Guests should get a sense of welcome and festive atmosphere from the moment they arrive on your doorstep. Thoroughly sweep your front walk, doorstep and the siding around the door. Make sure any outdoor decorations are out of the way, leaving a clear path into the house.

If your foyer is big enough, consider adding a standing coat rack so that guests don't have to hunt for their coats when it's time to go home. If your entryway is snug, don't sacrifice space to add holiday decorations. Stick with decor that can go on the walls, such as garlands, wreaths or lights.

Living and family rooms are often main entertaining areas for holiday parties. Be-

cause so much of daily life goes on in these rooms, it's common for clutter to accumulate. In preparation for your party, remove clutter and unneeded furniture.

If your sofa and chairs usually sit away from the wall, it's OK to push them back to make more space in the center of the room. Once you have ample open space, use a combination of existing seating and some added chairs to create multiple, smaller seating groups.

Getting electronic components out of the way can also help create space. Holiday party prep is a perfect inspiration to finally get your flatscreen up off that big, clunky TV stand and onto the wall. Wall-mounting a TV not only opens up floor space, it helps ensure everyone can see the screen if you'll be using it to show holiday films, and it enhances safety by reducing the chance someone will bump into the TV and tip it over.

Kitchens are also a popular area for entertaining. Remember, people will congregate wherever there is food, so it's important to maximize kitchen space — and to distribute food stations throughout the rooms where you're entertaining. Remove kitchen clutter, such as small appliances from counter tops (you probably won't need the toaster or standing mixer during the party) to make room for food displays.

Finally, don't overlook the value of decorative touches that can make a room feel

larger. If you're entertaining during the day, be sure to open all curtains and blinds to admit natural light that will make the room feel brighter and bigger. For evenings, adding a few strategically placed mirrors to walls can help make a room appear larger — plus they give a delightful effect when they reflect twinkling holiday lights.

While candles are a holiday favorite, if they take up valuable entertaining space on table tops, forgo them for the party. For that matter, feel free to skip the centerpiece if it takes up too much room. Or better yet, create an edible centerpiece, such as a display of holiday chocolates or fruit, to act as both decor and dish.

—Brandpoint

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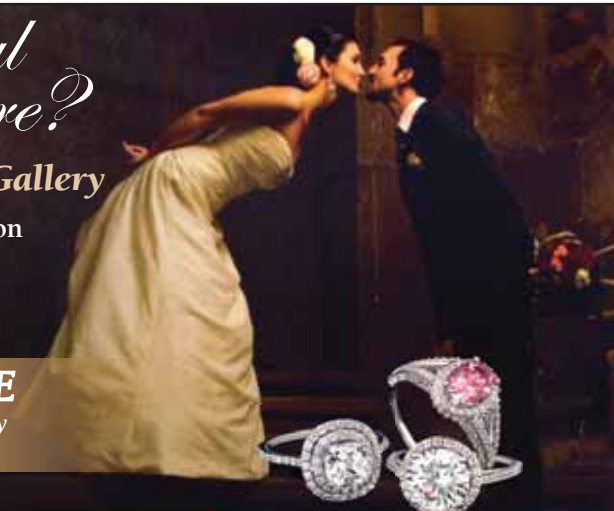
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\* Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses that create jobs, boost the economy and preserve neighborhoods around the country during one of the busiest shopping times of the year. Founded by American Express in 2010, this day is celebrated every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.



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## 12 Days of Pet-Safe Holidays

The holidays can be a hectic time for everyone. While you're busily gearing up for guests and parties, it's important to remember your pet's safety to ensure a festive and fun season is enjoyed by all.

From bright decorations to holiday house guests, it can be easy to overlook a few household dangers that may cause harm to your favorite companions. Here are a few things to keep in mind to keep your fuzzy friend safe and jolly this holiday:

### 12 Covered Cords

Cords used for holiday lights can be tempting to chew for many pets. Take time to tape down or cover cords to help prevent shocks, burns or other serious injuries.

### 11 Tempting Table Scraps

Rich scraps such as drippings, gravy and poultry skin can cause pets to suffer from upset stomach, diarrhea and even pancreatitis, which are not only terribly painful but can be fatal. Giving your dog poultry bones is also a bad idea as the bones can splinter and get stuck in your dog's gastrointestinal tract.

### 10 Radiant Ribbons

Cats may be interested in playing with or eating tinsel and ribbons hanging from trees. These decorations should be placed high on the tree or not used at all because they can potentially cause serious intestinal damage if swallowed.

### 9 Dinging Doorbells

Consider putting your dogs on a leash before people start arriving. Not only will you be able to control them if they begin to jump, you'll also avoid them running out the door.

### 8 Tasty Treats

Keep human party snacks out of reach for animals and offer pet-friendly options instead.

### 7 Quiet Corners

Provide pets with a quiet place to retreat so they can choose whether to come out and visit or keep to themselves when company arrives.

### 6 Patient Puppies

Tell your guests that your puppy is in training, and it needs to be polite before they say "hello" to it. Have your dog sit, using a treat if necessary, and once it's sitting and calm let your guests pet it.

### 5 Perilous Plants

Mistletoe, holly berries and poinsettia plants are all poisonous for dogs, so skip them as decorations or make sure they are out of reach.

### 4 Guarded Glasses

Alcohol and pets do not mix. Place alcoholic drinks safely out of reach and patrol the party to be sure your guests do the same. Alcohol poisoning can be fatal.

### 3 Calming Coats

Using a ThunderShirt can calm a nervous dog by applying gentle pressure to the body. In addition to the traditional coat, there are now cold weather ThunderSweater and ThunderCoat options.

### 2 Nearby Numbers

Keep contact information for your veterinarian and the nearest emergency veterinary clinic readily available in case of a holiday mishap.

### 1 Towering Tree

Seasonal trees are sure to attract a pet's attention and should be secured to keep from toppling over if a pet should try to climb them, use as a scratching post or simply bump into them.

—Family Features

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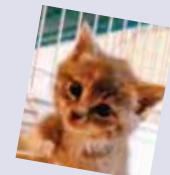
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# Open Heart Kitchen needs your help

## Holiday Fund donations help provide 260,000 meals annually

By JEB BING

Among the 10 nonprofits that have been selected as this year's recipients of the 11th annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, Open Heart Kitchen (OHK) is the one that feeds a wide range of the needy and undernourished, from senior citizens to school children throughout the Tri-Valley.

OHK uses the Holiday Fund contributions to help pay the cost of serving more than 260,000 meals annually. There is no qualifying process to receive meals. Meals can be eaten at OHK's multiple serving sites, or taken to go. OHK works in cooperation with the Alameda County Community Food Bank, more than a dozen local food pantries, and various Tri-Valley nonprofits with missions to promote nutrition and hunger relief.

"The need this year is for the increased numbers of seniors and young people we're seeing at Open Heart serving tables," said Linda McKeever, executive director. "We've increased the hours and number of days we serve the hot meal programs. We would like to add another hot meal serving day in Dublin if we could find a serving site."

Founded in 1995 by an inter-faith effort, Open Heart Kitchen's mission is to provide nutritious meals free of charge or qualification to the needy people of the area. It offers the only free hot meal service of its kind to "guests" who come from all walks of life. Some are homeless, but unlike many urban "soup kitchens," Open Heart Kitchen guests are mostly the working poor. Many are low income seniors on a fixed income, single-parent families, and multi-generational families, all struggling to make ends meet. At Open Heart Kitchen they find a free healthy meal in an environment that upholds their dignity. And, it fulfills the most basic need of hunger in a dignified manner through a three-meal program.

Hot meals are made from scratch by OHK volunteers and served from several locations Monday through Friday to anyone in need. Each meal consists of a protein, starch, vegetable, green salad, fruit salad, bread, milk, coffee, tea or juice and dessert.

To supplement school lunches over the weekends, OHK distributes a box lunch consisting of two healthy lunches to low income children and their families on Friday afternoons from locations in Livermore and Dublin. On average 1,700 boxed lunches are prepared and distributed each week.

In addition, Open Heart Kitchen prepares and serves dinner for low-income senior citizens 62-plus years old, Monday through Friday at Ridge View Commons, a low-income senior center in Pleasanton. Usually there are 50 who sign up for these low-cost "Senior Friendly" meals, where the suggested donation is \$3 for a meal worth twice the price. OHK subsidizes the cost of each meal and provides free meals to any senior unable to make a contribution.

McKeever has been appealing all week for donations of more frozen turkeys, needed for Thanksgiving dinners yesterday and also for meals during the rest of the holiday season. More than 1,500 turkeys are needed to meet the need of the region's hungry each holiday season. Last November, Open Heart Kitchen and other local food pantries received a new refrigeration/frozen food storage unit in which to store such donations. Frozen turkey donations can be delivered to the dining room of Ridge View Commons Senior Center, located at 5200 Case Ave., Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OHK welcomes donations from individuals and businesses, and also appreciates the help of volunteers to help serve meals.



SUE EVANS PHOTOGRAPHY

Open Heart Kitchen has an enthusiastic corps of volunteers that shop, cook and serve meals, plus clean up afterward.

Every year, LTD Global, a Pleasanton-based accounting, staffing and consulting firm, closes the office for a day to give back to the community. This year the team volunteered at Open Heart Kitchen, preparing nutritious, well-balanced, senior-friendly meals for Ridge View Commons residents.

"I'm proud of my team pitching in to help the senior community," said Lili Tarachand, founder of LTD Global.

Tarachand has supported numerous nonprofits over the years, recently received a "Business Owners Award" and was recognized as one of the "100 Most Influential Filipina American Women in the U.S." for her community service. ■

## Holiday Fund donors

Since the launch of the 2013 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign, 118 donors have contributed \$20,626 to the fund. This list includes donations received on or before Nov. 22, 2013.

### Individuals

Alan & Julia Casamajor.....	100	Gary & Nancy Harrington .....	200
Alice Desrosiers .....	100	Gary Alt .....	200
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		Marvin Rensink .....	200



## HOW TO GIVE:

The Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

**Please direct your donations to:**  
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2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300  
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**Checks should be made payable to Silicon Valley Community Foundation.**

Or donate through PayPal online at [www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund)

All donations will be acknowledged shortly after being received.





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**The following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:**

**Scheduled to receive 75% are:**

- Axis Community Health
- Open Heart Kitchen
- Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation
- Valley Humane Society
- ValleyCare Health System

**Receiving the other 25% are:**

- Hope Hospice
- Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council
- REACH (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing) for special adults of the Tri-Valley
- Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation
- Senior Support Services of the Tri-Valley



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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Person)

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

- I wish to contribute anonymously.
- Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

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c/o Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300  
Mountain View, California 94040

Credit card gifts may be made at:  
[www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund)



*The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund*

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of local nonprofit organizations to help alleviate the needs that exist, despite our community's prosperity. It provides an opportunity to aid local groups at a time when the numbers of those without jobs or with low-paying jobs and few, if any, health benefits have increased.

We are pleased to announce that we will again partner with Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which will provide all the administrative support for the campaign at no cost. As before, the Pleasanton Weekly will donate marketing services, as well as advertising space. This means that all money raised can support the people in our community.

We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy nonprofits.



# Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### More than \$13,000 taken in two home burglaries

Two homes were hit by burglars using the same method of entry in recent days, according to police reports.

In one, nearly \$13,000 in jewelry and electronics was stolen in a Nov. 22 residential burglary in the 9200 block of Klemetson Drive. Among the items taken in the theft, which took place between 9 a.m. and 2:10 p.m., was a \$6,000 diamond-and-emerald ring, a \$1,200 laptop and a \$1,100 tablet computer. Entry was made by breaking in through a garage door.

A garage door was also the method of entry in a Nov. 20 residential burglary in the 4300 block of Mirador Drive that netted two watches valued at about \$200 apiece. A \$150 coat and a \$100 drill were also stolen in the break-in, which occurred between 6:45 a.m. and 8:20 p.m.

A vehicle in the same block of Mirador Drive was also burgled on Nov. 19, in an incident reported at about 8:55 a.m.

#### In other police reports:

- A resident of the 1800 block of Paseo del Cajon told police she was the victim of the grandparent scam with a loss of \$2,000 from two separate transactions. Someone claiming to be a grandchild in trouble called asking for help, and the woman wired twice from a Hopyard Road check-cashing company. A third call for more money alerted the victim to the ruse, which was reported to police at about 11:21 a.m. Nov. 19.
- A call from the bank prevented a big loss to a

Serpentine Lane business. In the Nov. 19 incident, someone tried to make a \$26,000 wire transfer from the bank account of the Peridot Corp. The bank called to confirm the transaction, which was denied by the firm.

- A woman was unsuccessful in attempting to use five counterfeit \$100 bills at three stores in the Stoneridge Shopping Center in a string of incidents reported at about 3:45 p.m. Nov. 23.

The woman tried to cash the bills at Macy's Women's at the mall, where a clerk declined the transaction. She left with the bogus bills, but also hit Aeropostale and Hollister; both stores also refused to take the counterfeit cash.

- Alexandra Honeggar, 43, of Oakland was arrested for felony shoplifting at Sears in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road. Honeggar was arrested in the theft of a \$20 shirt; the count was elevated to a felony for entering the store with intent to shoplift.

- Pleasanton police are investigating a Nov. 23 report of felony embezzlement from a store in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue. More than \$500 was taken in the theft, which was reported at about 10:47 a.m.

- Residents in the 600 block of Palomino Drive reported someone used their identification to make a fraudulent \$402.95 charge at a 7-Eleven in Northridge in Southern California. The couple reported the identity theft at about 8:38 a.m. Nov. 21 and told police they still had their ATM card in their possession.

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

—Glenn Wohltmann

## OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

### Matthew Yount

Jan. 15, 1993-Nov. 20, 2013

A beloved son, brother and friend.

Matthew passed away tragically in an accident in Spain while studying abroad. Matthew is the son of Greg Yount and Sandy Yount, the brother of Adam Yount, and was loved like a brother and a son by his many friends.

Matthew was a junior at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and a Scholar Athlete on their Division I golf team. He was a 2011 graduate of Foothill

High School in Pleasanton, where he was a member of the golf team. Matthew attended K-8 at St. Raymond School in Dublin. Matthew loved his sports, golf, baseball (both playing and watching his Oakland A's), football, snowboarding and skiing, mountain biking, basketball and surfing. These were all things that Matthew loved to do with both his family and friends.

His love for life was evident to everyone through his bright smile, his warm and engaging personality and the joy he brought to all he touched.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30 at St. Raymond Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Reception to follow in the Church Hall.

In lieu of flowers, a fund on behalf of Matthew's love for life and golf is being established. Details will be forthcoming.



## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Nov. 19

#### Fraud

- 11:21 a.m. in the 1800 block of Paseo del Cajon
- 11:51 a.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane

#### Auto burglary

- 8:55 a.m. in the 4300 block of Mirador Drive

#### Vandalism

- 11:05 a.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 11:41 a.m. in the 3200 block of Royalton Court

#### DUI

- 11:44 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue

### Nov. 20

#### Theft

- 9:59 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; auto theft
- 4:54 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Residential burglary

- 8:23 p.m. in the 4300 block of Mirador Drive

#### Vandalism

- 9:00 a.m. in the 4500 block of First Street

### Nov. 21

#### Theft

- 8:48 a.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive; fraud
- 8:52 a.m. in the 6700 block of Paseo San Leon

#### Auto burglary

- 12:29 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

#### Vandalism

- 1:27 p.m. in the 8000 block of Mountain View Drive
- 6:41 p.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road
- 11:42 p.m. in the 2300 block of Vineyard Heights Lane

#### Drug violations

- 11:15 p.m. in the 1000 block of Harvest Circle; possession of a controlled substance, driving with marijuana

### Nov. 22

#### Residential burglary

- 2:14 p.m. in the 9200 block of Klemetson Drive

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 9:56 p.m. in the 5800 block of Corte Brazos; public intoxication/drugs
- 11:14 p.m. at the intersection of Calle Santa Anna and Golden Road; possession of methamphetamine, possession of hashish

### Nov. 23

#### Theft

- 10:47 a.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; embezzlement
- 3:45 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; fraud
- 10:31 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Burglary

- 2:49 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Battery

- 8:46 p.m. in the 400 block of Main Street

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:27 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness
- 2:16 a.m. in the 2100 block of Camino Brazos; possession of methamphetamine

- 6:37 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; under the influence of drugs, probation violation, vandalism, violating a court order

- 9:41 p.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Mission Drive; DUI

- 11:11 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; paraphernalia possession, petty larceny, probation violation

### Nov. 24

#### Auto theft

- 6:03 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Auto burglary

- 8:06 p.m. in the 2300 block of Foothill Road

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:14 a.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue; DUI
- 11:45 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Koll Center Drive; marijuana possession

### Nov. 25

#### Theft

- 9:47 a.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way; fraud
- 4:47 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Battery

- 11:24 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court
- 11:33 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:29 a.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 1:49 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway; DUI
- 4:54 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; possession of toluene with intention to inhale for intoxication



*Share your milestones*

Email birth, anniversary, engagement and wedding announcements with photos to [editor@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:editor@pleasantonweekly.com).

Submit obituaries online at [pleasantonweekly.com/obituaries](http://pleasantonweekly.com/obituaries).

ON THE  
TOWN

## AMERICAN

**Eddie Papa's  
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4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food," "Best Meal under \$20" and "Best Kid Friendly Restaurant," Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World Hospitality, and hand crafted artisan cocktails. [www.eddiepapas.com](http://www.eddiepapas.com).

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

Civic  
Meetings

**CITY COUNCIL** The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION** The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

## Clubs

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

**LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB** The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12 at Alisal School's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road. Dan Baldwin, who has degrees in enology and viticulture will discuss "Growing Grapes for the Home Gardener." A potluck dinner and white elephant sale will also take place. Call 485-7812.

## Concerts

**PLEASANTON COMMUNITY BAND WINTER CONCERT** Join the Pleasanton Community Concert Band for "International Holiday," featuring holiday music from around the world, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1 at the Firehouse Arts Center. The show is free!

**VITA VOCI PERFORMS** Vita Voci, a Tri-Valley a capella ensemble, will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. Works of

the Renaissance and more modern eras will be presented. The Congregation Beth Emek Choir will join Vita Voci in Salamone Rossi's "Elohim Hashivenu." Small donation requested. Call David Yaffee at 455-8139.

## Events

**BACK YARD HARVEST** Pam Silliman and students from Foothill High School are organizing a harvest of neighborhood fruit trees, like oranges, grapefruit and lemon trees. The group will pass out fliers and pick up fruit or harvest it for you. Fruit will go to Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry and more. They would like to harvest the fruit before the first hard frost. Thank you for your generosity to our community. Contact Pam at 998-1522 or [pamsilliman@yahoo.com](mailto:pamsilliman@yahoo.com).

**HOMETOWN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** The City of Pleasanton will host its Hometown Holiday Celebration from 5-7:15 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 in downtown Pleasanton. This festive, community-based parade will precede the lighting of a huge holiday tree in front of Museum on Main. Volunteers are always needed. To volunteer or for questions, call 931-5352 or go to [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com).

**OPEN MIC NIGHT** The Pleasanton Library and Tri-Valley Writers presents Open Mic Night with My Friends from 6-8:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9 at the Pleasanton Library. Share your poem, short prose or acoustic music with an appreciative audience. Free and open to teens and adults. Call 931-3400, ext. 4.

## Fundraisers

**SLEEP TRAIN'S SECRET SANTA TOY DRIVE FOR FOSTER KIDS** Sleigh bells are ringing and Christmas lights are glowing, but for the more than 60,000 foster kids throughout California, the holiday season can be tough as many enter new and unfamiliar homes. Help ensure each foster child feels the magic of the holiday season and donate a toy to any Sleep Train location.

**BREWS FOR A CURE** Join for a benefit for Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc. between noon and 10 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6 at Tap 25, 25 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. The event will feature beers from New Belgium Brewing, and a portion of each pint will be donated to CFRI! Call 727-3914 or go to [www.brewsforacure.org](http://www.brewsforacure.org).

**CLOTHING DRIVE** Donations of men's warm clothing and blankets will go to veterans at Operation Dignity. Donations of business attire for women and men (on wire hangers, if possible; larger sizes most needed) will go to Wardrobe for Opportunity, for job seekers re-entering the marketplace. Donate at Unity of Tri-Valley at 9875 Dublin Canyon Road, Castro Valley. Or call Michelle or Ray Day at 829-1239 for other arrangements.

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** Enjoy an evening of wine and appetizers and

help Foothill Boys Lacrosse! This fundraiser will be from 4-9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 9459 Blessing Drive. Cost is \$20 entry tax deductible donation. Door Prizes donated by local businesses. Interested in participating? Email [dgplaster@gmail.com](mailto:dgplaster@gmail.com).

**OPEN HEART KITCHEN TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR/PRINTS FUNDRAISER** Open Heart Kitchen will again benefit from the sale of the unique Tri-Valley calendars and prints created by Sue Evans Photography. Twelve images highlight the local natural beauty, and the 2014 calendars may be customized for businesses. Cost is \$5.25-\$12. Get them now! Contact Sue Evans at 989-4113 or [sueevansphotography@comcast.net](mailto:sueevansphotography@comcast.net). Go to [www.PhotographyBySueEvans.com](http://www.PhotographyBySueEvans.com).

**TRI-VALLEY HAVEN TOY AND GIFT DRIVE** New, non-violent gifts and toys may be dropped off at Tri-Valley Haven's Holiday Site, Asbury Methodist Church in Livermore, from 10 a.m.-4 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 3-5; and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 9-11. Call Christine for more information at 667-2707.

## Holiday

**9TH ANNUAL CHANUKAH WONDERLAND** Come to the Chanukah Wonderland from 5:30-7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2 at the Stoneridge Mall in the center grand court. The Menorah will be lit, and there will be holiday games, crafts, contests and live music. Admission is free, donations welcome. Call 846-0700 or go to [www.jewishtrivalley.com](http://www.jewishtrivalley.com).

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** Celebrate the holidays with the Tri-Valley Y at breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane, Suite F, Dublin. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee and Santa! Bring your camera! Cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for kids. Call 263-4444 or go to [www.trivalleyymca.org](http://www.trivalleyymca.org).

**CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND GATHERING** Get in the Christmas Spirit with Irish Folk band Pog Mo Thoin and guest Steve Kritzer. Bring a dish for the potluck at 6 p.m. followed by the concert at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Cost is \$15 at the door. Call 447-2787 or go to <http://www.bothwellartscenter.org>.

**CHANUKAH UNDER THE STARS** Experience Chanukah under the stars from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30 in front of Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The Menorah will be lit, and there will be latkes, doughnuts, live music and dancing! Admission is free, donations welcome. Call 846-0700 or go to [www.jewishtrivalley.com](http://www.jewishtrivalley.com).

**DICKENS CHRISTMAS FAIRE** See scenes from "A Christmas Carol" enacted amidst a London street at the Dickens Christmas Faire from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30 and from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in

Livermore. Shop for gifts and have high tea. Victorian outfits optional! Cost is \$10. Call 447-3289 or go to [saintbartslivermore.com](http://saintbartslivermore.com).

**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** Looking for that special something? Harvest Valley Church's holiday boutique will have items from local crafters, artisans and seamstresses. The boutique will be from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Harvest Valley Church. Call 484-2482, ext. 121.

**RAVENSWOOD VICTORIAN YULETIDE** Come to the Ravenswood Victorian Yuletide from noon-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Admission is free, and there will be a visit with Saint Nicholas, entertainment, drinks and desserts and buggy rides! Call 443-0238 or go to [www.larpd.dst.ca.us](http://www.larpd.dst.ca.us).

**SING-IT-YOURSELF 'MESSIAH'** Come to the annual Sing-it-Yourself 'Messiah,' where the community is invited to sing Handel's choral masterpiece from 7:30-9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Cost is \$10. Call 866-4003 or go to <http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org/>.

## On Stage

**'XXMAS: THE CHRISTMAS BALLET'** A mix of mischief and elegance, this popular holiday celebration offers something for everyone, from ballet, tap, and swing to a wealth of other dances drawn from holiday traditions from around the world. See the show at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 29 and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$45-\$65. Call 373-6800 or go to [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org).

**HOLIDAY SHORTS: 'A LONG WINTER'S TALE'** Creatures of Impulse, Pleasanton's teen improv troupe, presents its Holiday-themed improv shows in two unique performances at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5 and Friday, Dec. 6 at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$5-\$10. Free preview performance at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

## Seniors

**BRAIN MATTERS** Enjoy a morning of fun while learning how to keep your brain active and your memory sharp. The class is held from 10-11:30 a.m. the first and third Fridays of every month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Word games, puzzles, challenging activities, reminiscing and more, geared to help you age-proof your mind. Cost \$1.75 for resident and \$2.25 for non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit [www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org](http://www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org).

**MILLS LINE DANCE SOCIAL** DJ Millie Dusha will play tunes from the classic oldies at the Mills Line Dance Social from 2-4 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. All levels of dancers are welcome. Cost is \$3.

Call 556-4511.

**PLEASANTON ROTARY HOLIDAY DINNER TICKET DISTRIBUTION** Tickets for the 32nd Annual Rotary Dinner will be distributed starting at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3 on a first come, first-served basis at the Pleasanton Senior Center. One ticket per senior, 62 years of age or older. Bring proof of residence. Call 931-5365.

## Spiritual

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT** The Women of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton invite you to join their Annual Women's Spiritual Retreat, "Journey with Jesus to the Fullest of Life" with Father Tom Bonacci, from Jan. 31-Feb. 2 at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Contact Myrna at 462-3106 or Sue at 989-6713.

**PRAYER FOR THE PHILIPPINES** Lynnewood United Methodist Church will host a prayer service for victims of Typhoon Haiyan at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8. The community is invited to listen to music, light candles, and pray for family and friends or in solidarity with in the Philippine Islands. A freewill offering will go to victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Call 846-0221 or go to [www.lynnwood.org](http://www.lynnwood.org).

Support  
Groups

**CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP** Overwhelmed by clutter? Learn how to deal with it by attending this Non profit Self Help Support group, which meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday (except some holidays) at St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador Drive, Rm. 7. Donation requested \$2-\$5. Call 200-1943 or visit [www.clutterless.org](http://www.clutterless.org).

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)** NAMI Tri-Valley Parent Resource and Support Group meets twice a month for parents with children to age 17 diagnosed or suspected of having bipolar or other mood disorders. It meets from 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Pathways To Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 114, Pleasanton. The group is drop-in, no registration required and is free. For more information contact Suzi Glorioso at 443-1797 or email [glorios4@comcast.net](mailto:glorios4@comcast.net).

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Gymnasts compete at championships

Pleasanton gymnasts who train at the West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy competed at the NorCal Level 5 State Championships, Nov. 9-10, in Oroville, with the following results: Level 5 individual: Child G — Lauren Swenson-Lennox placed fourth on uneven bars, fifth on balance beam and fourth all-around; Child F — Megan Brennan placed fifth on floor, third on balance beam and eighth all-around; Child F — Allison Reilly had personal bests on vault, beam and all-around; Junior E — Lydia Muentz placed eighth on uneven bars and seventh on balance beam; Junior B — Laura Stavila placed eighth on uneven bars and seventh on beam; and Senior B — Audrey Ong placed fourth on uneven bars, fifth on floor and sixth all-around.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Lacrosse players sign with colleges

Pleasanton lacrosse players gathered at Handles Gastropub in Pleasanton the evening of Nov. 15 to sign National Letters of Intent for Women's Lacrosse this week. They are (back, l-r) Evan Murphy, Amador (University of Oregon); Madison Steele, Amador (Fresno State); Lindsey Kail, Foothill (University of Oregon); Cambi Cukar, Amador (University of Oregon); (front) Hannah Stapp, Amador (UC Berkeley); Molly Grozier, Amador (Marquette University); Allie DaCar, Amador (Stanford); and Sabrina Ehlert, Foothill (St. Mary's College).

## Parent photographers

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

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**Meet Jill.** Jill Cabeceiras is the client care manager for the East Bay. She has been working with older adults for more than ten years and is an expert on managing care within the home. Let Jill help your and your family!



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## Builder confidence holds steady in November

Encouraging sign, national home builders group says

By JEB BING

Builder confidence in the market for newly built, single-family homes was unchanged in November from a downwardly revised level of 54 on the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) released today. This means that for the sixth consecutive month, more builders have viewed market conditions as good than poor.

"Given the current interest rate and pricing environment, consumers continue to show interest in purchasing new homes, but are holding back because Congress keeps pushing critical decisions on budget, tax and government spending issues down the road," said NAHB Chairman Rick Judson. "Meanwhile, builders continue to face challenges related to rising construction costs and low appraisals."

"Policy and economic uncertainty is undermining consumer confidence," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "The fact that builder confidence remains above 50 is an encouraging sign, considering the unresolved debt and federal budget issues cause builders and consumers to remain on the sideline."

Derived from a monthly survey that NAHB has been conducting for 25 years, the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index gauges builder perceptions of current single-family home sales and sales expectations for the next six months as "good," "fair" or "poor." The survey also asks builders to rate traffic of prospective buyers as "high to very high," "average" or "low to very low."

Scores from each component are then used to calculate a seasonally adjusted index where any number over 50 indicates that more builders view conditions as good than poor.

The HMI index gauging current sales conditions in November held steady at 58. The component measuring expectations for future sales fell one point to 60 and the component gauging traffic of prospective buyers dropped one point to 42.

The HMI three-month moving average was mixed in the four regions. No movement was recorded in the South or West, which held unchanged at 56 and 60, respectively. The Northeast recorded a one-point gain to 39 and the Midwest fell three points to 60. ■

## HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

920 MONTEVINO DRIVE, PLEASANTON, LISTED AT \$1,249,900



This lovely custom-built home is nestled high in the Pleasanton hills. The spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home has approximately 3,439 square feet of living space. The eat-in kitchen/family room combo is a great place for gathering. The kitchen with slab granite countertops features: an island with gas cook top, microwave/convection oven combo and a butler's pantry. The focal point is an amazing custom built air-conditioned 270 bottle wine room with beautiful etched glass doors. The yards have been professionally landscaped. The large, flat backyard contains a small vineyard, a tranquil raised rock garden with fountain, exposed aggregate patio, small basketball court and a large grassy area. It is conveniently located close to downtown Pleasanton's picturesque Main Street, award winning schools and access to I-680.

Sold by Melissa Pederson at Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty (925) 397-4326.

# Tri-Valley Real Estate Directory

**Lorraine Davis & Kim Grass**  
REALTORS®  
510-421-2836  
www.davisandgrass.com  
CA LIC# 01149252, 01243081

**Brett Junell** REALTOR®  
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stephany@stephanyjenkins.com  
CA LIC# 01311486

**Irma Lopez**  
Senior Mortgage Advisor  
direct: 925.397.4390  
cell: 408.476.7118  
ilopez@opesadvisors.com  
www.LoansByIrma.com  
CA LIC# 01296953, NMLS # 254790  
5994 W. Las Positas, Ste. 101 • Pleasanton, CA 94588

**W. Todd Galde**  
Branch Manager / Mortgage Advisor  
direct: 925.397.4141  
cell: 925.381.8190  
Tgalde@opesadvisors.com  
www.AdvisingSmartFinancing.com  
CA LIC #01505858, NMLS #256864  
5994 W. Las Positas Blvd. #101 • Pleasanton, CA 94588

**Darlene Crane,**  
Real Estate Mortgage Advisor  
OPES ADVISORS  
925-699-4377  
dcrane@opesadvisors.com  
www.darleneocrane.com  
NMLS 30878 License 00907071  
349 Main Street #203, Pleasanton

**Janice Habluetzel**  
REALTOR®  
Re/Max Accord  
phone: (925) 699-3122  
www.JaniceTheRealtor.com  
BRE# 1385523

**Rebecca Bruner** Sales Manager/REALTOR®  
Direct: 925.730.1628  
Cell: 925.577.8802  
rebecca@remaxaccord.com  
www.rebeccabruner.com  
DRE #909264  
5950 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton

**Karen Lin** 林  
REALTOR®  
Re/Max Accord  
direct: 650.740.8465  
www.karenlinrealtor.com  
email: karenlin2010@gmail.com  
BRE# 01892718

**Kristy and Company**  
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925.251.2536

Kristy Peixoto Nancy Valett Danielle Santa Maria Wendy Modrell

*J. Rockett*  
REALTORS

CA BRE# 01256255/  
01741240/ 01929112

**Cindy Gee**  
REALTOR®  
Notary, GRI, CDPE  
(925) 963-1984  
cindy.gee@BHGHome.com  
DRE# 01307919

**Andrew Liu**  
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aliu@liuproperties.com  
DRE # 01762647  
5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste 200

**Sid Ajaz**  
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PREVIEWS PROPERTY SPECIALIST  
Experienced Realtor  
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SIDAJAZ@AOL.COM  
CA LIC# 01088557

**Tom Fox** Broker Associate  
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Tom@TomFox.com  
www.TomFox.com  
CA LIC# 00630556

**Maureen Petersen Gordon Buck**  
Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty  
Maureen: 925.998.8914  
Gordon: 925.321.1652  
maureen@mghometeam.com  
gordon@mghometeam.com  
www.MGHomeTeam.com  
BRE# 01175394 • BRE# 01857349

To advertise in the Tri-Valley Real Estate Directory call Carol Cano at (925) 699-5793. Ask about online and email advertising.

**HOME SALES**

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 21-Nov. 6

**Dublin**

- 7700 Bonniewood Court** M. Greenberg to S. Moyer for \$600,000
- 8552 Briarwood Lane** Federal Home Loan Mortgage to D. Wright for \$580,000
- 7941 Bristol Road** J. Wehrman to S. Ramaswamy for \$605,500
- 7145 Dublin Meadows Street #H** S. & J. Hull to S. Ng for \$430,000
- 7749 Lisa Court** M. Callan to A. Pham for \$560,000
- 8380 Locust Place #N** Lebbly Trust to J. Situ for \$560,000
- 3374 Monaghan Street #116** A. Singh to T. & R. Huang for \$497,500
- 4721 Perugia Street** M. Souve to J. Fitzsimons for \$530,000
- 10715 Wallace Lane** D. Jeffries to J. Muthukannan for \$500,000

**Livermore**

- 374 Alice Way** W. & J. Reifenheiser to S. Woodstock for \$495,000
- 253 Bellington Common #4** J. & J. Maratsos to K. Eccleston for \$365,000
- 5477 Carnegie Loop** V. Ahlborn to P. & C. Carroll for \$832,000
- 2433 College Avenue** Mercurio Trust to Jamaca Trust for \$687,000
- 5385 East Avenue** Pereira Trust to R. Pruett for \$1,470,000
- 2168 Fernbrook Common** R. & D. Rhodes to D. & P. Kirian for \$440,000
- 635 Hanover Street** D. Smith to Andersen Trust for \$500,000
- 936 Lisbon Avenue** E. Gronley to D. & P. Baldwin for \$450,000
- 1744 Park Street** C. Gabbani to L. & D. Eddy for \$403,000
- 1453 Saybrook Road** K. & J. Jopes to Y. Armaz for \$465,000

- 580 South L Street** Dolan Trust to J. Skinner for \$815,000
- 6191 St. Andrews Way** J. & J. Kafka to J. & Z. Hashemi for \$473,500
- 620 Swallow Drive** Downey Trust to Worldbet Investments for \$427,000
- 1212 Vienna Street** King Trust to Andersen Trust for \$510,000

**Pleasanton**

- 6599 Arlington Drive** Batute Trust to I. & J. Srouji for \$1,155,000
- 3704 Bairn Court** Ambrose Trust to J. Burns for \$795,000
- 5638 Belleza Drive** Pollock Trust to R. Kaiser for \$495,000
- 4982 Dolores Drive** L. Dent to D. & N. Murray for \$1,240,000
- 3962 Fairlands Drive** See Trust to S. Yang for \$839,000
- 1818 Harms Drive** Tamayo Trust to R. Agarwal for \$670,000
- 3751 Hawaii Court #N** Ziatek Trust to M. Lee for \$721,000
- 3417 Smoketree Commons** J. Fink to L. Siverls for \$350,000
- 2708 Spinosa Court** V. Doraiswamy to S. Chiu for \$750,000
- 5960 Sterling Greens Circle** C. Chiu to A. & R. Jain for \$955,500
- 3089 Tonopah Circle** M. Little to H. Narasimha-Iyer for \$338,000
- 3934 Vineyard Avenue** H. Helmandi to S. Helmandi for \$510,000
- 1656 West Lagoon Road** S. & P. Singh to S. & C. Kallu for \$1,187,000

**San Ramon**

- 2111 Arlington Way** K. Neo to R. Ramanujalu for \$800,000
- 51 Centennial Way** Saul Trust to R. & K. Latshaw for \$850,000
- 6000 Dalton Way** C. & A. Guzman to D. & B. Setia for \$820,000

- 803 Destiny Lane** R. Campbell to J. Farr for \$545,000
- 61 Eagle Lake Lane #24** Burnett Trust to J. Hatfield for \$685,000
- 152 Eastridge Drive** K. Aguiar to Y. Gan for \$365,000
- 69 Elmwood Drive** M. Mills to S. Sijoatmojo for \$715,000
- 231 Gale Ridge Court** Powers Trust to Y. Yao for \$1,299,000
- 21 Hurst Court** National Residential to O. & L. Plotner for \$890,000
- 4960 Ivy Leaf Springs #2** L. Curran to P. Gothra for \$685,000
- 704 Lakemont Place #5** J. & L. Wienckowski to S. Zhu for \$623,000
- 4137 Lilac Ridge Road** Lucky Trust to W. Liu for \$1,455,000
- 4032 Marblehead Drive** Kositch Trust to C. & J. Thorgrimsson for \$1,100,000
- 2812 Morgan Drive** Kinsley Trust to M. & T. Rasiah for \$925,000
- 2668 Paige Way** M. Madrueno to T. & A. Redkar for \$1,050,000
- 464 Pine Ridge Drive #220** K. Pieper to A. Dedie for \$310,000
- 2911 Pine Valley Road** Dannis Trust to M. Berhe for \$615,000
- 918 Renada Place** Foy Trust to J. Liu for \$663,000
- 10025 Santa Rosa Avenue** Firpo Trust to M. Padilla for \$625,000
- 111 Shadowhill Circle** R. & C. Evans to L. Scott for \$720,000
- 2860 Sombrero Circle** M. Pavan to S. Han for \$706,000
- 9468 Thunderbird Place** L. Harrold to Danday Trust for \$1,024,000
- 1001 Vista Pointe Circle** K. Mattimore to S. & H. Grima for \$740,000
- 5762 Wells Lane** J. Yuan to S. & A. Jafar for \$1,255,000

Source: California REsource

**OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND**

**Alamo**

**6 BEDROOMS**  
**3083 Sandstone Road \$2,795,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Gail Boal 577-5787

**Livermore**

**3 BEDROOMS**  
**10366 S. Flynn Road \$1,499,000**  
 Sat 1-4 Brad Slabaugh 997-4905

**Pleasanton**

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**3660 Kirkcaldy Court \$798,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Antero Portela 600-7653

**SALES AT A GLANCE**

**Dublin (Oct. 21-24)**

**Total sales reported:** 9  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$430,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$605,500  
**Average sales reported:** \$540,333

**Livermore (Oct. 21-24)**

**Total sales reported:** 14  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$365,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,470,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$595,179

**Pleasanton (Oct. 21-24)**

**Total sales reported:** 13  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$338,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,240,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$769,654

**San Ramon (Oct. 30-Nov. 6)**

**Total sales reported:** 24  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$310,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,455,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$811,042



**Tim McGuire**  
 Realtor®  
 DRE 01349446  
 925-462-SOLD (7653)  
 tmcguire@apr.com



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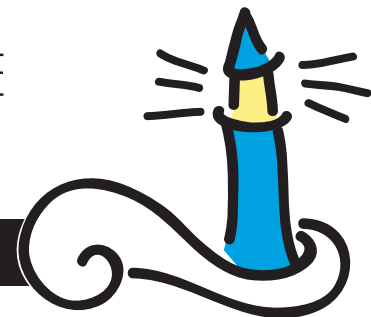


**4166 Hall Court, Pleasanton**

3bd/3ba, 2,042+/-sq.ft "Mulberry" model on a 7,257+/-sq/ft lot, optional 4th bedroom with full bath downstairs, Tigerwood hardwood floors, remodeled eat-in granite/alder kitchen with pull-out shelving, remodeled baths, gas fireplace, newer 50-yr comp shingle roof and aluminum gutters, dual pane windows, plantation shutters, private backyard with pool, patio with waterfall, RV/boat parking, on a quiet cul-de-sac. **CALL FOR DETAILS**

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Fogster.com offers FREE\* postings online and the opportunity for your ad to appear in print to more than 80,000 readers. You can log on to fogster.com 24/7, and your online ad starts immediately. \*Some ads require payment.



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**BULLETIN BOARD**

## 115 Announcements

**Considering Adoption?**  
Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 877-362-2401 (AAN CAN)

**Pregnant?**  
Thinking of Adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/ New Mexico/ Indiana (AAN CAN)

## 130 Classes & Instruction

**Airline Careers**  
begin here. Get FAA approved Maintenance training. Financial aid for qualified students. Housing available. Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-804-5293 (Cal-SCAN)

**FOR SALE**

## 202 Vehicles Wanted

**Cash for Cars**  
Any Car/Truck. Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come To You! Call For Instant Offer: 1-888-420-3808 www.cash4car.com (AAN CAN)

**Donate Your Car**  
Fast Free Towing 24 hr. Response - Tax Deduction. UNITED BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION. Providing Free Mammograms and Breast Cancer Info. 888-792-1675 (Cal-SCAN)

## 235 Wanted to Buy

**Cash for Diabetic Test Strips**  
Don't throw boxes away-Help others. Unopened /Unexpired boxes only. All Brands Considered! Call Anytime! 24hrs/7days (888) 491-1168 (Cal-SCAN)

## 245 Miscellaneous

**AT&T U-verse**  
for just \$29/mo! BUNDLE & SAVE with AT&T Internet+Phone+TV and get a FREE pre-paid Visa Card! (select plans). HURRY, CALL NOW! 800-319-3280 (Cal-SCAN)

**DirectTV**  
Over 140 channels only \$29.99 a month. Call Now! Triple savings!

\$636.00 in Savings. Free upgrade to Genie and 2013 NFL Sunday ticket free!! Start saving today! 1-800-291-0350 (Cal-SCAN)

**DISH TV Retailer**  
Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) & High Speed Internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available.) SAVE! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 1-800-357-0810 (Cal-SCAN)

**Reduce Your Cable Bill**  
Get an All-Digital Satellite system installed for FREE and programming starting at \$24.99/mo. FREE HD/DVR upgrade for new callers, SO CALL NOW! (877)366-4509 (Cal-SCAN)

**EMPLOYMENT**

## 560 Employment Information

**Drivers: Get Loaded**  
Experience Pays - up to 50 cpm. New CSA Friendly Equipment (KWs). CDL-A Required. 877-258-8782 www.addrivers.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Drivers: Solo and Teams**  
No East coast, plenty of miles, scheduled hometime, paid vacation, rider program, late model equipment. Call Chuck or Tim (800) 645-3748 (Cal-SCAN)

**Help Wanted!**  
Make extra money in our free ever popular homemailer program, includes valuable guidebook! Start immediately! Genuine! 1-888-292-1120 www.easy-work-from-home.com (AAN CAN)

**Home Mailer Program**  
Paid in Advance!! Make up to \$1000 a week mailing brochures from home! Helping home workers since 2001! Genuine opportunity! No experience required. Start immediately! www.process-brochures.com (AAN CAN)

**Media Makeup Artists**  
Earn \$500 a day. Airbrush & Media Makeup Artists. For: Ads - TV - Film - Fashion. Train & Build Portfolio in 1 week. www.AwardMakeupSchool.com (AAN CAN)

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

## 601 Accounting/Bookkeeping

**NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS?**  
Over 18 years experience in all aspects of bookkeeping. No job too big or too small!  
Call Linda at 925-918-2233

## 605 Antiques & Art Restoration

**"A Labor of Love" ANTIQUE RESTORATION**  
Preserve special memories... Recycle the past into the future  
Impeccable Quality  
Integrity of Workmanship  
Conveniently located in Pleasanton For 12 Years  
925-462-0383 License #042392

## 624 Financial

**Guaranteed Income**  
Guaranteed Income For Your Retirement. Avoid market risk and get guaranteed income in retirement! CALL for FREE copy of our SAFE MONEY GUIDE Plus Annuity Quotes from A-Rated companies! 800-375-8607 (Cal-SCAN)

**Student Loan Payments?**  
Cut your student loan payments in HALF or more even if you are Late or in Default. Get Relief FAST Much LOWER payments. Call Student Hotline 855-589-8607 (Cal-SCAN)

**HOME SERVICES**

## 751 General Contracting

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board

**A NOTICE TO READERS:**  
It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

No phone number in the ad?  
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for contact information

**CDL Construction**  
408-310-0355 Lic 781723B

**REAL ESTATE**

## 840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares

**Orlando, FL Vacation**  
Six days. Regularly \$1,175.00. Yours today for only \$389.00! You SAVE 67 percent. PLUS One-week car rental included. Call for details. 1-800-985-6809 (Cal-SCAN)

## 855 Real Estate Services

**All Areas: Roommates.com**  
Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Roommates.com>. (AAN CAN)

**LEGALS**

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

1) IRON PALM; 2) IRON PALM CELLARS; 3) IRON PALM CO; 4) IRON PALM COMPANY; 5) IRON PALM ESTATE; 6) IRON PALM ESTATES; 7) IRON PALM VINEYARD; 8) IRON PALM VINEYARDS; 9) IRON PALM WINES; 10) IRON PALM WINE CELLARS; 11) IRON PALM WINE CO; 12) IRON PALM WINE COMPANY; 13) IRON PALM VINEYARDS & WINERY; 14) IRON PALM WINERY & VINEYARDS; 15) IRON PALM WINERY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 484293-307  
The following person(s) doing business as: 1) IRON PALM; 2) IRON PALM CELLARS; 3) IRON PALM CO; 4) IRON PALM COMPANY; 5) IRON PALM ESTATE; 6) IRON PALM ESTATES; 7) IRON PALM VINEYARD; 8) IRON PALM VINEYARDS; 9) IRON PALM WINES; 10) IRON PALM WINE CELLARS; 11) IRON PALM WINE CO; 12) IRON PALM WINE COMPANY; 13) IRON PALM VINEYARDS & WINERY; 14) IRON PALM WINERY & VINEYARDS; 15) IRON PALM WINERY; 5556 MINES ROAD, LIVERMORE, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Montes Holdings Inc., 5556 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 10/01/2013. Signature of Registrant:

Daniel H. Montes, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/23/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29; 2013)

**NOTARIES NOW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 484442

The following person(s) doing business as: NOTARIES NOW, 205 J MAIN STREET, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Helen Berenice Wardale, 6806 Corte Nuevo, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Dhawallah Aisien, 1226 Shady Pond Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Co-partners. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Helen B. Wardale, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/28/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29; 2013)

**PROSHRED SFBA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 484722

The following person(s) doing business as: PROSHRED SFBA, 5635 WEST LAS POSITAS BLVD., SUITE 405, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MJT Ventures Corporation, 1912 Toyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 10/01/2013. Signature of Registrant: Michael J Thompson, President & CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/05/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29; 2013)

## TAKE US ALONG



Valerie, Leah, Vivian and Vincent Vernay waded in the beautiful waters of Lanikai Beach in Kailua, Hawaii, while helping the Pleasanton Weekly work on its tan.

# PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Our website has become the place residents turn to for breaking local news, to post their own stories and photos, and to discuss news and events in the community. Can't find your copy of the Weekly? Find the digital version online under **Print Edition**.





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We would like to thank all of our clients for their continued support and confidence in allowing us to handle their real estate transactions.

We hope this Thanksgiving Season finds you surrounded

by family and friends and an abundance of happiness and good health.

Enjoy this wonderful time of year.



**Lisa Sterling-Sanchez & Ingrid Wetmore**  
REALTORS® LIC # 01012330 and 00923379  
925.980.9265 925.918.0986

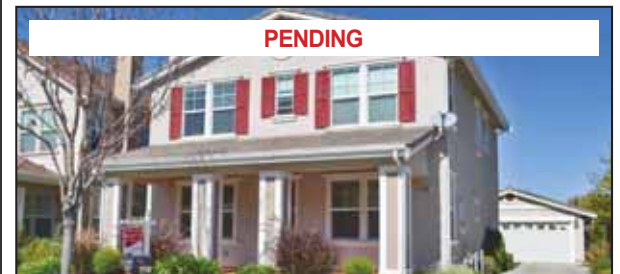
### AMAZING HOME!



**35 Raccolio Way, South Livermore**  
Absolutely gorgeous home with tons of upgrades! 4 bed, 3.5 bath home in Prima! Includes downstairs bedroom and full bath, remodeled kitchen, 3 car garage, 2834 sq ft. 8140 sq ft lot. Built in 2001. Offered at **\$959,950** Call Cindy for a private showing!



**Cindy and Gene Williams**  
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925.918.2045  
www.WilliamsReGroup.com



### PENDING

**6035 Sterling Greens Circle**  
Stunning Home in Canyon Oaks!  
3 Bedrooms / 3 Bathrooms Plus a Den with over 2,500 sqft of Living Space.

**Jill Denton** REALTOR® LIC #01804876  
925-998-7747 — [jill@jilldenton.com](mailto:jill@jilldenton.com)  
JillDenton.com



### Open Sun 1-4

### Stunning one of a kind home!

**3083 Sandstone Rd, Alamo**  
Main home 4959 sq. ft. 6 beds, 4.5 baths. Complete with 1100 sq. ft. guest home with 2 beds, 2 baths. Resort style backyard!

Listed at **\$2,795,000**



**Gail Boal**  
REALTOR® LIC # 01276455  
**925.577.5787**  
[www.gailboal.com](http://www.gailboal.com)

"Recently I had the opportunity to work with DeAnna Armario and Liz Venema. They worked many hours to make sure that qualified buyers were able to view my Ruby Hill home. Overall I could not recommend a better team to help you buy or sell your home. They will give you expert advice and work tirelessly to exceed your expectations. They are a great team." — Randy Clegg

We are so thankful for all our clients - their success is our success.

Happy Thanksgiving!



**DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema**  
REALTORS® LIC # 01363180 and 01922957  
925.260.2220 925.413.6544  
[DeAnna@ArmarioHomes.com](mailto:DeAnna@ArmarioHomes.com) [Liz@ArmarioHomes.com](mailto:Liz@ArmarioHomes.com)  
[ArmarioHomes.com](http://ArmarioHomes.com)

Only 10 homes are on the market in Ruby Hill but we have several buyers and sellers lined up for 2014.

If you're interested in buying or selling in Ruby Hill, or anywhere in the Tri-Valley give us a call.



### FABULOUS PROPERTIES



**Donna Garrison, REALTOR®** | **Susan Schall, REALTOR®**  
925-980-0273 | 925-519-8226  
[www.FabulousProperties.net](http://www.FabulousProperties.net) CA Lic#s 01735040, 01713497



JUST SOLD \$1,650,000

**4 Grey Eagle Court, Pleasanton**  
Charm and elegance radiates from this beautiful Grey Eagle Estate. This custom estate is over 5000 sq ft with 4 bedrooms, 2 dens and a media room that could also be a wonderful au pair or in law set up. Gourmet granite slab kitchen with old world hardwood floors. Stunning views from almost every room!



JUST SOLD \$1,085,000

**848 Old Oak Road, Livermore**  
Simply stunning! 4 bdrm, 3 bath home with a bonus room which could also be a fabulous in law set up. Nestled in South Livermore on a 13,000+ sq ft lot. Gourmet slate kitchen with hickory plank floors.



**488 Bunker Lane, Pleasanton**  
Gorgeous Semi Custom Tropical Paradise Castlewood Home!  
5BD, 4.5BA, 3890 sq ft.  
**\$5900**



**57 E. Heritage Drive, Mountain House**  
Attractive & Spacious Floor Plan!  
Built in 2005, 4BD, 2.5BA,  
Great Investment, 3,015 sq. ft.  
**For Sale \$488,000 or Rent \$2300.00**

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**Kevin and Bernetta Wess**  
Tri-Valley Property Management  
LIC # 01482226 & 01465272  
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**7268 Tulipwood Circle, Pleasanton**  
5 Bedrooms • 3 Bathrooms • 2,280 sq ft • 7,617 sq ft lot  
Formal Living Room • Large Kitchen/Family/Dining Room Combo  
Hardwood Floors • New Carpets • Plantation Shutters  
Inviting Front Porch • Corner Lot • Pool • Deck • Patio  
Close to Schools, Shopping & Transportation  
Priced to sell at \$832,485



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REALTOR® LIC # 01002251  
925.397.4326  
[mellisapedersonhomes@gmail.com](mailto:mellisapedersonhomes@gmail.com)  
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[AGreenwell@kw.com](mailto:AGreenwell@kw.com)



We're grateful for all those special people and times that have touched a place in our hearts — thank you for selecting us as your real estate professional. We value and appreciate the relationships we've built.

*From our family to yours, may this Thanksgiving & Holiday Season be one that memories are made of!*