

# Pleasanton Weekly

**Holiday Fund**

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Tri-Valley native, lung transplant recipient  
to appear in Rose Parade PAGE 16



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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## Good news on the Weekly's Holiday Fund

The good news is that as of Tuesday, we have passed the \$50,000 mark in contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly's 2014 Holiday Fund.

That's a welcome achievement at a time when public contributions to charities and nonprofits are down across the country, a concern generally stemming from the very gradual recovery from the recent recession and at a time when personal income has yet to see much growth.

While we welcome the several hundred donors who have given \$25, \$100, \$500, \$1,500 and more, we are especially appreciative of the generosity of members of the Valley Real Estate Network who contributed a grand total of \$5,575 and the Bay East Association of Realtors that donated \$2,500 in matching funds at the start of the campaign.

And there's more good news. It's not too late to donate to the Holiday Fund and claim it as a deduction on your 2014 state and federal tax returns.

Again this year, the Weekly is partnering with Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), which is handling all finances related to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. This allows donors to take advantage of a tax deduction for the dollars they contribute through the foundation's 501(c)(3) status to the fullest extent of the law, but your contributions must be made by Wednesday, Dec. 31 in order to qualify as 2014 charitable donations. Even so, those who contribute by Jan. 15 when the current campaign ends can claim those donations on their 2015 tax returns.

Contributions to the 2014 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will be distributed in two tiers, with 75% of all dollars raised going to Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, Valley Humane Society and ValleyCare Health System.

Another 25% of the contributions will go to Hope Hospice, Agape Villages, REACH, Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation and Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley.

These organizations are still faced with diminished contributions as a result of a waning recession while needing increased funds to meet a growing number of those in need. Even though we are seeing an economic rebound, the good times have not reached the nonprofit caregivers who depend on public contributions to serve our community.

Take Axis Community Health as

an example of an organization faced with incredibly rapidly increasing service demands. Located on Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton, it is the Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical and mental health services for individuals and families who have a low income or who are uninsured.

It will have served in 2014 more than 14,000 residents by the end of the year, providing a variety of services, including medical care for children, adults and seniors, prenatal care and women's health services, mental health counseling, drug and alcohol recovery services, and a WIC nutrition program.

More than 25% of Axis's patients are children under the age of 12. The families who depend on Axis are the working poor; 95% of Axis medical patients have a family income below 200% of the federal poverty level, which is less than \$46,100 a year for a family of four. Last year Axis provided more than 2,000 medical visits that were uncompensated. As we've said before about the lines of mothers seeking pediatric care for their children at Axis, we live in a wealthy city but not everyone in Pleasanton is sharing in that wealth.

Axis has five service sites that are located throughout the Tri-Valley. Its staff of 155 includes physicians, nurse practitioners, mental health professionals and a large team of support staff. To meet this increased demand for services, Axis is building a sixth service site located at 5925 W. Las Positas in Pleasanton, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015. Your contributions to the Holiday Fund will help Axis fulfill its service needs.

Open Heart Kitchen is another Tri-Valley charity that is again on the Holiday Fund list for 2014. OHK served over 281,000 meals in 2013 and a growing need means the organization will serve far more this year. OHK now serves six low-income senior centers, has added more schools to the children's box lunch programs, and has expanded the program to serve lunches during the summer months. It's also added longer hours and additional sites to its hot meal programs.

To help even more, we at the Pleasanton Weekly and Silicon Valley Community Foundation are handling all costs associated with this year's campaign. That means that every dollar goes directly to the 10 nonprofits with no administrative expenses. That's even more good news for you, the contributor, and the organizations that will benefit from your donation. See page 14 on how to give. ■

### About the Cover

Clare Dowling, a Tri-Valley native and dual-lung transplant recipient, is set to ride the Donate Life California float at the Rose Parade next week. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XV, Number 48



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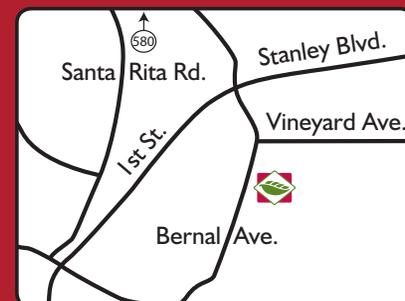
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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## What was at the top of your holiday wish list this year?



### Arleen Rossi

*Legal assistant*

I really wanted a pair of great headphones, so that during my commute to and from the city, I can tune out all of the BART passengers who talk loudly on their phones like there's no one else around.



### Charlie and Delia Delarosa

*Sales and retired*

We both had the same exact thing at the top of our wish list this year, which was to be surrounded by all of our family, and to spend time together, without any emphasis or focus on gifts.



### Jaishankar Jayakumar

*Project manager/program analyst*

I wanted nothing for myself. I just wanted to get gifts for my wife and for my 3-year-old daughter, who really loves all sorts of small, tiny things, and of course anything having to do with princesses and the movie "Frozen."



### Fotis and Mahshid Vassiliadis

*Jeweler and jewelry sales*

Our only wish for the holidays was for the health and well-being of all of our family and friends.



### Marika Yoshida

*Administrative consultant*

At the top of my wish list this year was that my family should be happy.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

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

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## DIGEST

### Library program

Internationally recognized human-figure photographer Ding Hong Wu will speak at the Pleasanton Public Library on Tuesday at 3 p.m. Wu will share his experiences and techniques while showing his renowned photographs and the stories behind them, according to event organizers.

Since the 1980s, Wu — a native of Shanghai, China now living in New York — has earned various awards in photography competitions in China and across the world. He has also published books of photographing techniques.

Tuesday's program is free and open to all. For more information, call 931-3410.

### Board president

The Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors has selected Edward R. Duarte as president and D.L.(Pat) Howard as vice president for 2015.

The board also approved a proposal to streamline administration and costs by reducing the number of committees and standing meetings. The board agreed to scheduling committee meetings on the same day as board meetings to the greatest extent possible.

In the past, the board's deliberative committees met monthly to develop recommendations on business requiring board action.

The board can now act on a matter or refer it to a committee so committees only meet when needed.

### Unemployment down

Unemployment rates across the Bay Area dropped in November, compared with a year ago, including a 1.1% decrease in Alameda County, according to data released last week by the state's Employment Development Department.

The Bay Area's best unemployment rate was Marin County at 3.9% while Solano County had the highest rate at 6.5%.

The statewide rate dropped to 7.2% in November. The U.S. rate was 5.8%. ■

### Correction

Pat Costanzo, a developer and member of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force, was quoted in last week's story about the East Side ("Council votes to move forward on East Side development planning," p. 5, Dec. 19, 2014) as saying the plan would provide more than \$10 million in infrastructure improvements. The amount should have read \$100 million.

## Despite rainfalls, Pleasanton sticking to 25% cutbacks in water use

Reservoirs still depleted from long-term drought, city's water czar says

By JEB BING

Don't look for any easing of Pleasanton's water restrictions anytime soon.

Daniel Smith, director of the city's Operations Services Department and Pleasanton's water czar, said that while heavy rains in recent weeks helped stem the severe drought conditions of recent months, they weren't enough to make much of a difference in depleted water reservoirs and groundwater storage.

"Most of state still faces an exceptional drought," Smith said.

"We will need a very wet winter to see things change."

He said Lake Oroville, which provides about 80% of the water Pleasanton uses and also is a major source for groundwater recharging, has "come up quite a bit but is still worse than last year" in terms of water levels.

"Still, we're going in the right direction," Smith added.

In a report to the Pleasanton City Council, which the council approved, Smith recommended continuing the State 3 water shortage declaration issued last May through

the winter months and into 2015. That includes penalties for those who fail to reduce home and business consumption by at least 25% compared to their water bills for the same periods in 2013.

"Since that time, the community has responsibly complied with this requirement and we are in a position to reach the 25% reduction target for the 2014 calendar year," Smith told the council. "We're at 96% compliance, the best in the Valley."

A decision to relax the penalties or to continue them through 2015 will be made after the winter

months when the extent and effectiveness of winter rains can be determined. In any event, if the 25% reduction mandate is continued, water consumption will still be measured against 2013 bills, not 2014 when reductions already have been made.

According to Smith, Pleasanton saw a 27% water use reduction in May, the first month of the restrictions. In subsequent months, the reduction was 34% in June, 37% in July, 33% in August and September, 30% in October, and down to 24% in November. ■

## Little Rock Nine member visits Harvest Park

450 listen to Melba Beals tell her story of helping desegregate Arkansas school

By AMANDA AGUILAR

Fifty-seven years ago, a group of nine African-American students — better known as the Little Rock Nine — walked through the doors of a segregated school in Little Rock, Ark.

Facing personal fears, threats from opposition, and verbal and physical assaults, these students found themselves at the center of one of the key events during the civil rights movement.

Little Rock Nine member Melba Pattillo Beals wrote a book titled "Warriors Don't Cry," in which she describes her experience integrating Little Rock Central High School, including an incident where a segregationist student threw acid into her eyes in an attempt to blind her.

Beals, now 73, brought her story to Pleasanton last week, speaking to students, parents and school officials at Harvest Park Middle School, where some eighth-graders had been assigned her book for class.

"You have what I was fighting for," Beals said to the 450 audience members Dec. 19.

She told the Harvest Park group that she wanted a better educa-



Harvest Park eighth-grader Nicole Park (left) asks Melba Beals to autograph her copy of Beals' book "Warriors Don't Cry."

AMANDA AGUILAR

tion than what she was receiving at her all-black high school.

"A better education means a better job," Beals added.

She described how not only were the Little Rock Nine disliked by segregationists, they also faced hostility from the black community in Arkansas.

"They thought we messed up their lives for going to Central High," she said. "Our black classmates' parents lost their jobs because of us."

She recalled an instance in

which the Little Rock Nine members went back to the all-black high school for a dance and none of the students talked to them.

Beals said that just a few weeks ago, one of the black students who ignored her at the dance nearly six decades ago sent her a letter apologizing for how she treated Beals back then.

In addition, Beals shared with the Pleasanton students a piece of advice given to her from one of

## Attorney: Ex-officer close to plea deal

Stands accused of stealing nude photos from Tri-Valley arrestees' cellphones

A former Dublin-area California Highway Patrol officer charged with two felony counts for allegedly sending nude pictures of two women in his custody to his personal cellphone is close to accepting a plea agreement that would resolve his case, his attorney said Monday.

Michael Rains, the defense attorney for ex-CHP Officer Sean Harrington, 35, told Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge Terri Mockler at a brief hearing in Martinez on Monday morning that he has had discussions with prosecutors in the case and "there will be a change of plea," but an agreement hasn't been finalized yet.

Mockler set another hearing for Jan. 27. Rains said he plans to talk to District Attorney Mark Peterson in the interim and will be ready to have Harrington, who remains free on bail, enter a plea at that time.

Outside court, Rains said, "I've had a number of discussions with Judge Mockler and deputy district attorney Barry Grove, and we're trying to reach a resolution that will involve a plea."

However, Rains said he doesn't



See **BEALS** on Page 6

See **CHP OFFICER** on Page 6

# Albertsons/Safeway to sell 168 stores in eight states as part of merger deal

Safeway to be de-listed from the NYSE when merger takes place next month

By JEB BING

Pleasanton-based Safeway Inc. and Boise-headquartered Albertsons have entered into agreements, subject to approval by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), to sell 168 stores across eight states to four buyers.

Associated Food Stores will purchase eight stores in Montana and Wyoming; Associated Wholesale Grocers/Minyards will purchase 12 stores in Texas; SUPERVALU will purchase two stores in Washington State, and Haggen will purchase 146 stores across Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Haggen is acquiring 32 Safeway-owned Vons stores in Southern California, Nevada and Arizona, as well as 12 Safeway-branded stores in Oregon and Washington State.

No Safeway-branded stores in Northern California, including the two in Pleasanton, are on the acquisition list.

Divestiture of these stores is being undertaken in order to secure FTC clearance of the companies' proposed merger, which was announced in March and is expected to close in January. The purchase agreements with the four buyers are all subject to approval by the FTC.

Under the terms of the purchase agreements, the buyers will acquire the stores, equipment and inven-

tory, and indicate they intend to hire most, if not all, of the store employees upon the closing of the purchase of the stores.

For a complete list of stores to be divested, visit the Albertsons website at [www.albertsons.com/tellmemore](http://www.albertsons.com/tellmemore).

"We're pleased to have found strong buyers for these stores and to have completed this important step toward combining Albertsons and Safeway," said Safeway president and CEO Robert Edwards, who will serve as the combined company's president and CEO.

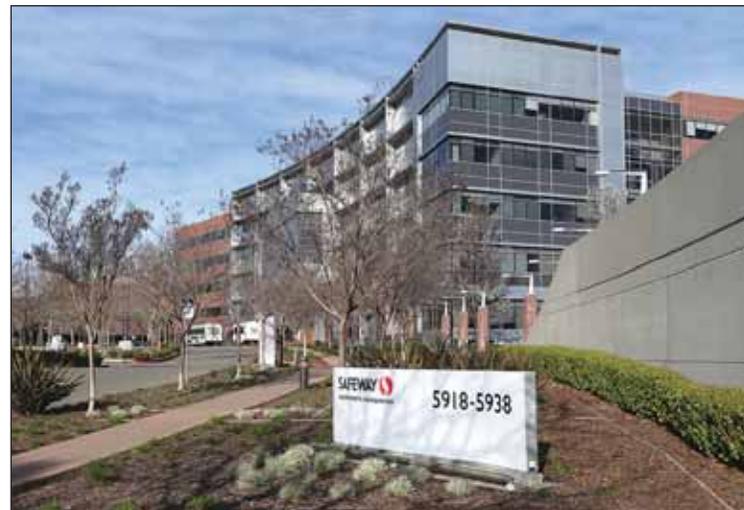
"We look forward now to the transaction's close, so we can begin working together to enhance the loyalty of grocery shoppers by delivering high-quality products, great service and lower prices to become the favorite local supermarket in every neighborhood we serve," he added.

Safeway Inc. operates Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Randalls, Tom Thumb and Carr's stores. It is a Fortune 100 company and one of the largest food and drug retailers in the U.S. with sales of \$35.1 billion in 2013.

Up to now, the company has operated 1,326 stores in 20 states and the District of Columbia, 13 distribution centers and 19 manufacturing plants, and employed approximately 138,000 workers.

The company's common stock is currently traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol SWY. However, the company will be de-listed from the NYSE upon closing of the merger.

For Albertsons, it all started in 1939 when Joe Albertson opened his first grocery store in Boise, Idaho. He called it "Idaho's largest and finest food store."



MIKE SEDLAK/MIKE@DIGITALSIGHT.COM

Safeway's Pleasanton headquarters.

Albertson was considered innovative in the industry. He had one of the first magazine racks in the country. He offered his customers hot, buttered popcorn, roasted nuts, and double-dipped homemade ice cream cones, plus one of the first scratch bakeries.

Today, Albertsons has evolved from the corner store into a national chain with 600-plus stores from California to Florida and with over 60,000 associates.

Albertson's LLC was formed in 2006, when the assets of Albertson's, Inc. were sold to three separate companies. SUPERVALU, out of Minnesota, bought the majority of the stores, and the free-standing drug stores in the south were sold to CVS. Albertson's LLC acquired stores in Northern California, Colorado, Utah, Nebraska, South Dakota, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Florida.

In 2013, Albertson's LLC was able to bring all of the Albertsons stores back together again by purchasing the assets from SUPERVALU that they had acquired in 2006 from the former Albertson's, Inc., bringing the company full-circle.

Albertsons (now identified without the apostrophe "s") was established in 2006 under the corporate name AB Acquisition LLC. It operates ACME, Albertsons, Jewel-Osco, Lucky, Shaws, Star Market and Super Saver, and stores under the United Family of stores, Amigos, Market Street and United Supermarkets.

The company is privately owned by Cerberus Capital Management, Kimco Realty Corp., Klaff Realty, Lubert-Adler Partners and Schottenstein Stores Corporation, and currently operates 1,081 stores and 14 distribution centers in 29 states and employs approximately 115,000 associates. ■

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## CHP OFFICER

Continued from Page 5

know at this time what a plea agreement would involve for Harrington, who is charged with two counts of unauthorized access to a computer and copying computer data.

The defense attorney said he's moving toward a plea deal because, "I don't think we need to play this out with an evidentiary hearing."

Prosecutors said the first incident involving Harrington occurred in Livermore on Aug. 6, when a 19-year-old woman was arrested for driving under the influence in connection with an accident in which she was injured.

While the woman was being treated at a hospital, Harrington allegedly searched her phone and sent private photos from her cellphone to his.

The second incident happened on Aug. 29, when Harrington arrested a woman in San Ramon for driving under the influence and booked her into the Martinez Detention Facility. When she was released from custody, she realized several of her personal photos had been sent to Harrington's cellphone, prosecutors said.

The woman's attorney notified prosecutors, who obtained search warrants for Harrington's phone and computer. Prosecutors said forensic evidence confirms Harrington transmitted the photos to his cellphone as well as to two members of the

CHP's Dublin office.

So far, only Harrington has been charged in the case, but prosecutors have said they would charge others if more information comes to light.

Prosecutors and public defenders have said they are both reviewing cases involving Harrington and the officers to whom he sent pictures.

Harrington, who resigned from the CHP in late October, told investigators in the case that the practice of sharing female arrestees' nude photos was not uncommon in the Dublin office of the CHP, according to search warrant records. The search warrant said Harrington first learned of the practice while working at the CHP office in Los Angeles. ■

—Bay City News Service

## BEALS

Continued from Page 5

the U.S. Army soldiers ordered by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to escort the Little Rock Nine into the high school.

"No matter what someone does to you, you don't have time to cry,"

he told Beals.

She added that message helped her stay strong, no matter what people said or did to her.

Beals encouraged the Pleasanton students to "never make a decision about someone based on color."

"That is just wrong," she added.

Beals answered a few questions

from the local students and then ended her presentation by telling the group, "The only answer to solving our problems is love. You each are wonderful. You each are deserving of always having the best. Protect your dream."

"That same heroine that lives inside of me, lives inside of you," she said. ■

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# Alameda County employees set new record for donations to food bank

‘Workforce generous, creative, committed,’ County Administrator says

By JEB BING

Six Alameda County departments have been honored with awards for their winning entries in the county's second annual Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition.

The entries this year helped the county smash its all-time record for employee donations to its annual Holiday Food Drive to support the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

County employees donated more than eight tons of food and over \$8,000 in cash to nearly double the county's previous record, set last year.

“This shows that when we mobilize our 9,500-plus employees, we can really make a difference,” said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County administrator. “Our dedicated workforce and executive lead-

ers are generous, creative and committed to improving our communities and the lives of our residents.”

The food drive's success was achieved by creating some friendly competition between county departments that were urged to rise above their peers in terms of total donations raised and to test their artistic know-how by creating compelling sculptures and other art pieces using donated food cans, boxes and packages, according to county officials.

The displays, which focus on the theme of hunger, have adorned Alameda County public buildings over the past several weeks.

A panel of five judges reviewed the entries made by 14 different county departments in this year's competition. Winners in this year's Stone Soup competition were:

## Most Innovative Award: District Attorney's Office

This award went to the entry seen to show the best incorporation of food in its display. The winning entry is a detailed replica of the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse near Oakland's Lake Merritt. The model was built with more than 1,300 pounds of food and stands more than 6 feet tall.

## Most Creative Award: Registrar of Voters' Office

This entry, which received the judges' highest score for creativity, is a model depicting the Oakland shoreline that includes the Port of Oakland's iconic cargo cranes. The model incorporated the 556 pounds of food donated to the food drive by registrar employees.

## Chef's Award: Auditor- Controller Agency

This award, given for the highest combined scores for incorporation of food and for creativity, went to the Auditor Agency's depiction of Shel Silverstein's story, “The Giving Tree.” The display incorporated 1,120 pounds of food.

## Best Recipe Award: Information Technology Department

The department created a detailed replica of the robot “Wall-E,” from the Pixar Animation movie, that incorporates more than 2,222 pounds of food. The award weighed the IT department's high totals for food donations, as well as the \$1,024.50 in cash donations made by employees.

## Honorable Mention: County Administrator's Office and County Counsel's Office

This entry used 550 pounds of donated food to create a model of the food bank's Mobile Food Pantry and the food bank itself. The County Counsel created a model of the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum and a large football using 806.25 pounds of donated food.

“These amazing displays are what people are talking about as they pass through our county buildings,” said Keith Carson, president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. “We hope that the generosity and creative talents of our employees inspire others to have conversations about the basic needs of our communities and take action to help end hunger here in Alameda County.” ■

# Clorox scholarship program accepting applications

Applicants must be a high school senior in PUSD

By AMANDA AGUILAR

The Clorox Co. Foundation is now seeking applicants for the “Clorox Scholarships” administered by the Marcus Foster Education Fund (MFEF).

The scholarships are directed to students in Pleasanton (as well as Oakland) — cities where Clorox

has its corporate headquarters and a large research facility, respectively — as company officials say they believe in investing in the communities where it operates.

Eligible local applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Currently a high school senior in the Pleasanton Unified School

District

- Have attended a PUSD public or charter school for at least the last two years

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75

- Complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application by March 2

- Plan to attend a four-year institution, two-year institution, or trade/technical program this fall following graduation from high school

- Have a letter of recommendation from an adult who can speak about the student's experiences.

When awarded, recipients are

required to attend an orientation and a district-led scholarship awards ceremony.

The students should also be educationally motivated and embody Foster's vision that education requires the involvement of the whole community, foundation representatives said.

Those interested can apply at <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/20625-Marcus-Foster-Education-Fund> now through March 2. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tulancingo exchange students make a visit to the Oakland A's game while in Pleasanton last summer.

# Sister City Association seeks exchange students for summer in Mexico

Sophomore to seniors with two years of Spanish eligible for Tulancingo trip

The Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association is opening applications for its youth cultural exchange summer program next year.

Eligible high school students must have completed two years of Spanish classes by the end of the current school year to apply.

The cultural exchange is an enriching experience for students and their families. This experience can apply as community service graduation requirements and is an excellent experience to enhance any potential college entrance portfolio.

Students can attend any of the following informational meetings to learn about the application and selection process:

- Jan. 7 - Foothill High School (students only), lunch time, Room B27.

- Jan. 8 - Amador Valley High School (students only), lunch time, Meeting room Q201.

- Jan. 14 - Foothill (parents and students), 7-8 p.m., Meeting room C-6.

- Jan. 15 - Amador (parents and students), 7-8 p.m., Meeting

room Q201.

- Jan. 21 - Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. (parents and students), 7-8 p.m.

- Feb. 18 - Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. (parents and students), 7-8 p.m.

More information about the exchange program can be found on the association's website at [www.ptsca.org](http://www.ptsca.org). Student recommendations can be made by email to [annangst@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annangst@sbcglobal.net) or by calling 209-5825. ■

—Jeb Bing

# Livermore Lab's National Ignition Facility earns magazine's award

Achievement of fuel gain one of top ‘Breakthroughs of Year’

Physics World, an international monthly magazine published by the Institute of Physics, has named Livermore National Laboratory's National Ignition Facility's (NIF) achievement of fuel gain one of its top 10 “Breakthroughs of the Year.”

Ignition, the process of releasing fusion energy equal to or greater than the amount of energy used to confine the fuel, has long been considered the “holy grail” of inertial confinement fusion science.

Before achieving ignition, a key step along the path is to have “fuel gains” greater than unity, where the energy generated through fusion reactions exceeds the amount of energy deposited into the fusion fuel and alpha-particle self-heating of the fusing region.

The Livermore Lab facility, the world's largest and most energetic laser, was the first facility to ever reach the milestone of achieving fuel gains greater than 1 with significant levels of alpha-heating.

In a paper published in the Feb. 12 online issue of the journal Na-

ture, scientists detailed a series of experiments conducted at NIF which showed an order of magnitude improvement in yield performance over past experiments.

“Creating the conditions for sustained nuclear fusion to occur in the laboratory has proven notoriously challenging, but persevering is essential because success could lead to safe and clean sources of energy,” said Hamish Johnston, editor of [physicsworld.com](http://physicsworld.com).

“By obtaining a fuel gain of greater than one, the team working at the National Ignition Facility has taken an important step towards realizing fusion energy,” Johnston added.

The Physics World editorial team reported that the top 10 breakthroughs were selected using the following criteria: fundamental importance of research, significant advance in knowledge, strong connection between theory and experiment, and general interest to all physicists. ■

—Jeb Bing

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# Time to talk Medicare

Health care choices becoming bigger factor before retirement

By **JASON ALDERMAN**

If your 65th birthday is around the corner or you're anxious about Medicare, it's a good time to start focusing on your options.

Health care choice is becoming a bigger factor in the lives of pre-retirees as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) — better known as Obamacare — brings significant change to employer-sponsored and individually purchased health plans.

Though a separate federal health insurance system with no connection to Obamacare or its online marketplaces, Medicare is going through its own evolution in terms of plan offerings and customer access.

Here's a basic primer for future Medicare enrollees:

**What is Medicare?** Medicare is a government-provided health and hospitalization insurance program for people 65 and older and for some people under age 65 based on disability or particular forms of illness.

**What does it cost?** Though you've likely paid taxes into the Medicare system your entire career, Medicare isn't a completely free program; you'll pay premiums deducted from your Social Security

checks for some portions of your benefits. There may be co-pays and deductibles for certain services. If you have health issues already, it's a good idea to investigate coverage based on the services you're likely to need over time.

**When do I get to join?** You can apply for Medicare through your nearest Social Security office up to three months before your 65th birthday. If you wait longer than three months after your 65th birthday to apply, you may face a late enrollment penalty. If you are already drawing Social Security benefits at age 65, you'll be automatically enrolled in Medicare.

**What does Medicare coverage look like?** Keep in mind that you can get many current answers to Medicare questions online or in person at your nearest Social Security office. But as of late 2014, here's an overview of current Medicare plans:

- Parts A (Hospital) and B (Outpatient). Part A covers inpatient hospital care and Part B covers outpatient medical care and procedures. You'll hear Parts A and B referred to as "Original Medicare" or "Traditional Medicare" because if you choose to take this option, you'll sign up for them as a pair.

You'll get to go to any doctor, hospital or facility that's enrolled in Medicare and accepting new Medicare patients. You'll end up paying a premium for Part B which can

change from year-to-year while Part A is usually free for most people.

- Part C (Medicare Advantage). Call this one-stop shopping for your hospital, outpatient (Part A and B) and usually your prescription coverage (see Part D, below). Medicare Advantage policies are sold by private insurers — Medicare pays their share and you pay your premium.

They may include differing assortments of services: vision, prescription drug, dental or hearing. But keep in mind different Medicare Advantage plans have different rules for services and can charge different out-of-network costs.

- Part D (Prescription drug coverage). Part D added prescription drug coverage to "Original" Medicare, but as mentioned, may be folded into Medicare Advantage coverage if you elect to take it.

**What's "Medigap" insurance?** If you go with "Original" Medicare (Part A and B), you'll find some gaps in your Medicare coverage.

Medigap is the nickname for Medicare Supplement Insurance, which you purchase privately. Some employers and unions offer Medigap coverage to retirees, and these plans can vary widely in terms of cost, coverage and state participation.

Also, if you're on Medicare Advantage, it's unlikely you'll need separate Medigap coverage, but it's

## TAKE US ALONG



**Trailblazers:** Julian and Daniel Lovelock, Ryan Li, Allan House, Christian and Jeff Rowland, Brayden House, and Bronco and Tommy Hinek pose for their companion Samuel Li with the Pleasanton Weekly, while biking the Hole in the Ground trail at Lake Tahoe.

important to check.

**What if you plan to keep working with company health benefits after you turn 65?** Confer with your financial advisor, human resources department and Medicare before you make any decisions, but you may qualify for a special enrollment period as a result. You'll need to coordinate with your spouse as well if you share any kind of health coverage as part of coordinating your overall retirement picture.

People who continue to work past 65 may enroll in Part A but bypass Part B and D if they're already on a company plan.

**Are your doctors on the plan?** You've probably have some experience with this from checking to see whether your physicians are in-network with whatever health insurance you currently carry.

You'll continue to do this on Medicare Advantage. Check availability of doctors and costs on any plan you're considering, particularly out-of-network costs.

**What's the best way to tie all this stuff together?** Stop looking at your health, investment, retirement and tax issues separately. Medicare is a critical piece of the health care affordability puzzle, but it's important to consider choices — and potential worst-case scenarios — within the scope of your broader retirement plan.

Bottom line: Whether you plan to retire at 65 or stay in your career as long as possible, it's important to understand Medicare and how it can work for you. ■

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. Follow him on Twitter, @PracticalMoney.



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# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Woman dies after suspicious incident at Livermore outlets

A 61-year-old Arizona woman, who was injured Dec. 9 in a suspicious incident at the Livermore Premium Outlets parking lot, succumbed to her injuries Dec. 16, Livermore police said last week.

Marjorie Hillerman was found injured and lying on the ground unconscious in the parking lot located at 22774 Paragon Outlets Drive at 12:15 p.m. Dec. 9, Livermore Police Officer Steve Goard said.

Detectives still don't know how the woman was injured, according to Goard.

Livermore police initially publicized the incident with the hope that leads would follow, but investigators have yet to receive any responses, Goard said.

"We were hoping the public had heard something or saw something, but we have gotten nothing in response," Goard said late last week. "We have no leads and no new information. The only thing that has changed is that unfortunately, she has passed away."

Officers did receive information from the public about a white four-door sedan that was seen leaving the area around the same time as the incident, according to Goard.

Anyone with information is urged to call Det. Glen Robbins at 294-9585.

In other police reports:

- A pedestrian who was killed after being struck by a ve-

hicle on Stoneridge Drive last week has been identified as 24-year-old David Reardon of Livermore, according to the Alameda County coroner's bureau.

Reardon apparently darted out from bushes alongside Stoneridge Drive near Guzman Parkway into the path of a car traveling eastbound shortly after 8 p.m. on Dec. 17, according to Pleasanton police after an investigation of the incident.

That evidence and statements from witnesses indicate the driver of the vehicle was traveling at the speed limit, according to police Sgt. Pat Walsh. He said alcohol was not a factor, and while it was raining heavily at the time, weather does not appear to have been a contributing factor.

Reardon was given first aid by an off-duty police officer who was passing by at the time. But despite lifesaving efforts by the officer and paramedics, Reardon died at the scene.

Stoneridge Drive was closed for approximately three hours and reopened at 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 17.

- A Pleasanton woman was arrested Dec. 21 for allegedly assaulting another woman with a deadly weapon.

Pleasanton police reports said a female victim called the police station to report that Kori Dee Neilson, who was the primary caregiver for the parents of the victim's girlfriend, had hit her five to six times with a metal pool stick and plastic broom.

The reporting party also alleged that Neilson tackled her, leaving scratches on both sides of her neck.

When police arrived at the residence on Sandpiper Way, officers could hear yelling coming from inside the home.

According to police, the dispute started when Neilson confronted the other woman about her noisy dogs.

Neilson was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and booked at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

- Pleasanton police are currently looking for two black women who allegedly stole a \$300 purse from the Walmart manager's office on Santa Rita Road.

The store's video surveillance shows two women walking into the store and toward the office while carrying a large shopping bag, police said.

The video then shows the two women leaving the store within seconds, and they were still carrying the shopping bag — which appeared full, police reports said. The manager told officers that the two women did not make any purchases at the store.

- A 26-year old Dublin man was arrested on suspicion of receiving stolen property and providing false identification to police Dec. 19 after an officer stopped him for biking in the dark without lights on Sunol Boulevard.

According to police, when the officer contacted Corey Douglas Ledebor, the officer asked if he could search Ledebor's backpack and Ledebor gave the officer permission to do so.

The officer allegedly found a California bail agent's badge, which had been listed as stolen. Police also allege Ledebor lied to the officer about his name prior to the search.

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

—Amanda Aguilar

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Dec. 11

#### Theft

- 10:58 a.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road; theft from auto
- 3:58 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:21 p.m. in the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure
- 6:46 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

#### Residential burglary

- 3:42 p.m. in the 7800 block of Golden Eagle Way

#### DUI

- 7:01 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

### Dec. 12

#### Alcohol violation

- 1:11 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive; DUI
- 2:03 a.m. in the 4600 block of Willow Road
- 12:38 p.m. in the 3800 block of Hopyard Road
- 11:12 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street
- 11:34 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

#### Graffiti offense

- 6:18 a.m. in the 4500 block of First Street

#### Theft from auto

- 9:49 a.m. in the 5700 block of Corte Libre
- 9:47 a.m. in the 3500 block of Rathbone Way
- 3:25 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- 4:59 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Dec. 13

#### Alcohol violation

- 12:22 a.m. in the 5200 block of

Hopyard Road; DUI

- 2:57 a.m. in the 4500 block of Mohr Avenue

- 3:54 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

#### Theft

- 9:34 a.m. in the 3700 block of Stanley Boulevard
- 3:19 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto
- 7:54 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 10:04 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Sex offenses

- 11:42 p.m. on Springhouse Drive

### Dec. 14

#### Residential burglary

- 12:34 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 11:38 a.m. in the 1300 block of Rhone Place

#### Shoplifting

- 9:37 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

### Dec. 15

#### Theft

- 8:47 a.m. in the 3600 block of Fairlands Drive; theft from auto
- 9:43 a.m. in the 3300 block of Vermont Place; theft from auto
- 9:53 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; bicycle theft

#### Embezzlement

- 2:54 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

### Dec. 16

#### Drug violation

- 2:27 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
- 3:33 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

#### Theft

- 9:48 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; theft from auto

- 12:50 p.m. in the 8100 block of Regency Drive; theft from auto

- 1:21 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 6:19 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; shoplifting

#### Graffiti offense

- 10:39 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Kolln Street

#### Missing person report

- 6:01 p.m. in the 2700 block of Trailside Circle

### Dec. 17

#### DUI

- 1:37 a.m. in the 900 block of Division Street

#### Graffiti offense

- 8:49 a.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

- 9:53 a.m. in the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

#### Battery

- 5:45 p.m. at the intersection of Mirador Drive and Bonde Court

#### Drug violation

- 9:30 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

### Dec. 18

#### Theft

- 8:26 a.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way; theft from auto

- 6:04 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; bicycle theft

- 7:24 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 8:16 p.m. in the 800 block of Madeira Drive

#### Graffiti offense

- 8:44 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

#### Sex offenses

- 9:19 a.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Alcohol violation

- 2:19 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Drug violation

- 2:24 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street

- 10:25 p.m. at the intersection of Laurel Creek Drive and Foothill Road

#### Residential burglary

- 4:50 p.m. in the 1300 block of Rhone Place

- 6:09 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

- 6:24 p.m. in the 8100 block of Moller Ranch Drive

- 8:56 p.m. in the 900 block of Montevino Drive

### Dec. 19

#### Commercial burglary

- 7:25 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

- 8:45 a.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

#### Theft

- 11:15 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; theft from structure

- 12:35 p.m. in the 2800 block of Foothill Oaks Drive

- 1:26 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; bicycle theft

- 5:55 p.m. in the 3400 block of Kamp Drive

- 6:18 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

#### Vandalism

- 1:28 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court

#### Sex offenses

- 4:13 p.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Battery

- 8:23 p.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street

### Dec. 20

#### Graffiti

- 9:25 a.m. in the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive

#### Theft

- 10:09 a.m. in the 4200 block of Diavila Avenue



#### DUI

- 4:06 p.m. at the intersection of Tanager Drive and Mohr Avenue

#### Missing person report

- 11:08 p.m. Street information not disclosed.

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### Council makes right decision on East Side planning process

The Pleasanton City Council made the right decision last week to move forward on planning future land-use options for the East Side, a 1,000-acre site east of Valley Avenue and adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and Stanley Boulevard that extends to the Livermore city limits.

The 25-member East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force has been meeting for the past 29 months at the direction of the council. Its work in determining what uses might be suitable for public/private development is too close to completion and its research into various land-use options too comprehensive to be stopped now, as some no-growth advocates have urged.

The council's 3-1 vote to approve the task force's plan to carry on was really no surprise. Mayor Jerry Thorne and Councilwoman Kathy Narum, in winning re-election Nov. 4, vowed during their campaigns to complete the East Side planning process.

So did newly-elected Councilman Arne Olson and already seated Councilman Jerry Pentin. Councilwoman Karla Brown, who wanted the planning process halted, voted against its continuation. Olson, who lives near the East Side, recused himself from voting.

The council's action approved nothing specific, only to endorse the task force's bid to keep its studies going. As it is, the task force has pared down the once-considered option of building 2,279 housing units (high-density apartments and homes) to a new base plan of 1,300 units. That plan will now be submitted for an environmental review.

To undertake the study, the task force will work with outside consultants to determine the impact of the base plan on Pleasanton. These will include a geologist, biologist, traffic analysts and geotechnical professionals who will look at the entire 1,000-acre site. Much of it is owned by Zone 7 and consists of lakes and water retention basin. No more than 400 acres of the site appear to be suitable for development.

Their studies will focus on possible smog, traffic congestion, water quality, transportation and other concerns typical in a large development project such as this one that would include retail and industrial uses as well as housing. The development, as proposed, would include public parks and open space and trails.

The Pleasanton school district has asked planners to require developers to donate land for a new elementary school, and



JEB BING

Pleasanton's East Side that would be subject to future development includes this area next to Pleasanton Garbage Services' recycling center on Busch Road.

then to build the school, which would cost developers as much as \$40 million and the school district an estimated \$1 million in annual operating costs.

During the coming months, an economic analysis will be made by representatives of Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., a Berkeley firm, whose findings will accompany the final environmental impact report.

Major infrastructure improvements suggested by members of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force, planners, council members, the school district and others call for nearly \$100 million in "goodies," including the new school and also \$18 million to construct an undercrossing beneath the Union Pacific tracks to connect El Charro Road to Stanley Boulevard.

Bridges over the Arroyo Mocho and other construction requirements to extend El Charro from the newly extended Stoneridge Drive would cost another \$10 million. Proposed parks and trails to serve the East Side development could cost another \$35 million.

When the planning process is complete (expected in late 2015), the city Planning Commission and City Council also will consider the task force's recommendations in public hearings. Once a final plan is approved, it will go to voters for public approval, probably in a special election in March 2016. ■

### YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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

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# Happy New Year

## Firehouse kicks off new year with Elvis

Tribute show celebrates icon's 80th birthday

Elvis Presley will kick off the 2015 programming at the Firehouse Arts Center — that is, Jim Anderson & The Rebels will be back by popular demand with their Early Elvis Tribute Show.

“Happy Birthday, Elvis,” which will celebrate the king's 80th birthday weekend, begins at 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 3, and will include the songs that keep the legend alive, from “Heartbreak Hotel” and “Hound Dog” to “Don't Be Cruel” and “Jailhouse Rock.”

Along with his band the Rebels, Anderson will recreate the sound, the songs and the memories of Elvis Presley, and join together with the crowds in Memphis and fans all over the world to wish him

a happy birthday.

Anderson has made a name for himself with his tribute to the early years (1954-1966) and early hits of Elvis Presley. He describes himself not as an Elvis impersonator but rather an interpreter of his early music and is thought by many to be the best performing today.

Anderson said he began performing in 1986 while in high school after being coerced by his football buddies. After about six words of “Love Me Tender,” to his surprise, he received a screaming standing ovation and could barely hear the music. The reaction was so positive that he was immediately booked for several small venues.

The venues continued to grow

larger, and Anderson became an opening act for such groups as the Platters, the Coasters and the Isley Brothers.

For those who had the opportunity to see and hear Elvis Presley in the first half of his career, this show will bring back great memories. For those who never had the opportunity to see Elvis when his brand of rock 'n' roll was considered “dangerous,” this show will take you back in time and introduce the songs that changed the direction of music forever.

Reserved seating tickets are \$15-\$25. For tickets, go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), call 931-4848, or visit the Firehouse box office at 4444 Railroad Ave. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jim Anderson (shown) and his band, The Rebels, will start the 2015 slate of shows at the Firehouse Arts Center on Jan. 3 with their “Happy Birthday, Elvis” performance.



## Dress for success in the new year

Clothes to workspace — make it professional

When it comes to professional success, the way you present yourself in the workplace should complement the quality of your work. Whether you're looking to advance your career or simply make a great impression, a useful New Year's resolution is to refine your office look and style — take everything into account, your wardrobe, your accessories and your workspace.

### Wardrobe

You may not have the top job yet, but the old adage holds true — dress for the job you want, not the one you have. If budget is an issue, don't sweat it. Online coupons can help you score great deals at mass market retailers. Additionally, discount department stores often sell designer labels at a fraction of the cost.

Be sure to press your clothes even if your office is business casual. Invest in an iron and give

yourself a few extra minutes in the morning to ensure clothes are wrinkle-free.

Every season, go through your closet and set aside clothes that no longer fit, are worn out, faded or out of style. Donate these clothes and make room for new ones.

### Accessories

Rocking the basics can make a great impression at meetings, conventions and other professional events. Show employers, colleagues and clients organization is important to you by carrying a planner and business notebook.

Choose a sleek design so it not only keeps you organized and helps you track your story but can act as a highly useful accessory to your professional style. Whether you're looking to stay organized by the day, week or month, a planner won't just help to improve your image; it can also help remind you of upcoming

deadlines so you stay organized.

### Workspace

Take ownership of your workspace. Your desk, cubicle or office is visible round-the-clock, even when you are off-the-clock, so make sure it makes a great impression.

A few personal items are welcome in most workplaces. Just be sure any personal photos of friends and family that you display are tasteful and appropriate.

Lastly, display a stylish wall calendar on your cubicle or office wall to keep important dates in view. Or if you prefer, a desk pad calendar gives you the same view of your busy month ahead. You want colleagues to know that not only do you have a full plate, you know what's on it.

By fine-tuning your look, you can help make 2015 the year you reach your professional goals and look great doing it. ■

—StatePoint



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*Happy New Year*

# Cheers

## without fears

**How to drink during the holidays and maintain your waistline and demeanor**

By JUSTINE SANFILIPPO

The holidays often mean parties, food, cocktails, more food, more cocktails and more parties.

Alcohol not only contains empty calories, but it can lead to lower inhibitions and self-control around the appetizers and desserts. Drinking too much can also lead to embarrassing conversations and situations with co-workers (or your boss!) that can cause you to regret something you said or did the next day.

So, how do you not only enjoy these parties while maintaining your professional demeanor, but maintaining your waistline as well? Here are eight tips to follow this holiday season:

### Know what you are drinking

Alcoholic beverages come in many different calorie ranges. Since they contain empty calories no matter what, we might as well drink those with the fewest amount of calories. Here are examples of some low-calorie options:

- 1 glass of red or white wine — 120 cal
- 1 glass of champagne — 77 cal
- 1 glass white wine spritzer — 90 cal
- 1 oz. vodka or gin with club soda — 64 cal
- 12 oz. light beer — 55-120 cal

### Drink water

Alcohol acts a diuretic, which causes dehydration. Becoming too dehydrated can be unhealthy and possibly even dangerous in extreme circumstances because each cell in the body craves water to function properly.

To maintain your mental sharpness, reduce the calories you intake, and still enjoy the festivities, be sure to drink water before you go the party, as well as after each alcoholic beverage.

### Set a drink limit before you leave

Planning is always important when trying to reduce or maintain your waistline, from planning meals and snacks to planning workouts. The same is true for planning before you go to the party. Give yourself a guideline to enjoy a drink maximum (I would recommend a two drink max) and then call it a day and stick to water.

### Drink coconut water

If you find yourself drinking more than you had planned or that the alcohol hits you more than you would have liked, you may find yourself with a bit of a hangover. The best solution to help you feel better sooner is to drink coconut water.

Most brands contain about six times more potassium than a banana, which is one of the electrolytes lost when consuming alcohol. Drink some coconut water before you go to bed and when you wake up, and you'll be feeling better in no time.



### Eat before you go to the party

It is very important to have some food on your stomach before you go to the party. Why? When a person drinks alcohol on an empty stomach, there is no food to absorb the alcohol, so the effects are stronger. By eating before you leave, not only will you have some food on your stomach, but the appetizers and desserts at the buffet table won't be nearly as tempting.

### Sip, don't chug

Chugging at parties may have been something that was cool in college, but in a professional setting with friends and colleagues, it's never a good idea. Sip your favorite beverage while you network, talk to your friends and have a good time and still maintain professionalism.

### Select a designated driver or take a cab

As always, it is important to be safe during the holiday season, especially if you know you are going to go to a party and drink alcohol. Talk to your friends and select a designated driver for the evening, or split a cab (or even a car service — it's the holidays after all!) That way you can ensure that everyone will not only have fun but be safe as well.

### You don't have to drink

Nobody says you have to drink at a holiday party. If you are serious about maintaining or slimming your waistline during the holiday season, do what is true for you. Have a seltzer water with a twist of lemon or lime instead and nobody will know the difference. ■

*Editor's note: Justine SanFilippo, a certified health coach, nutritionist and personal trainer.*



# Happy Holidays



*from all of us at*

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2014



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CIERRA BAILEY

Clare Dowling, at her family's Livermore home while on Thanksgiving break from college, shows off photos of her "glory" horseback riding days as a teenager, describing what life was like before she was diagnosed with a rare lung disease and underwent a double-lung transplant.

By CIERRA BAILEY

Clare Dowling, a Tri-Valley native and dual-lung transplant recipient, is set to appear in the 126th annual Rose Parade on New Year's Day in Pasadena, standing as a symbol of the lives that can be saved by organ donation.

Dowling, currently a senior at UC Santa Barbara, will ride on the "Never Ending Story" float of Donate Life California, a statewide nonprofit organization responsible for facilitating the organ, eye and tissue registry.

"It is really an honor to be chosen to be on the Donate Life float," Dowling, 23, said. "I had seen it in the past and felt that it was a beautiful way to honor donors and their families because they are the true heroes in this. Without them, I would not be here, so I'm forever thankful."

"Inspiring stories" is the theme for the upcoming Rose Parade and the Never Ending Story float will include 60 butterflies — which represent how many lives can be saved by one deceased donor — emerging from an open book.

A Danville native whose family now lives in Livermore, Dowling is alive today because of receiving a successful double-lung transplant in 2010 that was required after she was diagnosed with a rare lung disease as a college freshman.

Dowling will be one of 30 transplant recipients riding atop the Donate Life California float seated among a garden of roses dedicated to deceased donors. Walking alongside the float will be 12 regis-

## 'With every breath I take'

Tri-Valley native, lung transplant recipient to appear in Rose Parade



COURTESY OF DOWLING FAMILY

Dowling shown the day after receiving a double-lung transplant in August 2010. She was bedridden for a month before undergoing the procedure and remained in the hospital for nearly three months post-transplant.

tered organ donors.

One Legacy, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that focuses on organ and tissue recovery, is sponsoring Dowling's participation in Pasadena's annual parade welcoming the new year.

"I'm just one of thousands of organ recipients, and each person has their own unique story and connection to their donor," Dowling said. "But it will be a wonderful moment to dedicate a rose to my donor and I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to do that and to represent One Legacy."

Dowling was fresh off graduating from Danville's Monte Vista High School and in the midst of her first semester of classes at CSU Chico in 2009 when she contracted pneumonia and mononucleosis simultaneously. She went home to Danville just before the start of winter vacation to recover from the illnesses, she said.

Upon her return to college after recuperating, Dowling began to experience exhaustion while walking to and from classes.

"I would get lightheaded, I had to take breaks in the middle of walking to my dorm after class and I couldn't get up stairs," she said.

Dowling thought her body was weak from recently being sick, but her condition did not get better as time went on. She said she became concerned and visited her doctor, who discovered her oxygen levels were low.

She was later sent to a lung specialist, who ruled out asthma, allergies and exposure to poor air quali-



CIERRA BAILEY

Clare Dowling and the family dog, "Co-Co."

ty as causes of Dowling's symptoms and ultimately diagnosed her with pulmonary veno-occlusive disease.

PVOD is characterized by the narrowing of the pulmonary veins by sometimes loose, or more dense and collagen-rich, fibrous tissue inside of the pulmonary veins, according to ValleyCare Health System pulmonologist Dr. Chirag Pandya, who practices in Pleasanton and Livermore.

"The prognosis in PVOD is grim," Pandya said, speaking about the condition in general, as he was not the doctor who treated Dowling. "Most patients have a rapidly progressive course with most reported patients dying within two years of diagnosis without proper treatment."

According to Pandya, medical treatments for pulmonary hypertension can help keep the lungs functioning for some time, but lung transplantation is the only treatment capable of significantly prolonging and improving the lives of people with PVOD.

In Dowling's case, shortly after

the initial diagnosis, she was given a portable oxygen tank and placed on the national transplant waiting list.

"After my diagnosis and finding out I would need a transplant, I just tried to stay positive and make the best of it," she said. "My dad and I went to Disneyland, and I started taking a guitar class just to have something to do with my time and keep my mind off of everything."

Dowling's health started to decline during the summer of 2010, and she began to faint regularly.

One fainting incident occurred while she was climbing stairs at her family's Danville home. Her parents immediately took her to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek where she was admitted for a few days before being transported to UC San Francisco Medical Center.

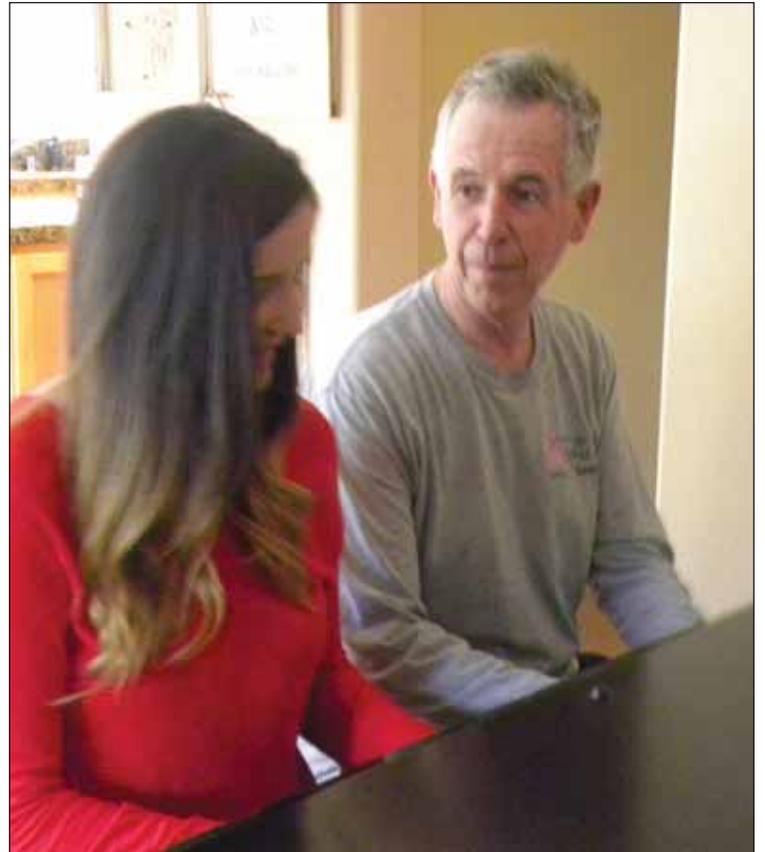
While at UCSF, Dowling passed out in the shower and was transferred to the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) as a result. During her time in ICU, she was elevated on the transplant waiting list due to drastic need.

Dowling was placed on an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machine which provided cardiac and respiratory support to keep her lungs functioning until transplant. She was bedridden and dependent on the machine for 31 days, she said.

Hospital staff searched for suitable organs based on Dowling's size, blood type and distance from the potential donor. A donor match was eventually identified, and on Aug. 26, 2010, Dowling underwent a double-lung transplant.

"I thought getting a transplant was going to be a lot easier than it actually was," she said. "My recovery was very challenging and scary. It felt weird with someone else's lungs inside of me. I had to re-learn how to breathe and it almost felt like I was suffocating."

Dowling's recovery process also included physical therapy to regain the use of her legs. She suffered severe nerve damage due, in part, to poor blood circulation from laying in one position for an extended



CIERRA BAILEY

Dowling and her father, Brian, play holiday tunes on the family piano.

period of time while bedridden, she said. She was able to walk again about nine months post transplant.

Once Dowling was in a healthy condition after recovery, she went back to one of her favorite childhood activities — riding horses. She also volunteered at a Livermore-based therapeutic horseback riding facility called Hoofprints on the Heart.

"Riding and helping out at Hoofprints on the Heart really boosted my confidence and gave me something to look forward to," Dowling said. "There was a family vibe there and in that moment, I wasn't thinking about my disability and the difficulties I was experiencing."

Dowling and her family also became involved with the Cali-

fornia Transplant Donor Network (CTDN), a Donate Life organization that coordinates organ and tissue recovery and distribution in Northern California. She became a "Donate Life ambassador," someone with a connection or belief in the cause to help educate others about the need for organ donation.

Kidney and liver are the two organs most commonly needed, according to Tony Borders, communications manager for CTDN.

Statewide, about 19,500 people are on the waiting list for kidneys and approximately 75% have been waiting between one and five years, according to Borders.

For liver donations, about 2,015 are on the waiting list and about 67% have been waiting within the same time span. One in five people on the national transplant waiting list lives in California, according to Donate Life California.

Dowling, who enrolled at UC Santa Barbara in 2013, has spoken to students, hospitals and other citizen groups about her experiences as well as telling her story in public service announcements for the organization.

"It's important to raise awareness and honor donors. With every breath I take, that represents someone who has saved my life and that makes them and their families heroes," Dowling said.

More than 11 million Californians are registered organ, eye and tissue donors, according to Donate Life California. In September, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 2399 into law which allows organ registries to sign people up electronically to become donors by scanning their state identification card into a smartphone app.

The Donate Life California float is among 39 to be featured in the Rose Parade, set to broadcast live on New Year's Day at 8 a.m. For more information, check local television listings or visit [www.tournamentofroses.com](http://www.tournamentofroses.com). ■



CIERRA BAILEY

Dowling (center), talks with older sister Liz (left) and mother Patricia on the front porch of the Dowlings' new home in Livermore. Dowling's experience with PVOD and a dual-lung transplant inspired Liz to seek a career in the medical field.

## Sliders win Polar Bear Classic

Sunnyvale tourney crown marks team's fifth of fall

By JEREMY WALSH

The Tri-Valley Sliders continued their autumn roll by winning the 16U December Polar Bear Classic Tournament in Sunnyvale, the local team's fifth championship of the season.

The Sliders — comprised of players from Amador Valley, Foothill, Granada and Livermore high schools — batted .496 as a team and outscored opponents 49-9, including a tight 2-1 victory in the title game Dec. 7 at Twin Creeks Sports Park.

"The Sliders had excellent pitching, explosive hitting and near perfect defense," coach Dave Ott said.

Dante Albanese led the Slider offense with eight hits and a .727 average, including a home run, two doubles, four RBI, a team-high seven runs scored.

Michael Kodial also batted .727 with eight hits, including a double, two RBI and six runs.

TJ Meyers, Griffin Chin, AJ Warford, Tim Michael, Cole Torquemada and Jordan Mello each had four or more hits, three or more runs scored and multiple RBI. Carson Quintana led the team in RBI with seven.

The Sliders opened pool play the night of Dec. 6 with a 13-1 win behind the pitching of Albanese and Kodial.

Kodial and Quintana each starred on the mound in the team's 10-1 victory in its second game. The Tri-Valley squad won its quarterfinal 10-4 and its semifinal 14-2.

The championship game against Redwood City-based Diamond Core Training (DCT) proved a much tighter affair for the Sliders, who earned the 2-1 victory behind a complete game effort from pitcher Joshua Ott.

Michael got the Sliders going in the top of the third inning with a key defensive play, throwing out a DCT baserunner at the plate to keep the game knotted at 0-0.

Mello put the Sliders on the board in the next half-inning with a towering solo home run to center field.

DCT would tie the score at one-run apiece in the top of the sixth, only to see the Sliders regain the advantage in the bottom half.

Kodial, who reached on a single, scored the game-winning run on Meyers' two-out double. Joshua Ott retired the side in the top of the seventh to clinch the win.

The Tournament MVP trophy was awarded to the entire Sliders team for "their outstanding team play throughout the five games," Dave Ott said. The Sliders played all of their Polar Bear Classic games within a 22-hour period because of rain and wet fields. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Seahawks swim at winter nationals

The Pleasanton Seahawks sent six swimmers to the AT&T Winter National Championships in Greensboro, N.C. Dec. 3-6: (left to right) Maxime Rooney, Moriah Simonds, Anna Parker, Christie Chong, Iris Brand and Katie Woods.

Notable results included Brand posting personal best times in the 200 freestyle and 100 breaststroke, Chong with best times in the 200 individual medley and 100 and 200 backstroke, Simonds earning a spot in the finals in the 500 freestyle, and Rooney posting best times in the 200 freestyle, 200 backstroke and 200 butterfly as well as reaching the finals in all four of his events.



KATHY D'ONOFRIO

## RADD floor hockey squad earns silver

Pleasanton's Recreational Activities for the Developmentally Disabled (RADD) Special Olympics regional floor hockey team won the silver medal during the recent tournament at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The squad lost its first game 9-5, but came back to win its second game (14-0) and final game (2-0) to capture second place.

The local RADD organization also had three athletes compete in individual skills events, each earning gold medals.



COURTESY OF TRI-VALLEY KARATE

## Local karate students net 12 medals

Six athletes who train at Tri-Valley Karate in Pleasanton combined to earn 12 top-three medals in their first-ever competitive event, the Tibon's Goju Ryu Winter Pearl Anniversary Karate Tournament in Stockton earlier this month.

Shown in uniform, left to right, were medalists Ramya Ayyagari (second in Kata and Paddle Kumite divisions), Aditi Sharma (first in Kumite, third in Kata), Nitya Ayyagari (second in Kata), Emajee Summers (first in Kumite, second in Kata, third Blindfold Kata), Neela Mandal (third in Kumite) and Yezzen Alwari (first in Blindfold Kata, second in Kata and Kumite).

Also depicted: instructors John Crose and Sanjit Mandal.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Pleasanton swim team takes third in Morgan Hill

The Pleasanton Seahawks took third place overall at the Pacific Swimming Winter Championships Invitational held earlier this month at the Morgan Hill Aquatics Center.

The 11-12 girls 200 freestyle relay team (Mackenzie Lee, Nicole Stiles, Stephanie Shao and Claire Suen) and the 13-14 girls freestyle relay team (Carline Eckel, Daniella Hawkins, Christy Neufeld and Miranda Heckman) each took home first place in their events. In all, more than 50 Seahawks set personal bests during the competition.

Shown: The Seahawks 9-10 girls 200 medley relay team of (left to right) Sydney Lu, Olivia Kim, Aven Lee and Emily Tsai set a new team record and earned a second-place finish.

## Classes

**COMPUTER TUTORING** Need help with downloading E-books from the library to your E-Reader, sending e-mail attachments, social networking, blogging, general Internet questions? Drop-in classes are from 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Mary Luskin at 931-3400, ext. 7. Free and open to all.

**FREE COUNSELING JOB SEARCH SKILLS AND RESUME WRITING** Get a free consultation with an experienced Employment Recruiter on select Wednesday evenings, Thursday afternoons and Saturday afternoons for a half or full hour at the Pleasanton Library. Receive help with resume writing, employment web sites, search for a job on the web, and get help with online applications. Make a 20-minute appointment at the Reference Desk by calling 931-3400, ext. 4.

## Clubs

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

## Concerts

**LARRY CORYELL: GUITAR'S 'GODFATHER OF FUSION'** Larry Coryell, master performer of jazz, classical and rock, recording artist, composer, innovator, and mentor, will perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10 at Firehouse Arts Center. If you love guitar, you can't miss the master in live performance. Tickets are \$28-\$38. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

## Events

**FARMERS MARKET** Visit the Pleasanton Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday, on East Angela Street between Main and First streets. The Farmers Market is open every Saturday, year-round, rain or shine, to provide the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, sold by the very farmers that planted, nurtured and harvested the crop.

## Fundraisers

**PLEASANTON LIONS CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER** Come to the Annual award-winning Crab Feed Fundraiser for an evening of all you can eat crab, pasta, salad and rolls, from 6-11 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Dancing, fun in the casino, playing the dessert roulette wheel or silent auction items and sports memorabilia. Cost is \$55.

## PET OF THE WEEK



SHAWN MILLER/FOREPICTURES.COM

### Sweet Pecan

Finding a new home by the end of the year doesn't sound like pie in the sky to Pecan. A 2-month-old brown tabby, she's ready for a taste of the sweet life. Come out of your shell and have a cracking good visit with Pecan. She's at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton. For more details, visit [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org) or call 426-8656.

Call 484-3524 or go to [www.pleasantonlionsclub.org](http://www.pleasantonlionsclub.org).

**RAGIN' CAJUN GOES TO RIO** Ragin' Cajun is Bay Area's Mardi Gras event of the year! This year there's a twist as the celebration theme moves from New Orleans to Rio for a taste of Carnival! Enjoy music, dancing, dinner and auctions, from 6-11 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2015, at Casa Real, 410 Vineyard Ave. This is the annual fundraiser event for the Sandra J Wing Healing Therapies Foundation. Tickets are \$105 before Dec. 24, 2014, \$125 after. Call (866) 862-7270 or go to [www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org](http://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org).

## Kids & Teens

**PLEASANTON FIFE & DRUM LESSONS GIVEN** Pleasanton's 1776-era Colonial Fife & Drum Band is now accepting new members for a limited time. Learn to play drum or fife (flute) for only \$10 per 1.5 hour small group lesson, ages 8-17, from 6:30-8:15 p.m. Fridays. Experience helpful but not required. Learn music, history and leadership. Go to [www.YoungAmericanPatriots.com](http://www.YoungAmericanPatriots.com).

**MASTER HUMAN FIGURE PHOTOGRAPHER DING HONG WU** Internationally acclaimed human figure photographer Ding Hong Wu will speak at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 30 at the Pleasanton Library. Wu will share his experiences and techniques and show his photographs and the stories behind

them. Free and open to all. No registration required. For more information go to [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov).

## Miscellaneous

**FREE TOUR: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER RECYCLING PLANTS** Learn how 10 million gallons of Tri-Valley wastewater is treated every day, either purified and recycled to irrigate Tri-Valley green spaces or cleaned and pumped into the San Francisco Bay, and find out about rewarding careers in the water industry from 1:30-3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at DSRSD Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Free to adults and children 7 years and up. Call 875-2282 or go to <http://www.dsrdsd.com/outreach/tour-request>.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ONLINE BOOK SALE** Did you know you could buy books from the Friends of the Library at Amazon.com? The Friends have a year round magazine and paperback book sale in the library and have two major book sales a year. To buy books, visit [www.amazon.com/shops/ptwnfriends](http://www.amazon.com/shops/ptwnfriends) or call Nancy Bering at 462-4368.

**VFW-AL COFFEE AND DONUTS** Every Saturday morning from 7:30-9 a.m., the VFW and American Legion host coffee and donuts for all veterans at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. All veterans are wel-

come. Visit [www.vfwpost6298.com](http://www.vfwpost6298.com).

## 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.

**DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER FOUNDATION MEETING** The Dublin Senior Center Foundation meets at 9 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every month, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Call 556-4511.

**DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER MINI-LIBRARY** The Dublin Senior Center Mini-Library is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday at the senior center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. The library gladly accepts donations of like-new used books published in the last five years, puzzles, magazines within three months of distribution, and videotapes. Unused books are donated to Friends of the Dublin Library. Bring donations to the office for processing. Call 556-4511.

**MILLS LINE DANCE SOCIAL DJ** Millie Dusha will play tunes from the classic oldies at the Mills Line Dance Social from 2-4 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. All levels of dancers are welcome. Cost is \$3. Call 556-4511.

**PEDDLER SHOPPE AT THE SENIOR CENTER** The Peddler Shoppe in the lobby of the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., offers the handmade wares of talented local senior artisans. It's a great place to buy gifts. The Shoppe is staffed by volunteers and is open to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Go to [www.pleasantonpeddlershoppe.com](http://www.pleasantonpeddlershoppe.com).

**WINE AND APPETIZER TASTING** Enjoy entertainment by Mike Osborn, with wine and delicious appetizers, including five spice duck, lamb meatball, stuffed mushroom, deviled egg, fruit, and cheese. The event will be from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Dublin Senior Center. Cost is \$15 for senior Dublin residents, \$16 for non-residents/under 50. Adults 21 and over welcome. Register by Monday, Jan. 5 in person, by mail, or at [www.dublinrecguide.com](http://www.dublinrecguide.com).

## Spiritual

**PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP** Lynnwood United Methodist

Church offers a friendly congregation where all are welcome. Worship at 9 or 10:30 a.m. on Sundays with Sunday school for youth and adults at 10:30 a.m. and childcare at both services. Contact Reverend Heather Hammer at 846-0221, send an email to [office@lynnwood.org](mailto:office@lynnwood.org), or go to [www.lynnwood.org](http://www.lynnwood.org).

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT UNITY OF TRI-VALLEY** Join the Sunday service with Reverend Karen Epps at 10 a.m. every week at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. Children's program available. All are welcome. Ongoing classes, groups, and activities. Call 829-2733 or go to <http://www.unityoftrivalley.org/>.

## Sports

**EAST BAY MARATHON TRAINING FOR BEGINNERS** The USA FIT East Bay Spring 2015 Marathon/Half Marathon training program for all fitness levels is open now through Jan. 31 at [www.USAFITEastBay.com](http://www.USAFITEastBay.com). Program lasts 26 weeks and begins Jan. 24. For more information and to register, visit [www.USAFITEastBay.com](http://www.USAFITEastBay.com). New members \$100 for 26 weeks.

## Support Groups

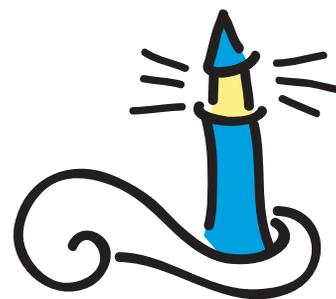
**CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP** Overwhelmed? Clutter stressing you out? ClutterLess is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday at St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 922-1467 or 525-3992. Go to [www.ClutterLess.org](http://www.ClutterLess.org).

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS** This 12-step support group for people with eating behavior problems meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore; and at 7:30 a.m. Saturdays in the Middle School Room at The Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore. Free with donations accepted toward room rent. No weigh-ins. Call Nora at 337-9118.

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

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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### 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

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## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

**PATTI'S QUINTESSENTIAL QUILTING; PATTI Q QUILTING**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 498824-25  
The following person(s) doing business as: PATTI'S QUINTESSENTIAL QUILTING; PATTI Q QUILTING, 1054 HARVEST CIRCLE, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Patricia A. Joki, 1054 Harvest Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 12/03/2014. Signature of Registrant: Patricia A. Joki. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/03/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 12, 19, 26; 2014, Jan. 2; 2015)

**KH LINE**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 499082  
The following person(s) doing business as: KH LINE, 4257 PASSEGGI COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kyungmee Choi, 4257 Passeggi Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Kyungmee Choi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/11/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 19, 26; 2014, Jan. 2, 9; 2015)

**P & K'S**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 498729  
The following person(s) doing business as: P & K'S, 5581 SONOMA DRIVE APT. C, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Patrick D. O'Leary, 5581 Sonoma Drive Apt. C, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Karina R. O'Leary, 5581 Sonoma Drive Apt. C, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Patrick D. O'Leary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/02/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 19, 26; 2014, Jan. 2, 9; 2015)

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## Back-to-back increases in pending home sales point to year ending on high note

Conventional home sales, purchases back to 90%-plus levels

Pending home sales in California picked up steam in October and rose for the second straight month, indicating continued improvement in sales through the rest of December.

Representatives of the California Association of Realtors said pending home sales were up in October, with the Pending Home Sales Index rising 2%, based on signed contracts.

October's increase was the first back-to-back increase since early this year, when pending sales rose for three straight months, starting in January.

Pending sales dipped 0.5% from the revised index recorded in October 2013. The yearly decrease was significantly lower than the six-month average of 6.7% from April 2014 to September 2014.

The share of equity sales, or non-distressed property sales, edged up in October. Equity sales made up 91.1% of all sales in October, up from 90.9% recorded in September. Equity sales have been more than 80% of total sales since July 2013 and have risen to or above 90% for five straight months. Equity sales made up 85.5% of sales in October 2013.

Conversely, the combined share of all distressed property sales — foreclosures and bank-owned homes — dipped in October, down from 9.1% in September to 8.9% in October. Distressed sales were down nearly 40% from a year ago, when the share was 14.5%.

Half of the 41 reporting California counties experienced a month-to-month decrease in the share of distressed sales, with 17 of the counties recording in the single-digits, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Orange, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma and Yolo counties — all of which registered a share of 5% or less.

Of the distressed properties, the share of short sales remained at its lowest level since February 2008, holding steady at 4.6% in October, unchanged from September. October's figure was less than half the 9.3% recorded in October 2013.

The share of real estate owned (REO) sales dipped in October to 3.9% from 4% in September and from 4.7% in October 2013. ■

—Jeb Bing

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*Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!*

THANK YOU for your support over the years!  
Wishing you and your family a  
**WONDERFUL, PROSPEROUS & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

**COMING SOON!**  
680 Heligan Lane, Livermore

**PENDING! IN PLEASANTON**  
7919 Paragon Circle

**SOLD IN DUBLIN!**  
4916 Piper Glen Terrace  
4861 Perugia

**SOLD IN SUNOL!**  
7785 Laguna Heights Lane

**SOLD IN ALAMO!**  
15 Stone Creek Place

**SOLD! IN PLEASANTON**

9459 Blessing Drive  
2926 Takens

6216 Guyson Court  
7211 Rosecliff Court

1 Twelve Oaks Drive  
2303 Gloria Court

1368 Bordeaux  
4125 Amberwood Circle

8035 Mt. View Drive

8060 Mt. View Drive

7580 Canyon Meadows Circle

I have buyers between 1.1 million to 1.7 million.  
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*Julia Murtagh*

**925.997.2411**

jmurtagh@apr.com

JuliaMurtagh.com

CalBRE #01751854



See reviews of Julia on



## Wishing Clients, Friends and Family a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!



**2781 Cooper Circle, Livermore**  
Beautiful single story home in the Private Reserve in South Livermore 4 bedrooms/3baths with 2973 sq.ft. of living space. Upgraded with style!  
**REPRESENTED BUYERS  
SOLD FOR \$1,117,400**



**303 Neal Street, Pleasanton**  
Stunning home in prime Downtown Pleasanton. This home features 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and 3165 SQFT of living space. Situated on .55 of an acre, this property is quite special to the Downtown Historical Pleasanton.  
**REPRESENTED BUYERS  
SOLD FOR \$1,925,000**



**6231 Camino Del Lago, Pleasanton**  
"Fabulous home in Country Fair Park within steps from tennis, shops & great dining. This lovingly upgraded 4 bedroom/3 bath home has 2420 sq ft of generous living space. Spacious back yard & covered patio are great for entertaining."  
**MULTIPLE OFFERS  
SOLD FOR \$1,065,000**

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



"We used Julia's expert services for both the purchase of a new home and the sale of our existing house. She was a top-notch negotiator in both transactions, . . . exceptionally personable, professional, and patient. Julia knows her stuff, and she knows the market very, very well, whether you are selling or buying. Her attention to detail is reassuring, and she takes care of EVERYTHING. We especially liked that she took great care to understand our needs and desires at the outset and that she always represented our best interests. She invested generously with time and effort and advertising to ensure the successful showing of our home during the open house. We would recommend Julia without reservation for any real estate need: She's a first class agent with incredible local experience."  
—The Howards, Pleasanton, CA

### BUYER NEEDS

- ✓ Large Family home with Pool. Buyer prefers Vintage Hills or Pleasanton Hills, up to 1.6 million
- ✓ Buyers ready to go! Looking for a home in Country Fair or Foothill Knolls. Have lived in Pleasanton for many years, need a bigger home, up to 1.5 million
- ✓ Buyer looking for a home in Moller Ranch or Windsor preferred up to 1 million

# Tri-Valley Real Estate Directory



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### The RE/MAX Collection



1721 N. Terracina Ave, Dublin

5 bedrooms 4.5 baths, 4180 sf, premium private lot. 1 bedroom full suite downstairs with sitting room, perfect for au-pair or extended family. Large beautiful "Superkitchen" open to dining area and family room, equipped with stainless appliances, 6 burner gas cooktop, double ovens. Master bedroom looks out to open space, beautiful spa like bath room with dual sinks, walk in shower and large soaking tub. Deck off master bedroom. Highly upgraded D.R. Horton home in Dublin Positano development. Price is \$1,399,000.00

Call agent for more details.



*Janice Habluetzel*

Realtor, ABR, CDPE, SRES - CAL BRE# 01385523  
925-699-3122  
www.JanicetheRealtor.com



925.838.4100



### Pleasanton

Super sharp single story home featuring updated kitchen and baths.. Built in 1977 the home is 1,557 sq. ft. and has 3 bedrooms. 2 full baths. Sits on 6,760 sq ft lot. It is perfectly located. Near neighborhood park, shopping and award winning Elementary school.



PENDING IN ONLY 5 DAYS  
WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS!



### Dublin

Absolutely stunning and gorgeous luxury home in the highly sought after Dublin Ranch Golf Club community. This spectacular home has approx 4,655 square feet of luxurious living space situated on a premium lot featuring breathtaking panoramic views of the golf course, the tri-valley.



SOLD IN 3 DAYS  
WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS!



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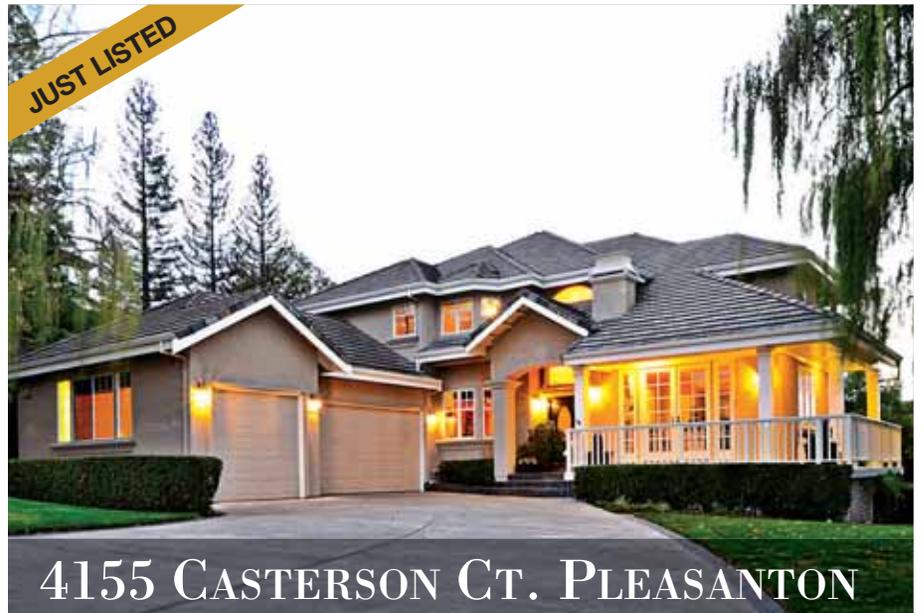
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## 6010 ALISAL STREET, PLEASANTON

Single story home offers 3,785 SF of living space on 3.5+ acres. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, formal dining room with the kitchen opening to the grand family room. Home offers panoramic views of the Pleasanton Valley and Calliope Golf Course. City sewer and water, solar, a private well, a detached RV garage with potential for an in-law unit and geo-thermal heating system are additional features of this home.

**OFFERED AT \$3,300,000**



## 4155 CASTERSON CT. PLEASANTON

Incredible Views of Mt. Diablo from kitchen, bedrooms and back yard! Located in Kottinger Ranch, this custom home offers 4 BD, 2 Offices, Bonus Room & 3.5BA with 4,503sf. on a 15,365sf. lot. Top of the line designer finishes and custom woodworking throughout. Open floor plan offers a state of the art kitchen with large marble counter island, wood flooring and custom cabinets opening to family room with views of the private yard and hills. Downstairs bedroom with private full bath. Yard offers large patios, grass areas, garden and backs to private open space surrounded by oak trees.

**OFFERED AT \$1,980,000**



## 8062 ROCKFORD PLACE PLEASANTON

Beautiful West Side Pleasanton setting. Offering 6 BD, 5.5 BA and 5,541sf. on a 1/2 acre lot. Open floor plan with custom woodworking and upgrades throughout. Main level offers a bedroom with full private bath, incredible media room with full bath and private access. Master suite offers a private retreat with fireplace. A private back yard offers a sparkling pool, large spa, fire pit, outdoor BBQ/kitchen with a covered patio.

**SOLD FOR \$2,125,000**

**REPRESENTED BUYERS**



## 740 AVIO COURT PLEASANTON

Beautiful custom home located in Ruby Hill. Offering 4 BD, 3.5 BA and 3,778 sf. on a 1/2 acre private lot on quiet cul-de-sac. Home features a grand entry, first floor master, gourmet kitchen, bar, and bonus room, as well as new paint and carpet.

**SOLD FOR \$1,740,000**

**REPRESENTED BUYERS**



## 1460 IRONGATE CT. PLEASANTON

Single Story Elegance~this 3,180 SQFT home offers 4BDR, 3.5 BA on a 14,005sf lot. Private court entrance brings you into the open floor plan. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters overlooks the family room & breakfast nook. Generous cabinet space offered.

**OFFERED AT \$1,450,000**

**SOLD FOR \$1,530,000**



## 4217 DORMAN RD. PLEASANTON

Located in Val Vista. Move-in ready. Kitchen w/ cherry cabinets, granite counters & stainless appliances. Open design w/ dining room off kitchen & family room. Formal living & family rooms. Updated hall bath w/ granite & tile. Master suite w/ generous closet space, granite & dual sinks. Back yard w/ patio & side yard.

**OFFERED AT \$730,000**

**SOLD FOR \$738,000**



## 1582 HARVEST RD. PLEASANTON

Located in Pleasanton Valley. 4BD, 2BA 1,716sf. on a 7,879sf. lot. Single level on a corner lot and updated throughout. Remodeled kitchen offering a modern open design and a large great room concept. Updated bathrooms w/ generous storage. Backyard w/ covered patio and large lawn area.

**OFFERED AT \$845,000**

**SOLD FOR \$877,777**



## 440 E ANGELA ST. PLEASANTON

Located in Downtown Pleasanton and a few blocks from Main St. 3BD + Office, 2BA 1,511sf. Vaulted ceiling in living room and great room off kitchen. Remodeled kitchen w/ large island, gourmet range, large pantry and a modern open design. Updated bathroom, newer laminate wood flooring and large yard.

**SOLD FOR \$808,208**



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 Tri-Valley Realty



**FOR SALE**

**3784 Jerrold Road  
 Livermore**

A Winning Combination  
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Gorgeous 5 bedroom/5  
 bath home is 3890 sq ft  
 and showcases stunning  
 panoramic views. Five-  
 acre estate offers 3 fenced  
 pastures with crossing gates  
 and water access, tack room,  
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