

# Pleasanton Weekly

**TRI-VALLEY HEROES:**  
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and Rising Star recipients  
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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## A therapeutic unicorn

Local author and internationally-known equestrian E. B. (Liz) Hendrix will sign copies of her first book tomorrow and again next Saturday at two Livermore locations and then Dec. 15 at the Greenville Equestrian Center where she's known for her years of teaching the skills of dressage.

But her book, "Angel & Evie-Catching a Unicorn," is only the latest chapter of her nearly 30 years of riding in the dressage and hunter/jumper world. At 16, she was jumping 5-foot courses at the Verden Sporthorse Auction in Germany and is now certified at the Fourth and highest level in the U.S. Dressage Federation.

All those good times and competitive ventures came to a crashing halt three years ago when an inner-ear infection, possibly from a shingles virus, led to Bell's palsy, a form of facial paralysis resulting from a dysfunction of the cranial nerve. Although most victims eventually recover, Hendrix was not so lucky. Her nerves regenerated in an incorrect way, leaving the left side of her face excruciatingly painful to touch, even painful in the slightest breeze or sideways head movement.

For months, her husband Nathan, a paramedic in Richmond, took time off work to help care for their daughter Evelyn (also known as "EV"), who is now in the second grade at Rancho Las Positas Elementary School in Livermore, near their home. Liz Hendrix was told by medical specialists that although her nerve damage was rare, there were others with similar conditions that medical science has not yet been able to cure.

With several teenagers and some adults in her dressage classes at the Greenville ranch where she teaches, Hendrix gradually returned half-days, bundled up in a hat, scarf and sunglasses to keep the wind out of her face. These classes are important because they teach riders on English saddles, which give them better control of their horses in dressage competitions. Dressage is especially popular on the East Coast, where Hendrix grew up; not so much here in the West where Western saddles, more associated with cowboys, cattle ranches and horseback riding lessons, are commonplace. Hendrix, in fact, before her illness, taught riders who competed in dressage competitions in the Olympics.

As time wore on, Hendrix, who



Liz Hendrix

had taken up art as a hobby and has earned honors as a writer, turned to both as a therapeutic way of moving forward and escaping the misery that was embracing her. It worked. As a little girl, just like most girls who love horses, every horse she loved seemed like a unicorn. This legendary animal has been described since antiquity in folklore particularly in children's stories as a symbol of purity and grace. Its large, pointed, spiraling horn has even been said to have the power to heal sickness.

"Angel & Evie-Catching a Unicorn," names that her daughter EV helped create, offered Hendrix just that kind of healing therapy and offers readers a heart-warming story as well. In his review of the book, Dale Leatherman, editor of DiscoverHorses.com, praises Hendrix for her picture book for beginning readers about the feisty Evie who searches for a unicorn of her very own, imagining a pretty white mare with pink mane and tail. In the magical land of Einhorn, just such a unicorn dreams of finding a little girl of her very own, one with gentle hands, a cheerful voice and plain brown hair, like Evie. Aided by fairies, Angel begins her search and the two find a friendship that is made to last.

Hendrix's characters are heart-warming, and her vibrantly colored illustrations draw the reader into a wonderful world with unexpected surprises on each page. Hopefully, this book won't be her last, and she and her daughter EV are already conspiring on a sequel.

"Angel & Eve-Catching a Unicorn," by E.B. Hendrix, hardcover, 36 pages, 36 illustrations, \$19.99

Buy the book and meet the author:

■ Saturday, Dec. 7, from noon-4 p.m., at Woopsiedaisy Toy Shop, 154 South J St., Livermore

■ Saturday, Dec. 14, from 2-4 p.m., at Cooleykatz Toys, 1959 Second St., Livermore

■ Sunday, Dec. 15, from 2-4 p.m., at Greenville Equestrian Center, 4180 Greenville Road, Livermore. ■

## About the Cover

"Who-ville" float with Santa Grinch and girls from Scout Troop 32815 brought loud applause from spectators in the 2012 Pleasanton Holiday Parade, with this year's festivities kicking off again at 5 p.m. tomorrow. Photo by Chuck Deckert. Cover design by Rosanna Leung.

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## Aside from your family and friends, what is your biggest passion in life?

### Tawanna Easter

*Behavioral therapist*

I'm passionate about cooking a nice meal. It helps me to relax and is a great way to get the whole family all together, in the same place at the same time.



### Stan Torres

*Accountant*

I'm passionate about cooking and preparing healthy food. I find it is the best way to relax after a long day at work, especially when my baby daughter insists on "helping" me.



### Jennifer Easter

*Treasury department*

Well, I am passionate about knowledge, learning new things all the time that I can share with others. Mostly about religion and spirituality, because knowledge and understanding help people to be able to peacefully coexist.



### Theresa Torres

*Nurse*

Exercising is what I'm most passionate about. It helps me to stay fit, healthy and strong, and to set a good example for my patients.



### Oscar Briones

*Deli counter worker*

Oh gosh, my dog, for sure. I especially love being outdoors, walking with him and the rest of the family. Pets bring so much joy into our lives.



—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

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

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## DIGEST

### Santa sellout

Tomorrow is the Tri-Valley YMCAs annual breakfast with Santa, and you might want to make a reservation right away, because the event is likely to sell out.

The breakfast runs from 9 to 11 a.m. Breakfast, with pancakes, eggs, sausage, fresh fruit and juice, is \$10 for adults and \$7 for kids. It will be held at the Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane, Dublin. Bring your camera for free pictures with Santa. For more information or reservations, call the Y at 263-4444 or email [tvinfo@ymcaeastbay.org](mailto:tvinfo@ymcaeastbay.org).

### Not your father's Christmas carols

Get a big helping of holiday spirit with classic rock Christmas music for the whole family, with the December People who'll appear at the Firehouse Arts Center for two shows on Dec. 13 and 14 to help raise money for area food banks.

The quintet will do holiday songs in the styles of some top bands from Santana, The Who, Led Zeppelin, ZZ Top, U2, Queen, and Sting — to name a few.

The band puts on holiday shows every year to benefit food banks, and attendees are asked to bring along food donations, with the local shows and donations to benefit Open Heart Kitchen. Both shows start at 8 p.m., with tickets starting at \$30. For more information or to make a reservation, call 931-4848, go online at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org) or visit the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

### New nonprofit

PAWS IN NEED has acquired 501(c)3 tax-exempt status to operate two animal welfare programs in the Tri-Valley area. It will offer financial assistance for spaying and neutering, and urgent necessary veterinary care for pet owners who are unable to afford care.

To help get the organization going, it has an anonymous donor who is willing to match any donation up to \$10,000 received by Dec. 31.

Anyone with questions about how to give can call Cindy Ferrin at 323-8517.

### 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)

## School board awaiting information on principal's ouster

Decision could come at Tuesday's meeting

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

More than five weeks ago, Walnut Grove Principal Jon Vranesh was placed on paid administrative leave, but an anonymous source has confirmed to the Pleasanton Weekly that as of yet there are no written charges against him.

So far, no action has been taken against him, but that could change at the Pleasanton school board's meeting Tuesday, which will also include the board's annual reorganization.

The school board called a last-minute closed session on Nov. 26 during the district's Thanksgiving break in which it was to consider "Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release." The board took no action regarding ousted Walnut Grove Principal Jon Vranesh, despite a push for the board to say what led to his being placed on leave.

Thirty people, including colleagues, parents of current and former students and friends, at-

tended the meeting. Ten spoke before the board went into closed session, but Board President Jeff Bowser left the session after less than five minutes to tell waiting audience members that the board would make no decision that night.

Bowser originally tried to limit comments, as was the case in the board's Nov. 12 meeting, when Vranesh supporters were first told they wouldn't be allowed to speak, but were then restricted to a minute apiece. At the Nov. 26 meeting, Bowser bumped the time limit to two minutes per speaker when questioned by board member Jamie Hintzke.

Many who spoke before the board went into its closed-door meeting raised the same questions and criticisms as they did in the last school board meeting: a poor job of letting parents know Vranesh had been placed on leave, no word on why the action was taken and requests for him to be reinstated.

"The lack of communication has not helped

the parents," said Walnut Grove parent Jeremy McCarthy. He said he learned of Vranesh's being placed on administrative leave when his kids started asking where the principal was.

"All you guys have done has created mistrust in this community," said Bruce Henry, who questioned whether the issue was somehow related to Bowser's run for county school superintendent.

Three of Vranesh's colleagues from his time at Pleasanton Middle School read a letter signed by 30 of those he worked with, noting that Vranesh "always strived to create a safe school environment for all."

Two other colleagues also spoke, saying Vranesh "always had the kids' best interest in mind."

One parent questioned the board timing for its closed door session held during the school's

See VRANESH on Page 6



CHUCK DECKERT

Richert Lumber float was a highlight of the 2012 Holiday Parade, which is scheduled again for tomorrow on Pleasanton's Main Street.

## Pleasanton parade, tree lighting tomorrow

Festivities to include 73 entries, marching bands, Santa

JEB BING

Pleasanton's annual Hometown Holiday parade and tree lighting ceremony will be held starting at 5 p.m. tomorrow on Main Street.

The centerpiece of this free event is a festive community-based parade with 73 entries, including marching bands, other musical groups, Scouts and, of course, Santa at the end.

The parade will be followed by the lighting of a holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main.

The Amador Valley High School marching band will lead the parade starting at the school's parking lot and continuing south to Old Bernal Avenue. The band will be followed by dozens of holiday inspired entries, including Pleasanton's own Balloon Platoon, members of the Pleasanton City Council riding in a horse-drawn carriage, Bay Area Ghostbusters, hundreds of Cub Scouts and Brownies, local car clubs and dog clubs.

Other musical entries will include the Foothill High School marching band, the Harvest Park Middle School's Cheer and Jazz

Band, Young American Patriots Fife and Drum Corps, Powell's Irish Dancers, Grand Performing Arts, as well as other groups such as some Scouts and KKIQ that will have music with their floats.

Animal entries include goats from Terra Bella Family Farm, East Bay Regional Park District Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol, Baroque Horses of Northern California, Valley Humane Society, Saint Bernard Club of the Pacific Coast and Sugar and Papa Bear from the new Black Bear Diner.

Also in the parade will be the Empty Nesters, a new group of former Amador Valley High parents who say now that the kids are away, the parents can play.

The Pleasanton Weekly will be there too, with its publisher and editor riding in a Model T Ford.

In the event of rain, the event may be canceled. An update will be made each hour after 2:30 p.m. on parade day at (925) 931-5352.

Main Street will be closed to vehicular traffic starting at 4 p.m. tomorrow until the parade and tree lighting events are over. ■

## ValleyCare part of free hip, knee replacement program

Operation Walk USA helps needy get back on their feet

ValleyCare Health System will participate in Operation Walk USA today (Dec. 6), an event hosted by an independent medical charitable organization that provides all aspects of knee and hip replacement treatment, surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care at no cost to patients who may not qualify for government assistance, lack insurance or can't afford surgery on their own.

As part of the program, orthopaedic surgeons Dr. Aaron Salyapongse and Dr. Robert Sproul will provide free hip replacements at ValleyCare Medical Center to two patients from the local area.

"This is the second year ValleyCare has participated in this nationwide effort by Operation Walk USA," said Cindy Noonan, ValleyCare's Chief Operating Officer. "Drs. Salyapongse and Sproul are excellent surgeons and we are pleased to be able to help people in our local area get back on their feet and back to an active life."

While more than one million hip and knee replacements are performed in the U.S. each year, countless men and women continue to live with severe arthritic pain and immobility because they cannot afford joint replacement surgery.

Operation Walk USA is a volunteer effort on behalf of more than 120 volunteer orthopaedic surgeons and 70 participating hospitals in 32 states.

With the start of the holiday month, this was also a timely way for orthopaedic surgeons to give back to patients and help improve their quality of life and mobility.

An estimated 120 orthopaedic surgeons will treat more than 230 patients, and that is twice the number of patients and orthopaedic surgeons in Operation Walk USA in 2011, the first year of the program.

Arthritic disease is the most common cause of disability in the U.S., affecting approximately 48 million Americans, or more than 21% of the adult population. The debilitating pain of

See VALLEYCARE on Page 6

## Fundraiser underway for beating victim

Family friend hopes to raise \$20k for David Lamont's family

More than two months have passed since David Lamont was found unconscious outside his home after apparently being beaten in a noise dispute with teens parked on the quiet Pleasanton cul-de-sac where he and his family live.

While police have identified the four on the scene at the time, no one has been charged.

Meanwhile, a family friend has stepped up to help raise funds for Lamont, his wife and their daughters.

Craig Mullins has begun raising money through GoFundMe, a crowd-sourcing website where people can donate to projects or causes. So far, the total for the Lamont family has topped \$3,000 with a total goal of \$20,000.

"David is the only income for the family," Mullins said. "While he's gone, the business basically tanked. There's no money coming in."

"I just thought they need some cash, so I figured that would help them out a little bit, at least get them through a couple of months," he added.

Lamont, 51, is the father of two teenage girls, one in college and one a freshman at Foothill High School. His wife, Agnes, has spent much of the time since the attack at his side.

"She wants to spend all her time at the hospital by his bedside," Mullins said.

He said Lamont has been moved to a rehab center following a lengthy stay at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley. But Mullins said his friend faces

a long period of rehabilitation, learning to talk and walk again.

To donate money to the family, go to GoFundMe.com and search for David Lamont's name. A donate button is near the bottom of the page.

"Click on that link and give a dollar, give \$5, whatever you can afford," Mullins said. "I figure that will get them by for a little bit of time, hopefully by then, she (Agnes) can have something cooking."

Lamont was left comatose after the attack. Pleasanton police have what they described "credible leads" and have interviewed what police Sgt. Maria Munayer said at the time were "several involved parties who are currently persons of interest."

The investigation narrowed down to "people who are high school age," Munayer said. The department has witnesses, but Munayer did not comment on whether they were passengers in an SUV spotted leaving the scene, or if the focus had been narrowed down to one high school in particular.

Munayer said police hope that Lamont will be able to provide a statement. Given his current condition, it's unknown how long that will be, and until then, the case is on hold.

—Glenn Wohltmann



David Lamont

## Amador ensemble to perform on national stage

Concert includes piece commissioned specifically for group



By GLENN WOHLTMMANN

The Amador Valley High School Wind Ensemble will perform in a farewell concert next week before heading off to Chicago, where members will play at one of the most prestigious venues in the country.

The farewell concert will be held at 7 p.m. Monday night at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$12.

The ensemble will then fly to Chicago to perform Dec. 19 at the 67th Annual Midwest Clinic, one of just four bands from across the country chosen to perform and the first from California in 11 years.

Band Director Jon Grantham described the Midwest Clinic as the Olympics or Super Bowl of events for a high school band program.

The best of the best are chosen, and we are honored to be among that caliber of ensembles from across the country," Grantham said.

Getting the chance to play at the Midwest Clinic required dedication from the young musicians, according to Brandon Park, 16, who plays upright bass in the ensemble. He said it took long hours just to meet the requirements of the audition.

"We had to spend about 10 or 12 hours," Park said. "We not only had to make a video recording of the songs we auditioned within one show without interruptions, we also had to make audio recordings of ourselves."

The primary piece of the audition is Lincolnshire Posey, an adaption of English folk songs composed in 1937 by Percy Grainger.

"It's the main song of our audition," he explained. "It takes up 13 minutes of the 15 minutes of our recording. It was so long, and

shooting the video recording was really tough. Since the song was 13 minutes long, if we made any movement, or someone messed up their solo or dropped a piece of paper, we had to cut and do the whole 13-minute piece again."

That's in addition to daily hour-long practices by the ensemble as a whole and the individual practice sessions for each player.

For Park, it was worth the effort. Not only is the Midwest Clinic a renowned venue in the country for high school bands, it's also a chance to play in front of Julie Giroux, the composer of "Before the Sun," a piece that was commissioned specifically for the Amador Valley ensemble.

"After we play these songs, the composer will stand up and take a little bow," Park said. "The composers are actively there in the audience to listen and find out how their production came out through this band."

In addition, he said, the ensemble will perform compositions that range in difficulty.

"We're playing about 10 songs that we have to perform, starting from the lowest difficulty of music to the highest level," Park said, explaining that the purpose is to perform music that can be done by bands of different abilities and grade levels.

"A lot of music teachers from elementary and middle schools come to this," he said. "It's not just showing of music, it's spreading the music."

As always, getting the 57 students in the ensemble to Chicago requires a fundraising effort.

Most of the trip costs will be paid by the families of the musicians. But there are other costs, accord-

ing to Sally Baker, vice president of fundraising for Amador Friends of Music.

"This is an honor for all of Pleasanton, and we are asking the community, alumni and all friends in music to make a donation in support of these Pleasanton music emissaries," Baker said.

AFM has a goal of raising \$15,000 for instructor expenses, printed programs and other travel expenses.

Donations may be made online at [www.AmadorMusic.org](http://www.AmadorMusic.org), and checks may be sent to Amador Friends of Music/Midwest Clinic, P.O. Box 602, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Park said he and his band-mates are excited, and a little nervous.

"Just playing music in front of a lot of people, in front of 11,000 music teachers and critics, it's really exciting, but scary, too," he said. "There are a lot of things that go in the process. We have to set up quickly. We have to apparently take a picture and do a sound check and do eight different tasks in about 40 minutes to an hour."

"Another scary part is trying not to move or making too much extraneous noise (such as dropping paper), keeping still and not making noise. That's something that's really hard not to do," he added.

Of course, there's the added attraction of being in Chicago with the friends that were created by playing together for so long.

"We already have friendships that are established from marching bands," Park said. "We're definitely going to visit around Chicago first, even if it's really cold."

One stop that's on Park's list: Trying Chicago-style deep dish pizza. ■

## VRANESH

Continued from Page 5

Thanksgiving break.

"This issue has dragged on for five weeks," said Erin Lyons. "I do not believe the timing is a coincidence."

Vranesh attended the board meeting with his attorney, Paul Kondrick. Neither spoke.

It remains unknown what led to Vranesh's being placed on leave. However, Vranesh offered a prepared statement after it became known he had been replaced by an interim principal.

"I put the Pleasanton Unified School District on notice months ago regarding situations that negatively affect staff safety, working conditions and a conducive environment for instruction and student learning," Vranesh said. "Rather than taking effective action to eliminate those conditions, they put me on administrative leave."

Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi, however, said that's not the reason for Vranesh's being placed on leave.

"We have explained the rea-

sons for this personnel action to both Mr. Vranesh and his attorney," Ahmadi said in a response to Vranesh's statement. "The rules covering employee privacy do not allow us to comment on them publicly at this time."

At the Nov. 26 meeting, parent Chris Jacob questioned whether Vranesh's safety concerns were ever addressed.

"We don't know what these issues were, whether they were ever looked into or not," Jacob told the board, adding if it's a safety issue, "you should all be held accountable legally."

Meanwhile, the school has its third principal in less than six weeks. Vranesh was originally replaced by interim principal Richard Puppione. He stepped down Nov. 21 due to health issues.

Steve Maher has come out of retirement as the school's interim principal, according to a message from Ahmadi posted on the Walnut Grove school website.

Maher, a 40-year veteran of the district, began his official duty at Walnut Grove on Dec. 2 and will work with Puppione to make the transition. ■

## VALLEYCARE

Continued from Page 5

end-stage hip or knee degenerative disease often makes working, or completing even the simplest of daily tasks, excruciatingly painful or impossible.

Hip and knee replacement surgeries are the most cost-effective and successful of all orthopedic procedures, eliminating pain and allowing patients to resume active, productive lives.

Operation Walk is an international volunteer medical service organization that provides treatment

for patients with arthritis and joint conditions throughout the world. To date, more than 6,000 patients have received new knees and hips through the program.

Medical anesthesia consultants and ValleyCare's Dr. John Yee will be donating their time to this year's Operation Walk 2013. Other contributors include:

- Device manufacturers Biomet, DePuy, Smith & Nephew, Stryker.
- Total Joint Orthopedics (TJO), Inc. and Zimmer are donating the hip and knee implants.
- Quill Medical, Inc., is providing

sutures.

• Electronic medical record firm Ortech Data, Inc. will transfer Operation Walk USA 2013 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant data to the American Joint Replacement Registry, a national center for data collection and research on total hip and knee replacements.

ValleyCare Health System has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for its Joint Replacement Programs for Hips and Knees.

—Jeb Bing

## Black Bear Diner opens Monday

Pleasanton's newest restaurant known for its hefty servings

Black Bear Diner will open its newest California restaurant Monday in Pleasanton, offering its famous breakfast specials that fill the plate, and then some.

Located at 5100 Hopyard Road near Owens Drive, the restaurant has its signature bear carvings in front and along the sides of the renovated building that's been home to several other eateries over the years.

The first Black Bear Diner was opened in 1995 near Mt. Shasta by Laurie and Bob Manley along with their partner Bruce Dean. In choosing a name and a theme for their restaurant, they decided on the black bear, which is native to

the Mt. Shasta area. The family of restaurants has grown to more than 60 in eight Western states.

The founders said the goal at all their restaurants, including the new one in Pleasanton, is "a desire to bring home-style cooking and personal service back to the dining experience."

The restaurant also will feature original artwork by Steve and Gary Fitzgerald, who have 110 murals of nature scenes on display at Black Bear restaurants and other locations. Another Black Bear mural artist whose works are in the restaurant is Colleen Mitchell-Veyna of Visalia.

Diners and especially their chil-

dren will enjoy the bear carvings, done by Ray Schultz of Deer Park, Wash. Schulz has carved more than 200 bears for Black Bear diners so far.

The Manleys, Dean and their restaurant managers and staff are also active in the communities where they're located. Black Bear will have a float in Saturday night's Holiday Parade on Main Street and the new restaurant has already joined the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.

Black Bear Diner on Hopyard Road will be open starting Monday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. ■



JEB BING

Black Bear Diner, Pleasanton's newest restaurant with its signature bear carvings in front at 5100 Hopyard Road, will open Monday.



DOMINICK'S

This Dominick's supermarket in Chicago and others owned by Safeway, Inc. is among Dominick's stores being sold to Roundy's, Inc.

## Safeway exiting Chicago area market

Sells 11 of its Dominick's stores, more sales coming

Pleasanton-based Safeway Inc. announced yesterday it has reached a definitive agreement to sell 11 of its Dominick's stores in the Chicago metropolitan area in a cash and lease assumption transaction to Roundy's, Inc.

Roundy's will take possession of the stores during a transition period that will take place over the next two months. The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions.

Earlier this year, Safeway announced its decision to exit the

Chicago market and focus its efforts in other operating areas where its business is stronger.

A Safeway spokeswoman said the company continues to be actively engaged in a process to identify purchasers for its remaining stores in the Chicago market and will make announcements when pending deals are finalized.

Safeway previously announced the sale of four stores in the greater Chicago area to New Albertsons, Inc., which operates Jewel-Osco grocery stores. ■

## Over 70 ½? Don't forget IRA withdrawals

Severe IRS penalties if not done by Dec. 31

By JASON ALDERMAN

With final holiday preparations looming, the last thing anyone wants to think about is next April's tax bill. But if you're over 70 ½ and have any tax-deferred retirement accounts (like an IRA), put down the wrapping paper and listen up: IRS rules say that, with few exceptions, you must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your accounts by December 31 of each year and pay taxes on them or face severe financial penalties.



Jason Alderman

Here's what you need to know about RMDs:

Congress devised IRAs, 401(k) plans and other tax-deferred retirement accounts to encourage people to save for their own retirement. Aside from Roth plans, people generally contribute "pretax" dollars to these accounts, which means the contributions and their investment earnings aren't taxed until withdrawn after retirement.

In exchange for allowing your account to grow tax-free for decades, Congress also decreed that minimum amounts must be withdrawn and taxed each year after you reach 70 ½. To ensure these rules are followed, unless you meet certain narrowly defined conditions, you'll have to pay an excess accumulation tax equal to 50% of the RMD you should have taken. Plus, you'll still have to take the distribution and pay regular income tax on it.

You can delay or avoid paying an RMD in certain cases, including:

- If you're still employed at 70 ½, you may delay starting RMDs from your work-based accounts until you actually retire, without penalty; however, regular IRAs are subject to the rule, regardless of work status.
- Roth IRAs are exempt from the

RMD rule; however, Roth 401(k) plans are not.

■ You can also transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to an IRS-approved charity. Although the RMD itself isn't tax-deductible, it won't be included in your taxable income and lowers your overall IRA balance, thus reducing the size of future RMDs.

Another way to avoid future RMDs is to convert your tax-deferred accounts into a Roth IRA. You'll still have to pay taxes on all pretax contributions and earnings that have accrued; and, if you're over age 70 ½, you must first take your minimum distribution (and pay taxes on it) before the conversion can take place.

Ordinarily, RMDs must be taken by December 31 to avoid the excess accumulation tax. However, if it's your first distribution you may wait until April 1 the year after turning 70 ½, although you still must take a second distribution by December 31 that same year.

Generally, you must calculate an RMD for each IRA or other tax-deferred retirement account you own by dividing its balance at the

end of the previous year by a life expectancy factor found in one of the three tables in Appendix C of IRS Publication 590:

■ Uniform Lifetime Table if your spouse isn't more than 10 years younger than you, your spouse isn't the sole beneficiary or you're unmarried.

■ Joint and Last Survivor Table when your spouse is the sole beneficiary and he/she is more than 10 years younger than you.

■ Single Life Expectancy Table is for beneficiaries of accounts whose owner has died.

Although you must calculate the RMD separately for each IRA you own, you may withdraw the combined amount of all RMDs from one or more of them. The same goes for owners of 403(b) accounts. However, RMDs required from other types of retirement plans must be taken separately from each account.

To learn more about RMDs, read IRS Publication 590 at [www.irs.gov/](http://www.irs.gov/)

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney/](http://www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney/)

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Jonathan Savell, M.D., Michael Gagnon, M.D., Kala Swamynathan, M.D., Gina Trentacosti, O.D., Jimmy Yip, O.D., Kien Ngo, O.D.

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# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Improving Pioneer Cemetery

We'll never know what John Kottinger would have done, but he'd likely be pleased that the City Council that governs what once was his home has finally initiated a long-range plan to improve the public cemetery on Sunol Boulevard where he was buried in 1892.

Kottinger, who was the town's first Justice of the Peace and who built a barn in 1852 at 200 Ray St. (now occupied by the Milfleur gift shop), is just one of many historic and prominent people interred at Pioneer Cemetery, the 127-year-old cemetery that was first owned by the International Order of Odd Fellows. Although the Odd Fellows recorded their first burial in 1886

when they acquired the 5-acre parcel, grave markers show some burials took place even earlier.

With the Odd Fellows losing its aging members and relocating to Livermore, Pleasanton's Council was left with little choice but to accept a deal the late Chris Beratlis Sr. arranged to acquire the cemetery for \$1. Otherwise, with a bankrupt owner, Alameda County and a court of law would likely have forced the city to assume responsibility anyhow with a possible set of rulings that could have required major expenditures. With only 5 acres, little room for expansion and only about 400 more grave sites to be added, the cemetery proved unattractive to private investors who



JEB BING

now need hundreds of acres before earning a profit from cemetery operations.

At the time, the Council approved spending about \$120,000 to handle safety improvements, including tree trimming and removal of hazardous trees, as well as placing benches in various parts of the cemetery. Ongoing maintenance, which has been handled by an outside contractor, is costing about \$25,000 a month. There have been few improvements to the asphalt roadways, and the Rotary Club of Pleasanton took responsibility as part of a three-year project to repair broken, leaning or cracked headstones or grave markers. Still, the cemetery remains an eyesore for those visiting the gravesites of their loved ones and it needs work.

So it's to the Council's credit that it formed a seven-member Pioneer Cemetery Master Plan Oversight

Committee last month to consider possible improvements. It's not likely to recommend spending the estimated \$742,000 with monthly costs of \$75,000 suggested at the time the city acquired the cemetery to turn it into a park-like area, but it could at least consider upgrading it to match the basic improvement made when the new monument sign was installed (see photo above).

Art philanthropist Nancy Harrington, who is on the new committee, described her vision for the future of the cemetery. It includes a new public park, a veterans memorial and a learning center to teach the community about the important men and women who are buried there and who helped make Pleasanton what it is today.

The cemetery was started as a non-endowment cemetery with families expected to maintain the graves of their loved ones. Those families, for the most part are gone. The \$420 the Odd Fellows charged for a cemetery plot hardly covered the upkeep of that gravesite, alone. Costs today for the 400 new gravesites that have been added are \$10,198 for full double-burial and \$4,277 for plots holding the remains of two individuals. Those are market-rate prices that seem steep given the condition of the cemetery. Add to that a regulation stipulating that the sites can't be re-sold once purchased, which could leave the cemetery with a number of unused plots if owners move away from Pleasanton.

Harrington's suggestions along with the current pricing policies need to be revisited by the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery Master Plan Oversight Committee so that our city will have an attractive and reasonably-priced cemetery where loved ones can be buried. ■

Write a Letter to the Editor at [Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com) or put your opinion on Town Square at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com). Letters must be 250 words or less.

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# Community Pulse

By Glenn Wohltmann, gwohltmann@pleasantonweekly.com

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Black Friday deals lead to Black Friday steals

Black Friday shopping became Black Friday shoplifting for some, with three thefts reported before 8 a.m.

In one, a pair were arrested after thefts at the Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Iveth Guadalupe Guerrero Torres, 22, of Oakland was arrested on two misdemeanor counts of theft and receiving stolen property, and Sergio Rafael Monteon Guerrero, 21, a transient, was arrested for larceny. The incident occurred at about 3:14 a.m. Nov. 29 at J.C. Penney in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road.

The two was spotted on closed-circuit TV, and a search turned up \$90 in makeup from Sephora, two bottles of Gucci Cologne valued at \$147, \$19 boots and a \$4 scarf.

Two other shoplifting incidents were reported from mall stores, two vehicles were stolen and two others were burglarized near the mall on Black Friday.

#### In other police reports:

- A Hayward couple were arrested for multiple felonies after police received a call about an assault in the parking lot of State Compensation Insurance in the 5800 block of Owens Drive.

Dominic Alberto Ruiz, 18, was arrested at about 1:09 p.m. Dec. 1 on felony counts of possession of marijuana for sale and possession of a blackjack and misdemeanor resisting arrest. Alina Mendoza, 24, was arrested on a felony count of carrying a concealed firearm and paraphernalia possession.

When police arrived, Ruiz was arrested for refusing to cooperate while

the allegation was being investigated. No assault count was filed, but police could smell marijuana coming from the vehicle the two were in; a search turned up 120.1 grams of pot, a scale and a foot-long metal rod in trunk of their vehicle as well as a .32-caliber revolver and a glass pipe in Mendoza's purse.

- Three men were arrested in a Nov. 30 bar fight at Sunshine Saloon.

Neil Cotter, 27, of Hayward was arrested at about 2:02 a.m. at the bar in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road for felony battery after a witness identified him as the person who punched a bouncer at the bar. The bouncer was taken to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley for a laceration on the back of his head that required staples.

Also arrested for fighting were Michael Andrew Gardner, 24, of San Lorenzo and Christian Roberts Richards, 22, of San Lorenzo for punching other patrons at the bar.

- The Sheraton Hotel in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road was hit twice by burglars in one day. A \$600 TV and four pieces of framed art, worth \$50 were stolen from the Sheraton Hotel in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road between 9:31 p.m. Nov. 29 and 12:15 p.m. Nov. 30. The theft was reported after a man was checked in without a credit card. The man called someone claiming to be his mother to secure the room with a credit card.

Later that day, at about 8:42 p.m., a guest reported credit cards, a \$25 wallet, \$40 cash and a Nevada driver's license stolen from his room. It's unknown if the two were connected.

- A residential burglary in the

2000 block of Olivia Court netted \$2,000 in miscellaneous jewelry, \$1,000 cash, a \$1,200 laptop computer, a \$500 camera and a \$400 TV. The break in occurred between 2:30 p.m. Nov. 28 and 6:30 p.m. Nov. 29; entry was through an unlocked bedroom window.

- It's unknown how much was stolen in a Dec. 3 break-in at Cardinal Jewelers in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road. Police received an alarm call at about 4:24 a.m. The front door was smashed in and several display cases were damaged. The store is doing an inventory to see what was taken.

In an unrelated commercial burglary at Golfsmith in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive, police received an alarm call at about 4:03 a.m. Nov. 28 and found a glass panel from the store's door had been removed. Again, it's unknown what was taken.

- A vintage 1974 Gibson Les Paul guitar worth \$5,000 and a \$200 case were stolen from a garage in the 100 block of Monaco Court, reported at about 2:57 p.m. Dec. 3. The door had been left open for a couple of hours, providing access to the home. • A \$3,000 bicycle was stolen from a garage at a home in the 600 block of Windmill Lane. A glass pane from the garage was removed, allowing the burglar to open the door and take the bike in the incident, reported at about 4:41 a.m. Nov. 30.

- Miscellaneous jewelry valued at about \$2,000 was stolen the same day in a break-in reported at about 1:28 a.m. in the 4500 block of Lin Gate Street. A garage door leading to the residence was opened providing access to the home.

- A man who left his wallet at the farmer's market on Dec. 1 returned home to find his credit cards had already been used to make charges. One card had four charges, a total

of about \$700, with one for \$736 denied. Three other charges were made on another card for a total of about \$465.

- Cash and change was stolen in two Nov. 26 burglaries in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue. In one, reported at 2:54 p.m., about \$300 in change and about \$100 cash was taken. Entry was made through front door; in the second, reported at about 6:44 p.m., about \$220 in cash and change taken, access through an unlocked rear sliding door.

- About four minutes was all the

time needed for someone to steal a \$350 laptop and a \$50 case from the owner of New York Pizza in the 4000 block of Santa Rita Road. The owner stepped next door to make a delivery and discovered the items missing when he walked back in at about around 10:30 p.m. Nov. 29.

- A 17-year-old was arrested for burglary after he attempted to steal \$26 in alcohol from Raley's in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard in an incident reported at about 3:29 p.m. Dec. 2.

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

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Nov. 26

#### Auto theft

- 8:06 a.m. in the 4800 block of Muirwood Drive
- 9:50 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Nov. 27

#### Theft

- 8:19 a.m. in the 4600 block of Laramie Gate Court; bicycle theft
- 12:34 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Auto burglary

- 6:48 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 7:56 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; paraphernalia possession
- 11:16 p.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness

### Nov. 28

#### Alcohol violations

- 2:10 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; public drunkenness
- 2:12 a.m. at the intersection of Trenery Drive and Martin Avenue; DUI
- 2:46 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

### Nov. 29

#### Theft

- 5:45 a.m. in the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road; auto theft
- 10:23 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

#### Residential burglary

- 1:26 p.m. in the 3100 block of Tonopah Court

#### Auto burglary

- 1:48 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:23 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Nov. 30

#### Theft

- 8:38 a.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 1:31 p.m. in the 5000 block of Forest Hill Drive; auto theft

#### DUI

- 12:50 a.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

### Dec. 1

#### Theft

- 9:29 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; auto theft

#### Commercial burglary

- 11:14 a.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court

#### Auto burglary

- 11:22 a.m. in the 5700 block of Stonecliff Vista Lane
- 11:23 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 1:32 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:08 a.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; DUI
- 1:37 a.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and S. Cal Center; possession of a controlled substance
- 11:27 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive; possession of a controlled substance

### Dec. 2

#### Theft

- 10:29 a.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue

#### Alcohol violations

- 3:19 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- 8:30 p.m. in the 4500 block of Denker Drive; public drunkenness

### Dec. 3

#### Theft

- 10:21 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from structure
- 4:00 p.m. in the 1900 block of Foxswallow Circle



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

#### • P13-2028, Anil and Divya Reddy

Application for Design Review approval to evaluate the conformance of an existing single family residence in the Ruby Hill Development to the Ruby Hill Architectural Design Guidelines. The property is located at 3737 West Ruby Hill Drive

#### • P13-2389, Tim Bennett/Bennett Services Inc.

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of an application for Sign Design Review to install an approximately one-foot six-inch tall by ten-foot long halo-illuminated wall-mounted sign for QASource located at 73 Ray Street

#### • P13-2458, City of Pleasanton

Application to amend Section 18.88.120 (In-Lieu Parking Agreement for the Downtown Revitalization District) of the Pleasanton Municipal Code to allow the City to waive in lieu parking fees in exchange for fulfilling Downtown Revitalization District Design and Beautification objectives of the Downtown Specific Plan

### Library Commission

Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of the Library 25th Anniversary Gala
- Public Bond Information

### Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Continued Review of the Elements and Design for the Oak Woodland Area Adjoining and Associated with the Bernal Community Park, Phase II
- Review of Commission Meeting Schedule for 2013/2014
- Selection of Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Assignments

### Youth Commission

Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Operations Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Participation in Alameda County Project Teen Friendly

### 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.

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

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.

For complete information, please visit

[www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)



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- Valley Humane Society • ValleyCare Health System • Hope Hospice • Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council
- REACH (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing) for special adults of the Tri-Valley
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## 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.



# All That Glitters

## Glitter and glam

### Natural color diamonds shine in everyday fashion

Gift-givers can just about never go wrong with jewelry as a holiday gift.

Whether it's a sparkling pair of diamond earrings, a delicate pendant or chic cufflinks, diamonds are no longer just for red carpets and runways.

Nowadays, pave set fashion styles and some natural color diamonds are providing more affordable options, helping foster an "everyday" approach to diamond jewelry. Specifically, Argyle diamonds from Australia reveal a broader selection when it comes to rare yet reasonably priced jewelry.

"Diamonds are a classic staple on the red carpet, but we're starting to see more options. Natural color diamonds are really popular among celebrities and the general public right now, especially when they complement current-day fashion trends," explains Michael O'Connor, a jewelry and design expert for celebrities and stylists. "Although natural colors are unique, Argyle diamonds are available at an affordable price range."

Since Argyle diamonds are usually mined in small crystals, they lend themselves well to fashionable trends like pave and micro pave. But what makes Argyle gems truly unique is the spectrum of colors they offer. The Argyle

mine produces a rainbow of soft neutral shades that send designers raving, including beautiful silvers and grays, deep cognacs and warm champagnes. Red carpet affairs such as the Academy Awards are seeing more than a few champagne diamonds adorning beloved A-listers like Taylor Swift and "Nashville" actress Connie Britton.

Many designers consider champagne to be the perfect neutral shade, since it pairs well with the majority of colors walking off the runway. That might account for the \$5 billion worth of champagne diamonds that are sold every year. To find more natural colors, visit [www.champagnediamondcenter.com](http://www.champagnediamondcenter.com).

But pave settings and champagne shades aren't the only trends that won't cost you. Vintage jewelry is staging a comeback alongside 80s classics like layered chains, bows, big crystal rings, acrylic and even plastic. The quest for inexpensive fashion, coupled with a growing interest in sustainability, led designers to experiment with materials like wood, rubber, glass and ribbon. Learn more about Argyle diamonds at [www.australian-diamondscenter.com](http://www.australian-diamondscenter.com).

—NewsUSA



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# All That Glitters

## Pleasanton all aglow

Where to go to light up your holidays

Bob's World has been presented by "Santa Bob" Stanley at his home at 2612 Calle Reynoso for more than 20 years. He works for five weeks of the year installing old favorites and new inspirations to offer a display that is complete with music.

This year the display will feature synchronized lights, more animated characters in Santa's Village, new nativity scenes and a snowman that showers visitors with "snow."

The lights will be on between Dec. 13 and 28, from 6 to 9 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 6 to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Santa will visit from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 21.

For those searching for outdoor holiday displays in Pleasanton and in other Tri-Valley communities, the website [LightsoftheValley.com](http://LightsoftheValley.com) is a good place to start. Alex Dourov, a Livermore resident, started the website in 1999 as a go-to guide of the best decorated homes in the Tri-Valley. It now includes much of the Bay Area and Northern California but its entries for Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley remain a valuable resource.

Here are a few displays planned in Pleasanton and surrounding communities:

### Pleasanton

1279 Hearst Ave.  
2612 Calle Reynoso  
2793 Calle Alegre  
2805 Tudor Ct.  
3671 Chelsea Ct.  
3679 Hawaii Ct. S  
4148 Walnut Drive  
802 Gray Fox Circle

### Livermore

1257 Higuera Ct.  
1284 Riesling Circle  
1610 S 6th St.  
1656 Blackoak Ct.  
2789 Kennedy St.  
352 Hillcrest Ave.  
3865 Mills Way  
467 Nottingham Circle  
557 Olivina Ave.  
646 Zermatt St.  
845 Seminole Drive

### Danville

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### Dublin

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### San Ramon

15 Molina Ct.  
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Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the homeless animal community in the greater Tri-Valley Area.



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## Sparkle for the holiday season

The holiday season is filled with a whirlwind of parties and special events. Be prepared to head out the door and look your best all evening long with these beauty tips.

**Add some sparkle:** Bold accessories can transform your look entirely, allowing you to wear that little black dress to more than one party. For a timeless silhouette, pair a sleek strapless dress with oversized earrings that sparkle. A little black dress is the perfect look for a statement necklace. Just don't pair large earrings with an oversized necklace. Pick one or the other and you'll be ready to dazzle.

**Add a little glamour:** Planning to attend a special soiree? Up your beauty routine with a darker evening look. Pair a daring red lipstick with a thin stroke of dark eyeliner. Keep your eyelashes dark and the rest of your look minimal to draw all eyes in the room.

**Whiten and brighten:** Festive coffee drinks, red wine and fruity cocktails make holiday events special but they can quickly stain teeth. Use a whitener to keep your smile camera-ready.

**Keep locks classic:** This year's blockbuster movies caught the attention of celebrities and fashionistas with their glamorous hairstyles. Get the look, without appearing too retro, by using styling gel to work short hair into sculpted finger waves. Those with longer hair should sweep it up into a loose knot and add a thin headband.

**Give your nails some shine:** Beautiful bracelets and rings will draw attention to



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

your hands. Keep them looking beautiful with a fresh manicure and the right shade of polish. A perfect manicure will also set off the one holiday accessory everyone must have — a cute clutch.

**Hydrate:** Holiday photos and family gatherings may not always call for a glitzy look but you still need to look your best. Look great all season by taking care of yourself. Stay hydrated and use plenty of moisturizer to give your skin a healthy glow. Keep your hair looking its best by using a great conditioner weekly throughout the party season.

—*Family Features*



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Zephyr Grill

## All That Glitters

### Send us your Santa photos

Are your children visiting Santa Claus? If you have a photo you'd like to share, send it to us at [dciardelli@pleasanton-weekly.com](mailto:dciardelli@pleasanton-weekly.com). Please write "Santa photo" in the subject line, and we ask that photos be at least 500K. Also send the names of the children in the photo, the names of the parents, where you ran into Santa, where you live, where the children attend school, and anything else you think might be interesting in the caption.

We plan to use the photos in our Dec. 20 issue. We are also interested in photos of pets with Santa and pictures from years past. Please send in the photos by midnight Dec. 15. ■



Last year, Jax Rodriguez, 2, visited Santa at ValleyCare Charitable Foundation's annual fundraiser at the Palm Event Center.

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## TAYLOR DORSEY, giving back with both hands



**By Sierra Rhodes**

When life hands out lemons, nobody makes lemonade like Taylor Dorsey. Volunteer, student and exceptionally well-spoken young woman, it's almost impossible to guess that her path in life has been paved with difficulty.

The 19-year-old Pleasanton native has been involved in numerous volunteer programs and is currently a student at University of the Pacific's Gladys L. Benerd School of Education, considering a career in special education.

"I have the passion and desire to give back and help make a difference in anybody's life that I can. I have chosen the path of education because I will be able to give back and help other children every day of my life and this is my mission," she said of her chosen career path.

Dorsey's inspiration for helping others stems from personal experience. Diagnosed with profound hearing loss at only 10 days old, Dorsey had almost no hearing until the age of 3, when she received a cochlear implant. Through her early school years, she forged through the challenges of mainstream schooling with the assistance of speech therapy and innate determination, unable to form a complete sentence until the fourth grade.

She became interested in leadership and school government when she was in the eighth grade, beginning her journey toward becoming the Rising Star of our Tri-Valley Heroes. She began by visiting special needs classes and organizing special projects for them each week.

"It was such a heartfelt, rewarding experience to see that I was making a difference in their lives," Dorsey said.

She continued on her mission to give back to her community, volunteering with Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, serving regularly at a local soup kitchen and Operation School Bell, which helps Northern California children in need buy school clothes.

Dorsey is also the president of the Pleasanton chapter of REACH4BOOKS,

a nonprofit that promotes literacy in Peru by raising money to build libraries in Peru on the Amazon River and fill them with Spanish books. The nonprofit was initially started by Dorsey's friends of from summers spent in Tahoe, and she became more interested the more she learned.

"Having language challenges of my own, I am very aware of how important reading is in a child's life," she said of the program.

With Dorsey's already impressive volunteering background, she was asked if she would be interested in starting a branch in Pleasanton and being the acting president. She has conducted numerous fundraisers as president, including a teen gala Mexican fiesta dinner, gift wrapping at local bookstores for donations, coin drives and book fairs.

"Helping the Peruvian children learn about the world through books is an exciting way to start my journey as a teacher. Great educators teach subjects, but most importantly they groom children to make this world a better place," she said in a college admissions essay.

Dorsey's efforts in REACH4BOOKS and other programs have been recognized far beyond the local level — earlier this year she received a "President's Volunteer Service Award" from President Barack Obama. She was also one of eight University of the Pacific students to receive the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship, which awards \$6,000 for the 2013-14 academic year. The financial assistance of this scholarship helped make possible her dream of going to University of the Pacific and pursuing her career in education at a well-regarded institution.

"Teachers inspire dreams, shape lives, and give us hope for the future. I will be that life educator for many children." ■

### ▲ Hero FYI

- ▲ Taylor is a fan of the San Francisco Giants and 49ers
- ▲ Loves to have fun in the outdoors - like playing soccer, lacrosse, snowboarding and waterskiing
- ▲ Awarded the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship - James Patterson is also her older brother Justin's favorite author
- ▲ Has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, Operation School Bell and Special Olympics
- ▲ Favorite music is country
- ▲ The only food she doesn't like is spaghetti sauce
- ▲ Earlier this year awarded a "President's Volunteer Service Award" by President Obama
- ▲ Her older sister, Morgan, is a senior at St. Mary's College

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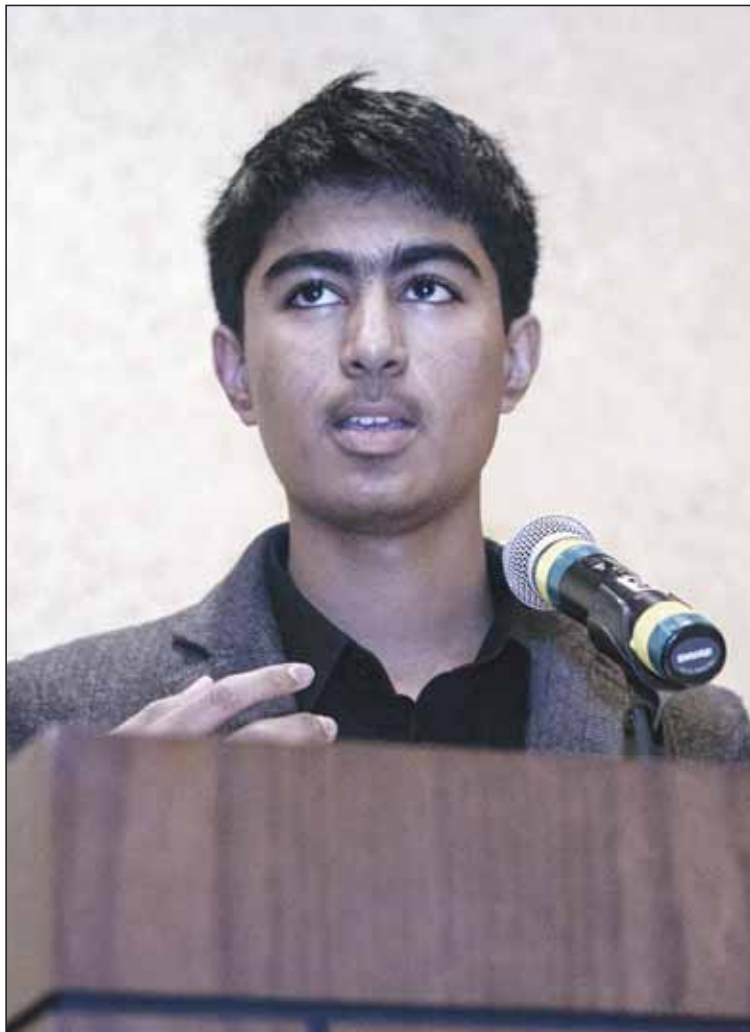
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## NEIL GUPTA, homework helper



MIKE SEDLAK

Neil Gupta accepts an award for Innovation at the Pleasanton Weekly's annual Heroes event on Nov. 21.

By Glenn Wohltmann

A trip to India, a desire to continue a program from there and some Internet know-how led to the creation of Teen-Mesh, a new international homework-helping league based in Danville.

Creator Neil Gupta received a Heroes award for Innovation for creating Teen-Mesh.com, the free homework website that uses teen peers to help answer tough questions.

Gupta, who recently turned 16, is a junior at Monte Vista High School in Danville.

"I lived in Danville all my life, but in 2010 through 2012, I lived in India, and attended the American Embassy School where I did this program called 'Teach India,'" Gupta explained. "It was all about reaching kids from the poor areas of New Delhi and teaching them math and English in a peer-to-peer way."

After he moved back to the U.S. late last year, Gupta started work on Teen-Mesh.

"It took about two months to actually develop it and by January this year, when it was published, I finally launched the site and I started getting people to use it and people on the site to help each other out on school work," he said.

The concept is simple: Someone will post a question, and one of a growing team of homework helpers will not only answer the question, but explain the answer as well.

"After you sign up, you ask the question and it shows up as a post. Anyone can see this question, anyone from around the world. If someone knows how to answer the question, they'll help you," Gupta said. "They post an answer on your question and if it's one of the best answers, it can be marked as the best answer and it gets voted up and down."

Those who answer questions don't get anything — yet — but do gain status by racking up points. And people who ask questions can answer others and vice versa.

"If you answer a lot, there's a place system, so people who answer get a lot of points and they go up in ranking," Gupta said. "The users with the higher ranking, they get prestige, they get more known across the site."

Gupta said there's a pay option, too, for students who need the answer to a

question right away, say within an hour. He's hoping to be able to offer frequent answerers some bonus cash at some point in the future.

Right now, he's organizing the site as a nonprofit so tax-free donations can be made and offered out.

"I will be approaching local businesses to see if they would reward a student on TeenMesh that has replied the most in a month, so a 'Pizza Hut Hero of the Month' would get a pizza coupon or cash," he said. Any interested business is welcome to contact Gupta directly at his email, neilagupta@gmail.com.

He's hoping that can help build the site's knowledge base by bringing in more students.

"There's a big ratio between kids asking for help and the kids answering questions, (but) there are still many answerers and they're all over the world," he said. "Usually there's one answerer for every four questioners."

With less than a year in operation, TeenMesh has already drawn help from across the globe.

"There's one person in Australia, and another person in Canada who are part of the team helping us out. The one in Canada, in Vancouver, British Columbia, his name is Karan Khanna, who I went to school with in India. He's working for TeenMesh right now," Gupta said.

Also involved are two teens from the Bay Area.

"I have another team member, his name is Armaan Sengupta. He's a freshman at Dublin High, and he's helped me out the most. He was the first to join me and he was the first to join TeenMesh," Gupta said. "Peter Linde, he lives in Belmont and he's also helping in marketing."

TeenMesh has taken off, with more than 1,000 active users in 70 countries.

But what may be the most impressive thing about the site is that it's run by teens for teens. Linde is 13, Sengupta is 15, Khanna is 16 and Adya Roy, who's marketing the program in Australia, is 17. ■



### ▲ Hero FYI

▲ Apart from programming and math, Gupta's passion is music. He's played the piano since he was four years old, encouraged by his grandfather, a musician himself. Gupta has participated in numerous music contests and has picked up some awards along the way.

▲ Topped the Trinity (Music) Exam in Delhi in 2010

▲ Performed in the TeenMurti Bhavan in

New Delhi.

▲ Attended the Adult Summer Course in piano in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

▲ Self described "huge 49ers fan" and tries to watch every game he can

▲ Plans to study computer science in college to "solve real world problems with technology"

▲ Guilty pleasure: video games

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## OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

### Gregory N. Scott

April 21, 1965-Nov. 19, 2013

Gregory Scott, 48, was a 10 year resident of Clifton, Colorado.

He died suddenly on Nov. 19 in Clifton. He was raised in Pleasanton and attended Amador Valley High School, graduating in 1983. He was a 4 year member of the varsity baseball team. He also played football and basketball. He attended Ohlone Community College for two years. He enjoyed fishing, baseball and reading. He is survived by his daughter Courtney, mother Diane, brothers Patrick (Shelbi) and Jeff, and nephew Riley. He was preceded in death by his father Jack and Uncle Harold.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Donations should be sent to St. Judes.



### Kathern Ann Bell

Aug. 26, 1937-Nov. 19, 2013

Kathern passed away peacefully at her Pleasanton home Nov. 19, after a long battle with Parkinson's.

Kathern Archer was born in Dalton, Arkansas, and grew up in Pontiac, Michigan where she met Jimmy Joe Bell. After giving birth to her twin daughters in July 1958, she left Michigan for the SF Bay Area, raising her family in Fremont after the death of Jimmy in 1998.

Kathy met and is survived by her loving partner Robert Lovell. Together they were active in the Oakland A's boosters, Pleasanton Senior Center, Parkinson Network of Mt. Diablo.

Kathy will be forever missed by her surviving family: sisters Jessie Wilcox and Donna Taylor; children Tammy Bell-Sanchez, Sandi Bell,



Michael and Susanne Schaaf, Mark and Chris Lovell and Paul Lovell; grandchildren Cylena Deak, Dino Moschetti Jr. and Ryan Rice; and great grandchildren Austin Brown, London Deak, Mason Rice, Amanda and Dylan Schaaf.

A celebration of life will be held at her Pleasanton home at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. For further info, contact Robert Lovell at 461-5332. To share memories go to [www.fremontchapeloftheroses@yahoo.com](http://www.fremontchapeloftheroses@yahoo.com). In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Parkinson Network of Mt. Diablo [www.pnmc.net](http://www.pnmc.net).

### Gary Herbert Twisselmann

Aug. 9, 1938-Nov. 29, 2013

Gary Herbert Twisselmann was born Aug. 9, 1938 in Atascadero, CA to Bugs and Elinor Twisselmann. He graduated from Paso Robles High School in 1956. He played on the 1955 All C.I.F Football Team,

as well as the Shrine Football Classic in 1956. He played two years of football at Bakersfield Junior College and was named to the Junior College All America Team.

Gary transferred to Cal Poly and received his Engineering Degree in 1962. He worked for Ford Motor Company in Southern CA until 1980 when he transferred to the Ford assembly plant in Milpitas. In 1983 Ford closed, and he worked at NUMMI in Fremont until his retirement in 2002 as Vice President of Engineering, Production Control and Quality Control Departments.

Gary married Sally Stephan in 1958 and they have five children: Kimberly Cummer (Rick), Joan Thomas (Chris), Kathy Brown (Jack), Tom Twisselmann (Julie)



and Tim Twisselmann (Sue). He has twelve wonderful grandchildren. Grandson Jacob Gary Twisselmann is waiting for him in Heaven. He is also survived by his younger brother Roy, sister in law Carolyn and two nephews.

Gary represented the best of what a father, husband, grandfather and role model had to offer. He was the essence of a good man; he was a kind and decent human being, unpretentious and humble and the world is a better place for knowing him. He will be deeply missed.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 at St. Augustine's Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to Valley Care Health System, 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94588 or Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

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### Scott Cumberland

May 21, 1962-Nov. 26, 2013

Dr. Scott L. Cumberland passed away Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2013 in Rapid City, South Dakota, at the age of 51 from epilepsy, a condition he had battled courageously for 34 years.

Dr. Cumberland fought epilepsy, and in the last two years, cancer, with the same resilience, determination and indomitable courage he had for fighting any problem. Scott's untimely passing occurred while visiting his son, Airman Kevin MacArthur, who is currently serving at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

Scott Lee Cumberland was born, May 21, 1962 in San Antonio, Texas. He was a loving and compassionate son of Willard and Dorothy Cumberland. He graduated from Winston Churchill High School in 1980 and earned Bachelor in Science degrees in Psychology and Chemistry while at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). In 2001, after earning a Chemistry doctorate, with emphasis on nanotechnology, from the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), Scott joined The Clorox Company in California, where he worked as a scientist, in various capacities, for close to 10 years.

Living in California allowed Scott the opportunity to embrace his passions for outdoor rock climbing and motorcycle riding. Scott loved to rock climb with his wife and best friend, Brendi, and ride



his Harley Davidson motorcycle with friends, but most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family. He married his wonderful wife on the beaches of Santa Barbara, California. Scott was extremely proud of his son's service in the US Air Force, who graduated with honors in basic training. He also took great pride in his daughter's straight "A's" in school, passion for horses, and being first chair in orchestra.

Scott loved living in California, but longed to return to Texas. In 2011, he joined Huntsman Chemical Company in The Woodlands, Texas and materialized his desire to live in the Lone Star state once again. Scott was an accomplished scientist and inventor (holder of multiple patents), an amazing father, husband and friend. He was an incredible brother, son and loving uncle. He made many contributions to his communities, which included mentoring K-12 students and encouraging their pursuit of math and science. Scott served in various ministries

at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, California, where he earned the love and respect of parishioners and community members alike.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Cumberland. He is survived by his wife and best friend, Brendi Makepeace-Cumberland and daughter, Isabella (Bella) Lee Cumberland, who live in Conroe/The Woodlands, Texas. He is also survived by his son, Kevin MacArthur; father, Willard Cumberland; stepmother, Bob Ann; brothers Shawn (Sylvia), his twin brother Brian, Wayne (Fran), Lance (Molly) and stepbrother, Chad Crocker (Joy). He is also survived by extended family, friends and colleagues around the world. His humor, intelligence, compassion, benevolence, kindness and love will be remembered by all whose lives he touched.

The family will receive friends from 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Porter Loring Mortuary North, 2102 North Loop 1604 East, San Antonio, Texas. A Memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5 at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, 1602 Thousand Oaks, San Antonio, Texas.

To honor Scott, in lieu of flowers, please give donations to the Epilepsy Foundation, PO Box 96546 Washington, DC 20077-7222 or <http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/give/>.

You are invited to sign the Guestbook at [www.porterloring.com](http://www.porterloring.com)

## ON THE TOWN

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## Auditions

## SUNOL REPERTORY THEATRE

Auditions for the Sunol Repertory Theatre's 2014 production of "Hotel Escargot" will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10 in the Sunol Glen School Auditorium, 11601 Main St. Rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan.-Feb. from 7-9 p.m. Great Family Entertainment! Come join the fun. Contact raregrare@gmail.com.

## Book Clubs

**TOWNE CENTER BOOK CLUB** The club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826 or visit [www.townecenter-books.com](http://www.townecenter-books.com) for the current selection.

## Civic Meetings

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

**SCHOOL BOARD** The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly during the school year in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

**YOUTH COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

## Clubs

**DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** The Jose Maria Amador

Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, NSDAR, meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month Sept.-May. It is a social gathering and time to explore the history of our American roots. For more information contact the chapter's regent Diane Groome at [dggroome@comcast.net](mailto:dggroome@comcast.net).

**DEMOCRATIC CLUB PARTY AND POT LUCK** You are invited to The Democratic Club's Annual Seasonal Party and Pot Luck at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 at IBEW 595 Hall in Dublin. This is an opportunity to meet elected officials and candidates for congress and the state legislature as well as other Democrats. Go to [www.trivalleydems.com/HOLIDAYPARTY2013.pdf](http://www.trivalleydems.com/HOLIDAYPARTY2013.pdf).

**LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB** The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet on 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

**DECEMBER PEOPLE AT FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER** A big helping of Holiday Spirit ala Rock n' Roll for the whole family! December People will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 and Saturday, Dec. 14 at Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$30-\$40 and available by calling 931-4848 or at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**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

**FRIENDS OF THE DUBLIN LIBRARY BOOK SALE** Come to the Dublin Library Book Sale for a great selection of beautiful hardcover books in excellent condition, ideal for gift giving, as well as children's books, gourmet cookbooks, gift books, and more. The sale runs from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Dublin Library. Call 828-1315.

**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.

**THE VFW BENEFIT HOLIDAY DANCE** The VFW presents a holiday dance featuring the Mellotones Band playing music from the 30's, 40's and 50's, and some holiday favorites! The dance will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 301 Main St. Proceeds used to help needy Veterans and their families. Cost is \$10. Call 443-2224.

## 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.

**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 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 9-11. Call Christine for more information at 667-2707.

## Health

**COVERED CALIFORNIA INFORMATION SESSION** Learn about Covered California, the new online "marketplace" that makes it simple and affordable to purchase quality health insurance. This free presentation will be given by Axis Community Health at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Livermore Library. Call 201-6018 or go to [www.axishealth.org](http://www.axishealth.org). Free.

## Holiday

**'FESTIVAL OF CAROLS'** The Centerpointe Church choir and musicians will present their annual "Festival of Carols" at 4 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 in the worship center. The festival tells the story of Christmas through music and readings. Children and families welcome. Go to [www.centerpointechurch.org](http://www.centerpointechurch.org).

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** Celebrate the holidays with the Tri-Valley Y at a 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>.

**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.

**PEDDLER SHOPPE'S HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** The Peddler Shoppe's annual Holiday Boutique will be from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 in the Main Lobby of the Pleasanton Senior Center. Exceptional homemade and hand-crafted products created by our own local area Seniors are offered for purchase. Call 931-5365.

**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/>.

## Kids &amp; Teens

**KIDS' LIBRARY HOOTENANNY!** Award-winning singer/song-writer Nancy Cassidy will bring a hand-clapping, foot-stomping, sing-along folk music celebration for kids ages 2-5 at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the Pleasanton Library. Her mix of original tunes and familiar favorites is sure to brighten up a winter morning! Call 931-3400, ext. 3. [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/library/](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/library/)

## Live Music

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY CONCERT** This first concert kicks off a yearlong festival honoring Dr. Arthur Barnes' 50th season as director. The concert will include Beethoven's "Symphony No. 2" and Gershwin's "American in Paris," and starts at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the

Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$23-\$29. Call 373-6800 or go to [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org).

## Seniors

**COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS** Pleasanton Public Library hosts Computer Classes for Seniors including Beginning Internet on the first Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Beginning E-mail on the second Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Open Practice on the third Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Advanced E-mail on the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of every month, at the Adult Computer Area in the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Computer classes are designed for mature adults. Registration is required; call 931-3400.

**SUGAR, SUGAR EVERYWHERE!** Sugar is added to almost everything these days. Experts recommend cutting back on added sugar. This discussion will focus on ways to lower sugar intake all year round, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Healthier holiday recipes will be provided too! 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.lynnewood.org](http://www.lynnewood.org).

**WOMEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** Women gather for a time of prayer and study of the Bible from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St. Topics change according to lesson length. Coffee and refreshment provided. Call 846-8650 or go to [www.fcpleasanton.org](http://www.fcpleasanton.org).

## Support Groups

**BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** The American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Support group meets from 7:30-9 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at LifeStyleRx, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Call 833-2784 or visit [www.valleycare.com](http://www.valleycare.com).

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.

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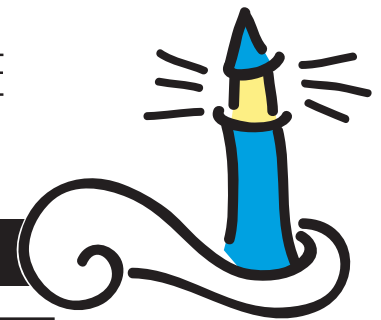
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## 115 Announcements

**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)

**Pregnant?**  
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)

**Bake Sale**  
Protection of the Holly Virgin Orthodox Church is holding end of the year bake sale. Our best cooks offer the most delicious home made goodies. 3475 Ross St. Palo Alto, December 14th. 10:00am-4:00pm, December 15th. 12:00pm-4:00pm.

## 130 Classes & Instruction

**Airline Careers**  
begin here. Get trained as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Housing and Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-492-3059 (AAN CAN)

**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)

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



## 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)



## 500 Help Wanted

**Associate Consultant - Advance Security**  
Associate Consultant - Advance Security Job location: Pleasanton, CA. Duties: Provide problem mgmt. asst. at escalated levels, consultative contribution to improving Dimension Data sys, svc. & operational processes. Contribute to RFPs/RfIs & other proposals of low to medium complexity. Provide mentorship of Engr. to encourage their professional growth. Assist Pre-Sales w/in low to medium customer environments. Utilize exp. with MOM, DAD, and SMA on a day-to-day basis to assist the GSC team in supporting clients when needed. Reqs: 3 yrs. of exp. in job offered or Security Administration or closely related field. Exp. which may have been obtained concurrently must incl. 3 yrs. of exp. in the use of Manager of Managers (MOM), Dynamic Access Device (DAD), & Security Management Appliance (SMA). Mail resume to Rachel Briele, Dimension Data North America, 4101 Lake Boone Tr., Ste. 200, Raleigh, NC 27607

## 560 Employment Information

**Drivers: New Trucks**  
arriving! Experience pays - up to 50

cpm. Full benefits + quality hometime. CDL-A required. Call 877-258-8782 www.ad-drivers.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Drivers: Owner Operators**  
Dedicated home weekly! Solos up to \$175,000/year, \$2500 Sign-on Bonus! Teams up to \$350,000/year, \$5000 Sign-on Bonus! Forward Air 888-652-5611. (Cal-SCAN)

**Drivers: Pickup**  
Foremost Transport, Perris, CA is hiring Pickup drivers who have a 3/4 ton or One ton truck to deliver RV'S throughout the US and Canada. We are paying competitive rates and have several bonuses. 1-866-764-1601 or www.foremosttransport.com (Cal-SCAN)

**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)

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## 601 Accounting/Bookkeeping

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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

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## 624 Financial

**Guaranteed Income**  
for Your Retirement. Avoid market risk & 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)



## 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.

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



## 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)

## 850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

**Downtown Pleasanton Opportunity**  
3 lots 4 sale. Dwtwn Pleas. for developer/investor. Joyce 339-4700, Dan (510) 690-4978.

## 855 Real Estate Services

**Roommates.com**  
All areas. 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)

No phone number in the ad?  
GO TO **fogster.com** for contact information

## TAKE US ALONG



**Viola le Tour Eiffel:** Robert, Jamison, Camryn, Susan and Savannah Gray took in the view on top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. Et bien sur, they brought the Pleasanton Weekly along.

## PET OF THE WEEK

### People cat

Tiger Lilly is looking for a family that loves to cuddle as much as she does. If your idea of a relaxing evening involves a purring cat on your lap, then maybe Tiger Lilly is the one for you! Meet Tiger Lilly at the East Bay SPCA Dublin Adoption Center at 4651 Gleason Drive. Visit [www.eastbaySPCA.org](http://www.eastbaySPCA.org) to see more adoptable animals or call 479-9670 for more information.



EAST BAY SPCA

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## Flood insurance changes giving homeowners headaches

Impacting home sales, construction, remodeling across U.S.

By **JEB BING**

The National Association of Home Builders called on Congress this week to take steps to resolve unintended consequences of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act that are resulting in huge premium spikes for many home owners and impacting the sale, construction and remodeling of homes across the nation.

Testifying before the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Insurance and Housing, Barry Rutenberg, immediate past chairman of NAHB and a home builder from Gainesville, Fla., said a key concern of the law is that it requires properties that had subsidized rates under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to immediately move to the full actuarial risk rate when they are sold or transferred.

"Prospective home buyers fear the higher rates will make their mortgages unaffordable, especially in today's already tight credit conditions," said Rutenberg. "We have heard of cases throughout the country where pending sales were canceled at the last minute because of this sharp rate increase."

Rutenberg added that this not only harms home sales, but also impedes the move-up buyer, who will not be able to sell their current home and move into a newly constructed one.

"Requiring full-risk rates to be paid upon sale or transfer for historically subsidized

and previously grandfathered properties will lead to lower property values and hurt many local housing markets at a time when the U.S. housing recovery remains fragile and uneven," he said.

To resolve some of the costly problems and unanticipated issues resulting from the implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act, the NAHB is recommending that Congress take the following steps:

- Delay all rate increases until the Federal Emergency Management Agency completes its affordability study, which is required under the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act and was due to be completed last April. After completion of the study, FEMA will have a better understanding of how rate increases will affect policyholders and be better equipped to provide Congress suggestions on how the NFIP can address affordability issues, said Rutenberg.

- Require FEMA to take into account all flood control structures when mapping. Further, NAHB urges Congress to ensure that FEMA allows for sufficient time and independent vetting of new maps and prohibits rate increases based on incomplete or inaccurate maps.

- Reinstate the higher "substantial improvement" threshold. This refers to the value of remodeling and renovation projects that

## HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

4920 TREEWOOD COURT, PLEASANTON, **\$862,000**

This stunning 4 bedroom and 2.5 bathroom Highland Oaks home has been remodeled from top to bottom. The home has wide plank flooring, a gorgeous kitchen, and a great room. The home has 4 bedrooms upstairs, with a den or office downstairs. It is situated at the end of a court and is walking distance to schools.

Sold by **Julia Murtagh**  
of **Alain Pinel Realtors**  
(925) 997-2411



cause the insurance premium rate increases to kick in. The threshold was lowered from 50 percent to 30 percent when the law went into effect. NAHB estimates this lower limit will place up to \$8.5 billion in annual remodeling economic activity at risk, as even the simplest of remodeling jobs, like installing new appliances or updating bathrooms or kitchens, could result in many homes reaching the 30% threshold and triggering

higher premium rates.

- Enable FEMA to continue to allow for flexibility for regional issues and to maintain the current residential "basement exception." This exception is currently permitted in just 53 communities and allows home owners who require basements for safety and stability reasons to avoid the higher flood insur-

See **INSURANCE** on Page 24

Coldwell Banker

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



**BRENTWOOD**  
Open SAT 1-4      1733 CHARDONNAY LANE  
**TRILOGY VINEYARD HOME**      \$799,000  
2 BR 2.5 BA 55+ Resort Comm. Gourmet Kitchen. Wood & tile flooring. Plantation Shutters. Lush Landscaping. 925.382.4663



**DUBLIN**  
3385 DUBLIN BLVD #143  
**THE TERRACES CORRIDA MODEL**      \$429,000  
2 BR 2 BA Condo-1st Floor. Granite slab in kit w/s appl. Fireplace, upgraded bths, SPACIOUS patio 925.784.3068



**DUBLIN**  
3240 MAGUIRE WAY #202  
**GORGEOUS HOME**      \$420,000  
2 BR 2 BA Designer paint throughout, granite slab counters, SS & black appliances, crown molding. 925.847.2200



**SAN LEANDRO**  
Open SUN 1-3      764 ARGUELLO DR  
**NICE FLOOR PLAN!**      \$450,000  
4Bed, 2Bath Family room, and formal Liv & Din areas. Eat-in Kit Updated kit cabinets. Some hardwood 925.847.2254

### LIVERMORE

**SAN ANTONIO VALLEY**  
**WOW! 423 ACRES**      \$1,199,950  
2 BR 2 BA 2 cabins, 2 barns 4 bass ponds. Swimming pool his/her cabana. Road frontage on paved road. 925.847.2200

**20850 MINES ROAD**  
**FABULOUS PIECE OF PROPERTY**      \$617,000  
Views to rolling hills, trees and distant vistas. Several lovely spots for home site. 925.847.2200

### OAKLAND

**10963 MOONLIGHT CT**  
**BEAUTIFUL SIGNATURE HOME**      \$389,000  
3 BR 2.5 BA Plush carpet. Soaring ceiling. Mst Ste w/walk in closet separate shower/tub. Laundry Rm 925.847.2200

### SAN FRANCISCO

**2058 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE**  
**GR8 DUPLEX OPPORTUNITY**      \$1,225,000  
1 Up/1 Down, Hardwd & Parquet Floors, WD burn Fire Pl. Insid Laundry. 2Car Tandem Garage. 925.847.2200

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

**11000 DEL PUERTO CANYON ROAD**  
**GOT HORSES, DIRT BIKES, ATV'S**      \$1,499,950  
4 BR 2 BA Lots of trees. 2 bass ponds. Well & Spring water systems. Has separate artist/craft cottage. 925.847.2200

### SAN RAMON

**6 BOARDWALK PLACE**  
**GREAT LOT FOR OWNER BUILDER**      \$525,000  
Location is ideal right off of Crow Canyon Rd. Bldg area is approx. 4400 sq.ft. 925.847.2200

### STOCKTON

**4017 SEASCAPE WAY**  
**WONDERFUL WELL MAINTAINED**      \$215,000  
3 BR 2.5 BA Fresh carpet & paint. Lg rms w/retreat off the Mst Bed. Quiet cul-de-sac w/side RV parking. 925.847.2200

### SUNOL

**900 KILKARE RD**  
**FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!**      \$399,000  
Lot/Land. Rarely available 3.2 acre (approx). Lot close to Downtown Sunol. 925.847.2200

### TRACY

**1765 TAHOE CIR**  
**WELL MAINTAINED HOME**      \$349,900  
4 BR 3 BA Vaulted ceilings, new carpet, 1 bdrm & full bth dwnstrs, lrg mstr w/bicy, wkshp/2 car garage 925.570.4003

### HAYWARD

**HAYWARD**  
**23723 FAIRLANDS RD**  
**REMODELED SINGLE STORY HOME**      \$599,000  
3 BR 2 BA Bright and open floor plan. Upgraded kit w/Granite countertops. Custom paint & crown Molding 925.847.2200

Unwrap the Magic of Giving

We are proudly supporting Toys for Tots and One Warm Coat now through December 13. To make a donation of a new, unwrapped toy or new or gently used coat, blanket or towel for those in need in our local community, contact one of our local offices today.



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**Parkside Annual  
Holiday Decoration Contest**

Display your best "Twinkle"

Voting at [ingrid@ingridwetmore.com](mailto:ingrid@ingridwetmore.com) or 925-918-0986  
Votes due by 12/15 at 8:00 p.m. Winners will be notified 12/18.



**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 Primal! 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**  
REALTORS® LIC # 01370076 and 00607511  
925.918.2045  
www.WilliamsReGroup.com



Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with 1 bedroom and full bath downstairs, huge loft area, approx. 2,823 sq ft, gourmet kitchen with granite, center island & tile floor with a 3-car garage in Mountain House. **\$448,888**



**Mike Chandler**  
REALTOR® LIC #01039712  
925.426.3858  
MikeChandler.kwrealty.com

**Sellers!**

I have buyers looking in all price ranges! If you are thinking of selling your home, please call me or email me for a complete market analysis of your home.

**This is a great time to move up or down or out of the area!**



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**Are you considering selling your home?**

We are currently working with several well-qualified buyers who are very motivated to purchase a single story home in Pleasanton within the next 90 days.

We are experiencing a unique trend in Pleasanton. For many reasons, homeowners are downsizing and they want a smaller home for the next phase of their life.

If you have been thinking about selling your home, this could be a unique opportunity for you.

**We have the right buyer for you right now.**

More questions about this unique opportunity?

Call or email us today and let's discuss your questions and find out if our buyers are a good match for your home.



**DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema**  
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DeAnna@ArmarioHomes.com Liz@VenemaHomes.com  
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**3736 Selvante Street, Ruby Hill**  
Luxurious living with gorgeous details & private yard with pool. 7693 sq. ft. on .5 acre in Ruby Hill.  
Offered for **\$2,999,000**  
**Call for private showing**

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**Susan Schall, REALTOR®** 925-519-8226

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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.

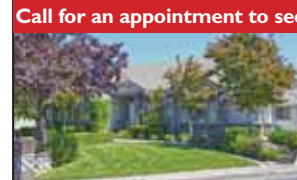


**Dave & Sue Flashberger**  
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925.463.0436 | www.SoldinaFlash.com



SOLD - Represented BUYERS

3511 Touriga Dr, Pleasanton  
Cute 3 bed 2 bath home, large flat yard, walk to award winning Pleasanton Schools and downtown shopping & dining.



Call for an appointment to see

4198 Remillard Ct, Pleasanton  
Only home for sale in popular Kottinger Ranch. Fabulous fully custom home, terrific views, lots of storage space. Even a finished basement area. MUST SEE. Beautiful architectural details.  
Motivated seller: **\$1,790,000**



**Dorothy Broderson**  
REALTOR® DRE #01779623  
925.963.8800  
YellowBrickRoadHOMES.com  
www.KottingerRanchNeighbors.com



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

— Janice & Ryan Spuller



**SALES AT A GLANCE**

**Dublin (Oct. 2013)**  
**Total sales reported:** 21  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$149,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,219,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$664,476

**Livermore (Oct. 2013)**  
**Total sales reported:** 20  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$230,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,395,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$560,600

**Pleasanton (Oct. 2013)**  
**Total sales reported:** 12  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$580,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,500,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$930,625

**San Ramon (Oct. 2013)**  
**Total sales reported:** 28  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$285,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,435,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$750,768  
*Source: California REsource*

**OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND**

**Alamo**  
**4 BEDROOMS**  
**15 Stone Creek Place \$1,249,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Cindy Gee 963-1984

**8 BEDROOMS**  
**3083 Sandstone Road \$2,795,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 397-4200

**Brentwood**  
**2 BEDROOMS**  
**1733 Chardonnay Lane \$799,000**  
 Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 382-4663

**Dublin**  
**2 BEDROOMS**  
**11849 Newbridge Way \$383,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Sandy Parkins 336-0216

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**8531 Beverly Lane \$568,575**  
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Andrea & Earl Rozran 858-4198

**Livermore**  
**3 BEDROOMS**  
**973 Lisbon Ave. \$499,950**  
 Sun 1-4 Jason Caskie 899-0825

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**6153 Saint Andrews Way \$489,500**  
 Sun 12-3 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 397-4200

**Pleasanton**  
**2 BEDROOMS**  
**4349 Second St. \$774,000**  
 Sat 1-4 Mike Carey 963-0569  
**3546 Helen Drive \$630,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**3623 Cameron Ave. \$1,675,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Gina Piper 462-9175

**San Ramon**  
**2 BEDROOMS**  
**430 Canyon Woods Place \$438,000**  
 Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

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**OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4 - JUST LISTED**  
**15 STONE CREEK PLACE ALAMO**  
 Gorgeous, updated, 1-story, with great room, gourmet chef's kitchen with huge granite island and stainless steel. Park-like backyard with sparkling pool, waterfall, hardwood floors & more!! Must see!

Call CINDY today and let her guide you through the entire LISTING and SELLING process!

*Cindy Gee* Realtor, Notary  
**925.963.1984**  
 cindy.gee@bhghome.com



**Sold!** 2577 Arlotta Place Laguna Oaks

**Sold!** 4723 Fair Street Downtown

**Sold!** 7913 Paragon Circle Laguna Oaks

**Sold!** 8013 Regency Drive Laguna Oaks

**HELP CINDY SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS**  
 Together we can make a difference!  
 For every home LISTED or SOLD with CINDY, she will make a donation to the school of your choice!  
 \*Please mention this ad.

**Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE**  
**TRI-VALLEY REALTY** DRE# 01307919  
 Traveling Notary services available.

**INSURANCE**

Continued from Page 22

ance rates under the law.  
 ■ Delay the premium rate hikes on second homes. Government data shows the median income of households with a second home is a modest \$71,344. Many middle class families who own a second home are facing significantly higher premium rates under the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act. As a result,

even if they want to sell their second home, they cannot because the sale would result in a premium price spike for the new owner.

"NAHB is committed to working with this subcommittee and with Congress to find pragmatic solutions that will prevent undue hardship on the recovering housing market, prevent home values from decreasing and make the NFIP stronger and more effective for years to come," said Rutenberg. ■

*Tri-Valley* Real Estate Directory

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**BUYERS NEEDS**

Family looking for a larger home, on the west side of Pleasanton, with detached in-law unit, up to \$2 million.

Relocating from SF, must have a pool, 4 bedroom minimum, with very functional layout. Open to Pleasanton, Livermore & Danville, up to \$1.4 million

Large family (currently renting) looking for 1800 sq. ft. or more. Prefer the west side of Pleasanton, open to San Ramon as well, up to \$850,000

# Helping Sellers and Buyers in the Tri-Valley



**Coming Soon in Pleasanton**  
Nice single story home near schools, shops, and parks. 1603 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths, lot size is 6500 sq. ft. Please call Julia for more information.



**4251 Pleasanton Ave, Pleasanton**  
Charming craftsman home in an amazing downtown location. This 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home has 2312 sq. ft. of living space. **Represented buyers. SOLD FOR \$1,030,000**



**4990 Monaco Dr, Pleasanton**  
This 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 3180 sq. ft. home sits on a 9426 sq. ft. lot with a large pool, spa, and views of the Ridge. **SOLD FOR \$1,225,000**



**4920 Treewood Ct, Pleasanton**  
Stunning 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home has been remodeled from top to bottom. Situated at the end of a court. **SOLD FOR \$862,000**



**4457 Arbutus Ct, Pleasanton**  
Great home on the west side, close to schools. 4 beds, 2.5 baths, 2267 sq. ft. on a court. Sold 11K over asking price. **SOLD FOR \$860,000**



**7988 Applewood Ct, Pleasanton**  
This must see family home is 2243 sq. ft., with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms on just under .5 acre. Court location. **SOLD FOR \$865,000**



**620 Belem Ct, San Ramon**  
Twin Creeks home on the end of a court. 2518 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, on 5. acre, with pool, spa, and views. **Represented buyers. SOLD FOR \$1,095,000**



**2761 Sanderling Wy, Pleasanton**  
Birdland home with 5 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms. Features a beautiful pool and large backyard. **SOLD FOR \$1,072,000**

*Providing leadership, knowledge and support every step of the way*



**RECENT SELLER REVIEW**

Julia did a wonderful job selling our home in Pleasanton! We do not live in California and Julia was our eyes, ears, feet on the ground and all that a Realtor should and can be during the entire sales process. We recommend her Realtor services without reservation. Choose Julia to sell or buy your home and you're already in great shape!

—Sandeep Krishnamurthy, August 2013

*Please see reviews of Julia on*



HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 2013

Dublin

- 5727 Amberglen Street** G. Shah to Y. Xiong for \$736,500
- 7622 Arbor Creek Circle** Wallis Trust to Erickson Trust for \$375,000
- 5306 Asterwood Drive** J. & C. Smart to P. Kuruganti for \$837,000
- 6528 Bantry Bay Street** Shea Homes to R. Erigidindla for \$719,500
- 7772 Barn Hollow Court** J. Peek to M. & C. Gallagher for \$759,000
- 8605 Beverly Lane** Browner Trust to D. Ashley for \$545,000
- 2327 Capistrillo Street** J. Holliday to W. Ng for \$885,000
- 3465 Dublin Boulevard #142** M. Barcelona to J. Fabrique for \$149,000
- 3245 Dublin Boulevard #202** Lane Trust to Z. Huang for \$464,500
- 6833 Eden Street** E. Spinelli to T. Huang for \$550,000
- 3091 Fazio Terrace** Taylor Morrison of California to P. & K. Kuruvilla for \$743,500
- 4332 Fitzwilliam Street #191** E. Tannahill to V. & P. Bajaj for \$475,000
- 4407 Foxford Way** P. & P. Ignacio to R. & R. Karnwal for \$835,000
- 7297 Hansen Drive** Tsirlis Trust to N. Boddu for \$700,000
- 8429 Locust Place #N** D. & E. Villanueva to V. Ruskovoloshin for \$580,000
- 6961 North Mariposa Lane** KB Home to A. & O. Yoo for \$584,000
- 6969 North Mariposa Lane** KB Home to Z. Agha for \$616,000
- 6978 North Mariposa Lane** KB Home to J. Liu for \$584,000
- 5032 Osborne Circle** Lennar Homes to N. Indukuri for \$882,000
- 3620 Rocking Horse Court** S. & K. Pollicove to

- S. Challapalli for \$715,000
  - 4857 Viento Court** DR Horton to P. & K. Turner for \$1,219,000
- Livermore**
- 2952 Calico Common** S. & A. Navarra to A. Bhattacherjee for \$730,000
  - 3179 Calimanco Common #4** B. Griswold to M. Shih for \$403,000
  - 1324 Chateau Common** K. Meyer to X. Li for \$230,000
  - 794 Grace Street** K. & J. Hampel to T. & B. Schmiegel for \$570,000
  - 2163 Kara Place** Williams Trust to A. & K. Samman for \$1,395,000
  - 572 Leona Drive** F. & S. Cohen to M. & L. Vanhook for \$645,000
  - 2802 Lucca Way** Ponderosa Homes to J. & K. Grippi for \$784,000
  - 2830 Lucca Way** Ponderosa Homes to M. & C. Resong for \$871,000
  - 3842 Madeira Way** K. & C. Chen to C. Veach for \$435,000
  - 27 Meritage Common #103** E. Allen to C. Arellano for \$405,000
  - 32 Meritage Common #204** Rowe Trust to M. Sa for \$398,000
  - 574 Morgan Common** Tri-Valley Platinum Investments to K. Barlow for \$370,000
  - 1544 Olivina Avenue** Department of Housing to S. & J. Dixon for \$387,000
  - 1566 Olivina Avenue** O. Hernandez to S. & F. Nabhan for \$422,000
  - 1406 Spring Valley Common** P. Lipich to B. & M. MacKey for \$340,000
  - 6106 St. Andrews Way** Ligh Trust to H. Yee for \$515,000
  - 812 Ventura Avenue** J. & M. Roe to A. & S. Williams for \$475,000
  - 417 Vista Court** Turpin Trust to G. Wright for \$462,000
  - 561 Windermere Circle** R. Martinez to R. & W. Fernandes for \$830,000

- 1464 Windsor Way** M. & V. Eberstein to Detjens Trust for \$545,000
- Pleasanton**
- 314 Amador Court** J. James to M. & K. Gonzales for \$580,000
  - 3744 Appian Street** M. Samimi to D. Madathil for \$759,000
  - 7979 Camino Tassajara** Capital One to D. McCabe for \$955,000
  - 6967 Corte Antonio** J. Zook to L. Wu for \$868,000
  - 2566 Glen Isle Avenue** Kiefer Trust to S. Pinnamaneni for \$750,500
  - 3260 Harvey Court** Devincenzi Trust to K. Gangadharappa for \$900,000
  - 1191 Kottinger Drive** Gabrielson Trust to W. Li for \$745,000
  - 3361 Marsh Hawk Court** Phillips Trust to C. & J. Ortiz for \$1,155,000
  - 1533 Rose Lane** P. Hoopes to J. & J. Shriber for \$1,500,000
  - 3681 Virgin Islands Court** Cruden Trust to B. Shanmugham for \$670,000
  - 2802 Vizzolini Court** Wan Trust to S. & B. Kim for \$1,460,000
  - 2326 Willet Way** D. & A. Scott to J. Holliday for \$825,000
- San Ramon**
- 600 Abrigo Court** Salvatorbattaglia Trust to V. Karkare for \$655,000
  - 3261 Ashbourne Circle** M. Hoang to J. Yang for \$1,435,000
  - 119 Avocado Court** Mcpherson Trust to K. Wood for \$633,500
  - 8012 Briar Oaks Drive** J. & C. Sweeney to M. & R. Ocampo for \$860,000
  - 2779 Camino Venadillo** J. & D. Allen to M. & A. Schassberger for \$892,000
  - 7618 Corrinne Place** Edwards Trust to J. & J. Dohert for \$625,000
  - 30 Cree Court** D. Reber to E. & C. Clark for \$1,150,000

- 6078 Dalton Way** R. Swedelson to S. Chinnappa for \$770,000
- 9806 Davona Drive** J. Weiner to B. Anderson for \$735,000
- 164 Eastridge Drive #183** O. & V. Babor to E. Souza for \$285,000
- 158 Eastridge Drive** K. Donovan to J. Baumgarten for \$297,000
- 221 Forest Creek Lane** Rebecca Trust to Y. & M. Sung for \$645,000
- 132 Geranium Court** J. & P. Maeda to K. & M. Malhi for \$915,000
- 4269 Lilac Ridge Road** RWW Properties to N. Xia for \$1,350,000
- 9967 Mangos Drive** Parry Trust to H. & J. Nudo for \$798,000
- 2937 Marlboro Way** Michalik Trust to Y. Chen for \$797,000
- 131 Mavis Place** E. Fabbriatore to S. & K. Logan for \$757,500
- 8 Metairie Court** SF Financial Group to B. & P. Calvo for \$705,000
- 3275 Montevideo Drive** P. & O. Smith to L. Lim for \$855,000
- 7461 Sedgefield Avenue** Krause Trust to J. Wray for \$685,000
- 1165 South Chanterella Drive** J. & R. Clabaugh to A. & R. Su for \$870,000
- 364 South Overlook Drive #199** T. & E. Landon to Krause Trust for \$420,000
- 7668 Stoneleaf Road** G. & C. Romero to B. & G. Pineda for \$625,000
- 2828 Stratford Drive** W. & E. Hew to M. & C. Brogna for \$625,000
- 136 Victory Circle** L. Liu to Sovish Trust for \$890,000
- 2153 Watermill Road #56** F. & C. Orellana to S. & P. Singh for \$645,000
- 1910 Whitetail Lane** P. & J. Schultz to M. Pyle for \$356,500
- 42 Winterleaf Court** J. & H. Choi to M. & A. Hawkins for \$745,000

Source: California REsource



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Open Sat & Sun 1-4

Gina Piper

**3623 Cameron Ave — Pleasanton — \$1,675,000**  
This fabulous 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 3,200+ Sq Ft home sits on a park-like 39,000 sq ft lot. This gorgeous home has been meticulously remodeled and features a large, open living area that is perfect for entertaining! The wonderful yard features a pool, a full-sized volleyball court, mature trees and plenty of room for a small vineyard.



Open Sat & Sun 1:30-4:30

Andrea Rozran

**8531 Beverly Lane — Dublin — \$568,575**  
This 4 bedroom, 2 bath single-level home has been updated throughout with a gourmet kitchen that includes stainless appliances, granite counter tops, cherry stained cabinets and recessed lighting. The open floor plan and large backyard make it the perfect place for entertaining!



Open Sat & Sun 1-4

Cindy Gee

**15 Stone Creek Place — Alamo — \$1,249,000**  
This is a gorgeous, updated home with a spacious great room open to the gourmet kitchen with a HUGE granite island, stainless appliances, and breakfast nook! This home features 4 bedrooms plus a huge bonus room, hardwood floors and an office. The .42 acre gorgeous park-like backyard boasts a sparkling pool and peaceful creek setting. Move-In ready!



Open Sat & Sun 1-4

Sandy Parkins

**11849 Newbridge Way — Dublin — \$383,000**  
This is a lovely 2 bedroom 2 bath condo in the sought after Kildara complex. It features volume ceilings with an open floor plan that make the space very light and bright. This home is freshly painted in neutral colors with new carpeting and new window treatments. It's in a great location near shopping and freeways!



Linda Newton

**2805 Hoya Common — Livermore — \$619,000**  
This beautiful home is an excellent corner end unit! It features a southern-facing 2nd story balcony off the kitchen/living room. This home is tastefully decorated and upgraded with crown molding, granite slab kitchen counters with a tile backsplash, gas range and stainless steel appliances. It also features an upgraded master bathroom with decorative tile, a tech center and more!



Open Sun 1-4

Jason Caskie

**973 Lisbon Avenue — Livermore — \$499,950**  
This updated single story home features an open family room/kitchen/eating area. The gourmet kitchen is updated with granite. The huge family room has ceiling fans and recessed lighting. There is dark wood flooring thru-out the home and dual pane Windows. The backyard features a pool, lawn, concrete patio and dog run. This home is close to downtown, schools, parks and shopping!

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**JUST LISTED!**

**Twin Creeks**

Remodeled 5 BR, 2 1/2 BTH with granite kitchen, 1/4 Acre lot, 3 car garage, & more!  
\$959,000



**PENDING SALE!**

**Laguna Oaks**

Fabulous 5 BR, 3 1/2 BTH, granite kitchen, pool, 1/2 Acre cul-de-sac lot, 4 car garage  
\$1,600,000



**JUST SOLD!**

**Bridle Creek**

Elegant 5 BR, 3 1/2 BTH, hardwood floors, granite kitchen, .28 Acre lot with pool, & more. \$1,575,000

**Recent Sales:**

9079 Rockford Pl	Pending \$1,595,000
Sprucemoor Lane	Sold for \$1,317,000
Sunset Creek Lane	Sold for \$1,575,000
Avocado Ct	Sold for \$625,000
Athenour Ct	Sold for \$888,000
Zenato Plance	Sold for \$2,250,000
Oak Vista Way	Sold for \$1,036,000
Regency Dr	Sold for \$1,468,000

**What My Clients Say**

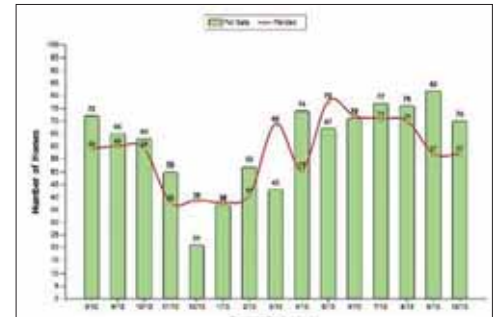
"Doug's experience, market knowledge, and professionalism made him the obvious choice. He exceeded all our expectations"

—Sharon N.

**The Market is Strong!**

Inventory remains constrained in the Pleasanton market, and buyer demand remains strong. It is an excellent time to consider a move.

Low inventory plus steady demand means sellers have an advantage. Call me today for a no pressure consultation to discuss your options. I am focused on you and your needs. Let's talk!



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**897 SUNSET CREEK LANE, PLEASANTON**

Gorgeous, highly upgraded, sought after single level in Bridle Creek! Premium location, Panoramic views, solar heated in-ground pool, beautifully landscaped with private brick patio areas. Five bedrooms, four bathrooms, 3,246 square feet on a 12,464 square foot lot. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Great Room concept with spacious Family Room. Many upgrades throughout! Don't miss this one! OFFERED AT \$1,599,000



**SOLD!**

**3701 HILLSIDE AVENUE, LIVERMORE**

Blaise represented the buyer in the purchase of this beautifully upgraded home. This four bedroom, two and a half bath, 2,553 square foot home sits on a 8,940 square foot private lot with a three car attached garage. This open floor plan offers vaulted ceilings in living room, dining room and entry. The kitchen offers granite counters, stainless steel appliances, breakfast bar and breakfast nook. The tranquil backyard is surrounded by covered fences and boasts trellises, a large grassy area and a concrete patio. Move in ready and easy freeway access! OFFERED AT \$765,000 AND SOLD FOR \$765,000



**SOLD!**

**4075 W LAKESHORE DRIVE, SAN RAMON**

Blaise represented the buyer in the purchase of this Mediterranean-style townhome with lakefront patio! Three bedroom, two and a half bath, 1,769 square foot home with a 3,610 square foot lot and two car attached garage. The living room offers floor to ceiling windows with views of the lakefront patio, raised ceilings and custom tile. The kitchen offers stone counters, island with gas stove, pantry and is open to the dining room. Upstairs bedrooms offer full adjoining bath to master and addition bedroom offers jacuzzi tub, and large walk-in closet. Gated community with greenbelt and community pool! OFFERED AT \$649,900 AND SOLD FOR \$690,000



**SOLD!**

**3962 FAIRLANDS DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

This home is upgraded throughout and move in ready! Brand new 40 year roof, new carpets, and new hardwood floors. Beautifully and professionally landscaped front and rear yards. Four bedrooms, office/teen room, two and a half baths, 2,460 square feet all on a 6,489 square foot lot. The upgraded kitchen is open to the family room. A formal dining room is located just off the kitchen. The rear yard is private and serene offering a large grassy area and two decks. Close to schools and neighborhood Cabana Club! Call for more information! OFFERED AT \$839,000 AND SOLD FOR \$839,000



**SOLD!**

**1185 LAGUNA CREEK LANE, PLEASANTON**

With unobstructed views of the Pleasanton Ridge, this five bedroom, five and a half bathroom, 5,329 square foot home sits on a premium 16,321 square foot lot. The gourmet kitchen boasts a large island, granite counters, stainless steel appliances and a six-burner gas range. Grand entrance with large foyer, vaulted ceilings, formal dining room, spacious master suite, laundry room, three car and so much more. The resort-like backyard offers a pool, spa, pool house, outdoor kitchen, and gazebo. Easy access to I-680 and close to schools! OFFERED AT \$1,897,500 AND SOLD FOR \$1,897,500



**SOLD!**

**831 SUNSET CREEK LANE, PLEASANTON**

This highly sought after location offers views of the Pleasanton Ridge and Mt. Diablo on a private approximate 12,131 square foot lot. Four bedrooms plus a bonus room, three bathrooms. The open floor plan with volumed/coffered ceilings offers a gourmet kitchen and expansive master suite. The expansive and professionally landscaped rear yard offers several fruit trees and raised garden beds. Close to schools and library, walking distance to downtown Pleasanton and quick access to 680. Call for more information! Sold in less than 30 days! OFFERED AT \$1,549,000 AND SOLD FOR \$1,540,000

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**MOXLEY TEAM**

**BY APPT**



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

**LINDA GOVEIA**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$2,895,000**  
Elegant Craftsman Style home, the finish work is extraordinary! 7,500+/-sf, 5bd/5.5ba, formal living room & library/office. Bonus room with large alcove, court location, private lot and views. 3654 PONTINA CT

**BLAISE LOFLAND**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$1,599,000**  
Single Level located in Bridle Creek! Premium lot, location and panoramic views! 5BD, 4BA, 3,246 sf+/- on a 12,464+/- sf. lot. Upgraded throughout! 897 SUNSET CREEK LANE

**DAN GAMACHE**

**BY APPT**



**LIVERMORE \$1,499,950**  
Immaculate and rare property! 3332+/-sf single story home, excellent condition, 1800+/-sf basement, 1800+/-sf shop/garage/apt., endless views! 5800 EAGLES RUN RD

**MOXLEY TEAM**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$1,100,000**  
4bd + loft/office, bedroom & full bath on main level, upgraded throughout. Master w/ retreat, separate vanity, walk-in closet. Private backyard, large patio, arbor & BBQ area. 1124 DONAHUE DRIVE

**MOXLEY TEAM**

**BY APPT**



**DANVILLE \$1,070,000**  
5BD/3BA 3,044+/-sf. Bedroom and full bath on main level. Open floor plan with formal dining/living room. Kitchen opens to family room. Master w/retreat, walk-in closet. Built in BBQ & side yard. 685 DUNHILL DR

**DOUG BUENZ**

**BY APPT**



**SAN RAMON \$959,000**  
THIS IS IT! Pristine remodeled granite & stainless kitchen, custom tile flooring, designer touches throughout, and large private .25+/- Acre lot with BBQ. 2548 TOLTEC CIR

**MARK KOTCH**

**BY APPT**



**PLEASANTON \$745,000**  
Remodeled kitchen, move in condition. Home includes 4 bd 2.5 ba 1,891+/- sf on a 6,200+/- sf lot. Formal living/dining room. Open backyard, Close to everything. 3330 HARPERS FERRY CT

**MOXLEY TEAM**

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4**



**PLEASANTON \$630,000**  
2bd/2ba, 1,459+/-sf, spacious loft area, updated throughout with dual pane windows, new roof, floor coverings and more, move right in ready. 3546 HELEN DR

**KELLY KING**

**BY APPT**



**LIVERMORE \$478,000**  
Stunning remodel and gorgeous backyard, 3 bd, 2 ba 1,200+/-sf and much more! 2075 PONDEROSA DR

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