

Pleasanton Weekly

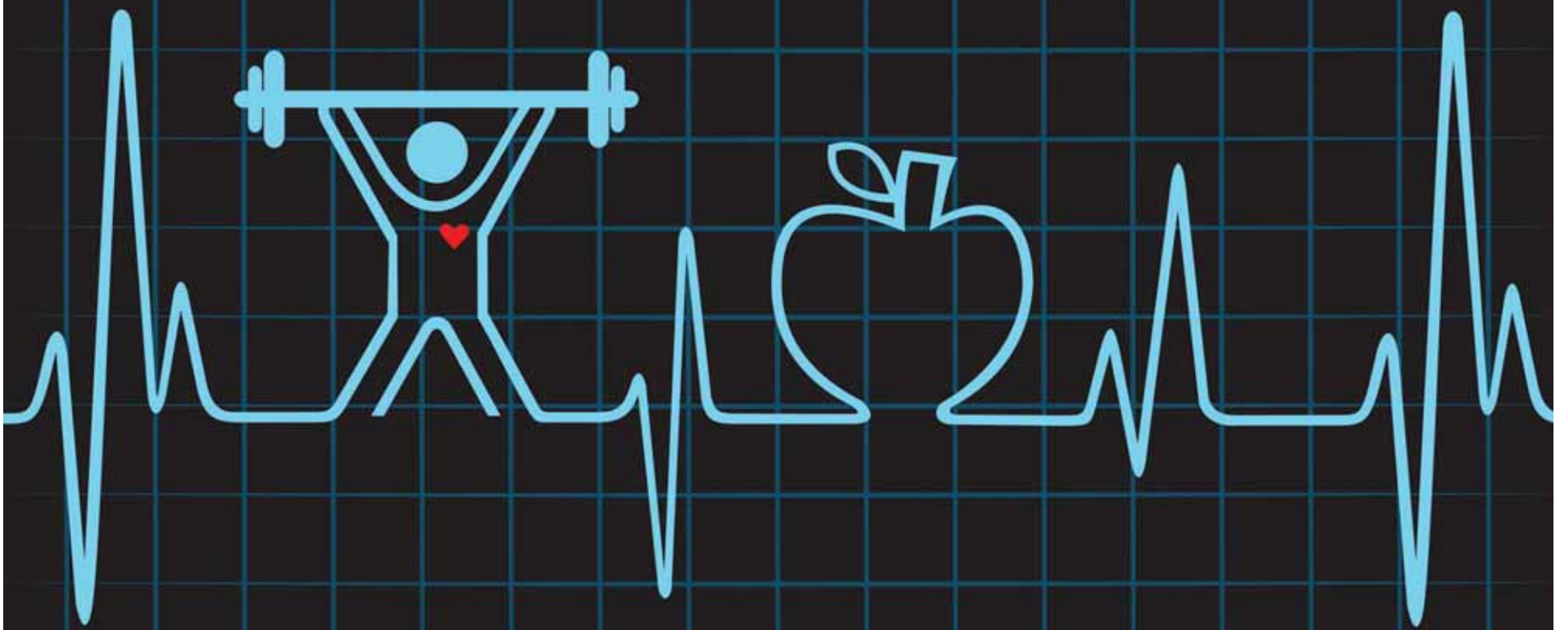
City temporarily
halts drought
billing penalties

Page 6

VOL. XV, NUMBER 52 • JANUARY 23, 2015

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staying HEALTHY



Finding a fresh perspective

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goals — and live life to the fullest

PAGE 11

- 5 | **NEWS** Council gives thumbs up to new firefighters contract
- 10 | **COMMUNITY PULSE** Arrest made in local mail thefts
- 19 | **REAL ESTATE** Pros and cons of reverse mortgages



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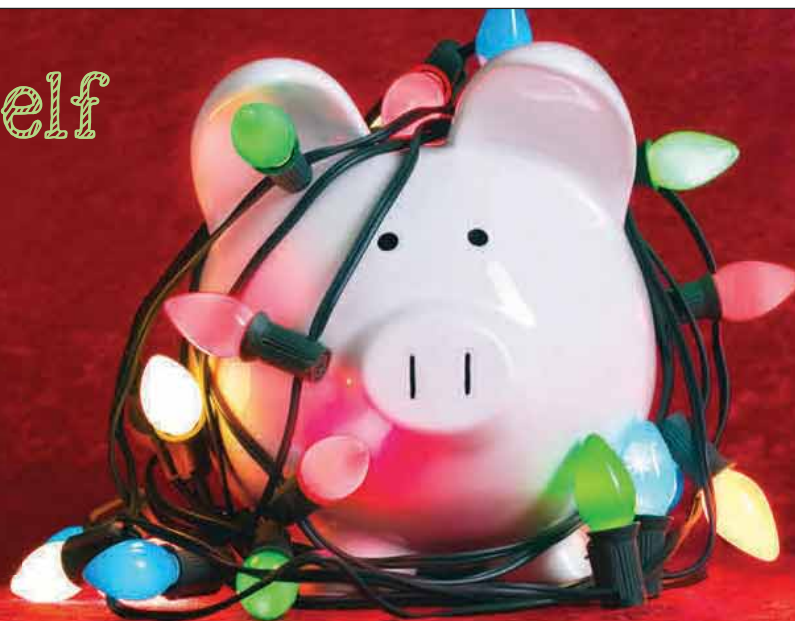
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



JEB BING

Marine Sgt. Bradley Dougherty stands in the center of this group of well-wishers in Pleasanton's traditional "Welcome Home" celebration for returning soldiers, held Saturday in front of home of Kim and Terry Beatty on Via San Blas.

Again, we welcome home our soldiers

Joined other veterans, military families and well-wishers last Saturday to greet Marine Sgt. Bradley Dougherty on his safe return from Afghanistan. This was the first welcome home celebration of 2015, an event sponsored by the Pleasanton Military Families (PMF) organization and the local VFW and American Legion posts.



JEB BING

More than 70 well-wishers waved American flags and "Welcome Home" banners as Brad pulled up to the home of Kim and Terry Beatty on Via San Blas, just off Valley Avenue. Mayor Jerry Thorne was there along with City Council members Jerry Pentin and Kathy Narum. Pleasanton firefighters and police also lined the narrow residential street as Fred "Spike" Schau and his Warriors Watch Riders escorted Dougherty to the flag-decorated Beatty home.

Huge American flag serves as the backdrop for Pleasanton's welcome home celebration Saturday for Marine Sgt. Bradley Dougherty, just back from deployment in Afghanistan.

house into the perfect patriotic stage for the Dougherty homecoming. "I am so proud to be part of PMF. I love sharing the homecoming experience. How incredible it is. I know the state of Maryland will be introduced to how it's done in P-town."

Dougherty is here because he served with the Beatty's son Alex, who talked him into enrolling together at Las Positas College after their active duty ended. A native of Severn, Md., Dougherty said the Pleasanton "influence" got to him. With his mother who traveled here from Severn for Saturday's celebration, Dougherty talked about how the many and frequent packages of treats and necessities PMF sends to Pleasanton men and women soldiers are the talk of the military, with our town highly visible for its outreach efforts.

Dougherty's is one of many homecomings we'll be expecting this year as the U.S. winds down its involvement in Afghanistan. Still, there are many from Pleasanton still serving, as PMF's founder Chris Miller's yellow streamers on Main Street show. PMF chairwoman Pat Frizzell said at least 150 from Pleasanton are currently on active duty, with deployments in Bahrain, Uganda, Liberia, Okinawa, Germany, Japan and Honduras as well as Afghanistan. Two are on ships in the Persian Gulf.

Kim Beatty, who served as the emcee for the hour-long celebration, said she is still laughing because she'd never heard Brad talk so much and do it in front of such a large crowd. She also praised members of the PMF who "swooped in" and transformed her

When they come home, we'll be there to celebrate and thank them for their service. ■

About the Cover

The Pleasanton Weekly's winter Staying Healthy section (pages 11-15 inside) highlights the life-coaching trend, exercising on the slopes and new ways to eat vegetables. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XV, Number 52



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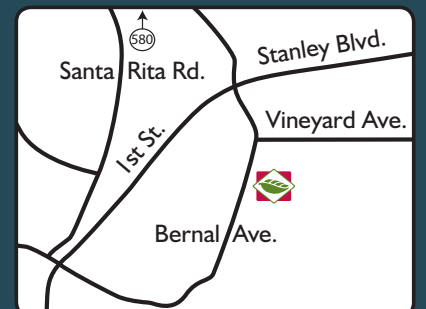
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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What do you do to calm yourself down when you are feeling anxious about things?



Sandey Grinn

Actor

I go outside and I breathe a whole lot of deep breaths. I find that this helps me to take a step back and clear my mind of anxiety and anger. And then of course with a clearer head, comes calmer action.



Diane Wood

Loan officer

I pray. I find that praying is very comforting and calming for me, and it slows down my heart rate and reduces my anxiety.



William Cooper

Airline pilot

I go out for a bike ride. Whether I ride slow or fast, or do an easy ride or a hard ride, it just feels good to be outdoors in the fresh air, getting some exercise. It really calms not just my mind, but also my body, spirit and soul.



Katie Cooper

Elementary school student

I like to play video games and Legos because it is a time when I can do whatever I want. It is very calming for me to be able to do things the way I want to do them, instead of having everyone else tell me what to do and how to do it.



Cameron Sellars

Semi-retired

I focus on my breathing and I pay attention to my breath, as this really relaxes my mind and body. I also record myself when I'm calm, giving myself advice that I can then listen to when I'm feeling nervous, in order to calm myself down.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Donald J. Beerntsen

The family of Donald J. Beerntsen, 83, grieves his death on Dec. 5 at his home in Oakmont, Ca. Don loved California, in part due to his life-long love of Nature – hiking, birding, and exploring the state's mountains, rivers, deserts and coasts.



Born in Green Bay WI, most of his education was acquired there, at St. Patrick's schools and St. Norbert's College. At Iowa State, Ames, he studied physical chemistry, worked at the National Radiation Lab and received his PhD in 1959. He wed Janice Penman, of Hudson WI that same year. They divorced in 1975.

He spent the bulk of career doing metallurgical research for Kaiser Aluminum in Pleasanton CA after brief stints at Allis-Chalmers, and Carborundum. The family built a vacation cabin near Yosemite during the late 1960's and Don built his own retirement home in Quincy CA in the early 1990's.

He always had a quick mind, incessant curiosity, a sense of humor (often very dry!) and enjoyed traveling (domestically and internationally), skiing, biking, playing bridge, tennis, golf, and lawn bowling in his later years. He very much enjoyed working on his homes and gardens, including a passion for bonsai. He shared much of this with his three daughters, who survive: Dawn Sauceman, Hudson WI; Lisa Beerntsen (Tony Speirs), Graton CA; Karen (Jeff) Maxfield, Calistoga CA. Other survivors are his sisters, Laverne Langlais, Denver CO; Margaret Timmerman, Green Bay WI; and two brothers, Leroy of Green Bay and Jerry of Waupaca, WI. He thoroughly enjoyed his grandchildren, Lauren and Claire Maxfield of Calistoga CA, and Andrew Sauceman, Chicago, IL, and Nathan Sauceman St. Paul, MN.

A man of great wisdom, many accomplishments, much love and dedication to his family, he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Audubon Society or Nature Conservancy. The family thanks Memorial Hospice for helping with Don's care in the final weeks.

PAID OBITUARY



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DIGEST

Citizen of the Year

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley will be honored as "Citizen of the Year" this Saturday (Jan. 24) at a dinner hosted by the Tri-Valley Community Television Foundation at Garre Vineyards in Livermore.

The event is one of several this year sponsored by the TV30 Foundation, which is headed by former Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena.

TV30 is marking its 39th year as the broadcasting voice of the Valley with a host of unique and special programs for 2015.

For more information about the dinner event, visit coty.trivalleytv.org or call 784-3448.

Swalwell appointment

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin), whose district includes Pleasanton, has been appointed to serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which oversees the activities of U.S. intelligence agencies.

"As we face escalating threats to our security, I will work to make sure our government is vigilantly protecting Americans, while being true to our values around privacy and civil liberties," Swalwell said in a statement last week.

The second-term congressman served on the House Homeland Security Committee during his first term. Swalwell cited increasing America's cybersecurity capabilities among his top priorities, and he said he would strive to work with both parties to achieve the country's national security goals.

Religious response

Lynnwood United Methodist Church is set to host a presentation next month on "A Theological Response to Religious Extremism," by theologian Karen Leslie Hernandez.

Hernandez, who focuses on Christian-Muslim understanding as well as religious fundamentalism and extremism, will tackle the question of how do people respond theologically and religiously to current events in the world, according to church officials.

The event is scheduled to run from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 8 at the church, 4444 Black Ave. For more information, visit the church's website at www.lynnwood.org or call 846-0221. ■

Correction

In our cover story last week (TV30: Watching the Tri-Valley, Jan. 16, 2015), we failed to mention that Pleasanton artist Charlotte Severin was a co-founder of the nonprofit television system along with Darla Stevens.

Pleasanton council gives thumbs up to new \$2.45 million firefighters contract

Agreement, to be ratified Feb. 3, provides 3% raises in each of next 4 years

By JEB BING

With the clock approaching 10 p.m. and only two men — both firemen — left in the room, the Pleasanton City Council Tuesday night tentatively approved a new 3.5-year contract with unionized firefighters in the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department that provides 3% pay increases each year over the next four years.

Tuesday night's discussion was officially labeled an "Introduction of Proposed Memorandum of Understanding" between the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, the joint powers operating authority, and the

International Association of Firefighters, Local 1974.

Although the four-member council — with Mayor Jerry Thorne in Washington, D.C., absent — gave its thumbs up to the agreement, the contract's official consideration by Pleasanton and Livermore will come next month.

The contract covers all employees of the department through fiscal year 2017-18 at a cost of \$4.9 million, to be shared by the two cities. Pleasanton's share would be \$2.45 million.

As part of the proposed agreement, union members would also increase payment of their pension

contributions by an additional 3% during the term of the contract, for a total contribution of 12% at the end of the 3.5-year agreement.

The contract, negotiated over the last six months, covers a total of 104 sworn fire personnel, and replaces an earlier contract that expired last June 30. The portion of Pleasanton's obligation for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, is approximately \$170,000 in unbudgeted costs, which will be paid out of the city's general fund.

In her presentation to the council Tuesday, Julie Yuan-Miu, assistant city manager and the chief negotiator during the extended

contract deliberations, said the memorandum being discussed followed the city's practice of introducing the key elements of a new contract in order to receive input from the public and allow for open discussion prior to adopting the agreement, which the council is expected to do Feb. 3.

Even so, except for the two firemen, there were no speakers to address the council on the new contract.

The memorandum was reviewed and ratified by the IAFF membership last month. The Livermore

See **FIREFIGHTER** on Page 7

It's all about gardening

Garden Club one of scores of exhibitors at 'Make a Difference Day'

The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club was among the dozens of local service groups to answer questions about their efforts at last Saturday's annual "Make a Difference Day" at the Pleasanton Library.

Sponsored by the Community of Character Coalition and Accusplit, the event attracted hundreds to a variety of exhibits and presentations at the Pleasanton Library. Exhibitors showed how their organizations give service and how others may also participate in giving back. The theme was "Get Connected, Stay Connected through Community Involvement."

The Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in the multipurpose room at Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road. Kermit Carter, owner of Flowers by the Sea, an online nursery located in Elk, Calif., that specializes in salvias, will speak on salvias that will do well locally. He will also have salvias for purchase.

Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Bev at 485-7812 or sign on to the Garden Club's website, www.lavgc.org. ■



JEB BING

Beth Clark (left) and Surjit Kalra, members of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club, answer questions about gardening and club activities at "Make a Difference Day" last weekend.

—Jeb Bing

Bonilla, Buchanan debate at candidate forum

By JEREMY WALSH

Two Democrats hoping to become the region's next state senator shared their views on key topics while making their cases to constituents in their party during a public forum Monday night in Dublin.

State Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla (D-Concord) and former Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo) discussed issues for more than an hour during the event hosted by the Tri-Valley Democratic Club as part of its effort to determine who to endorse in the

upcoming special election.

"I have been able to serve four years (in the State Assembly). It is truly an honor to serve my community in all of these capacities. I want to be able to stay," said Bonilla, 54, who was re-elected to a third term last fall to represent the 14th Assembly District, which includes parts of northern Contra Costa County, plus Vallejo and Benicia in Solano County.

"I'm very proud of the work that I've done in the State Assembly. I'm proud of the work we've done locally for constituents," said Bu-

chanan, 62, the Tri-Valley's former assemblywoman who was termed out of office last year after serving since 2008. "I think people send us to Sacramento to solve problems, and I think I'm good at that."

The two women are the only Democrats to date who have declared their candidacy for the special election to fill the unexpired term of former 7th District State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, who was elected to the U.S. House of Repre-

Pleasanton names new finance director

Pittsburg's chief financial officer to succeed Emily Wagner

Tina Olson has been named the new finance director for the city of Pleasanton, succeeding Emily Wagner, who is retiring but will stay on in a temporary position until Oct. 1 on special financial assignments.

Olson, who most recently served as the director of finance and administration for the city of Pittsburg, will start work on Feb. 2.

Olson became chief financial officer for Pittsburg in 2010 after holding a number of key positions for the city and county of San Francisco, including serving as deputy director of finance and administration for Port of San Francisco.

During her 5 1/2-year tenure at the Port, Olson was responsible for six consecutive fiscal year capital budget cycles, working closely with then-Mayor Gavin Newsom, San Francisco's City Controller's Office and the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors. She was also responsible for the development and implementation of the Port's 10-Year Capital Plan.

Olson has a bachelor's degree in economics from the UC Santa Cruz



Tina Olson

See **FORUM** on Page 7

See **FINANCE** on Page 6

Pleasanton temporarily suspends drought billing penalties

December rainfall raised reservoir levels, but more is needed

By JEB BING

In a 4-0 vote Tuesday night, the Pleasanton City Council suspended the billing penalty component of the city's emergency drought mandate for a period of 90 days.

The 90-day suspension will allow time to consider the condition of the reservoir levels and snowpack in the State Water Project.

Daniel Smith, operations services director and Pleasanton's water czar, told council members that "we're starting to see some favorable changes, especially in Lake Oroville, where we get much of our water."

The rains in December raised the reservoir's level, and the Sierra snowpack is now at 50% of normal, a marked increase from the 20% level at this time last year.

Also, the state has increased its projected allocation for Pleasanton in the coming months to 15% of nor-

mal, up from zero to 10% a year ago. "So we are in a better position than we were last year, and my recommendation is to suspend the penalties for now," Smith said.

"But I would still urge the public to conserve," he added. "At this time, the projections are all conjecture based on participation we hope to have as we go forward."

"We are in a wait-and-see mode right now regarding the final amount of rainfall and snowpack that we get for the season," Smith said. "It's important for our water users to understand that emergency drought measures could go back into effect prior to April if we don't have enough measurable rain and snow by then."

The water billing penalty implemented last May was based on a mandatory 25% reduction in water use over what those same customers used in the same billing period

in 2013. If mandated reduction is started again, 2015 billings will also require a 25% cutback based on 2013 billings.

Since May, water users in the city have collectively reduced consumption of potable water by 27.8%.

"We saved 1.6 billion gallons of water in 2014," Smith said. "Meters serving the city's needs showed a reduction of 45.2%, almost double what we asked for."

The topic will come before the council for review again April 21.

Until then, Smith pointed out that state water restrictions remain in effect until at least April 15. Those measures include a 20% voluntary water reduction over the 2013 consumption, irrigation only between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., no washing down of driveways or hard surfaces, and the use of covers on swimming pools. ■

FINANCE

Continued from Page 5

and a master's in public administration from San Francisco State University.

Wagner, a former investment banker with vast finance experience in private and public sectors, including in Pleasanton, was named the city's finance director in 2010.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she served here as the assistant city manager and director of finance, leaving in 1985 to become an investment banker. She spent the next 12 years with public finance firms before starting her own firm.

She rejoined the city in May, 2006 in the new position of economic development fiscal officer, working with both City Manager Nelson Fialho and director of economic development Pamela Ott on major city projects that included the Bernal property financing, ACE train station location, permit streamlining and downtown parking

improvements.

After presenting the comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year that ended last June 30 to the City Council on Tuesday night, Wagner thanked the council and city staff for "the privilege of working for the city of Pleasanton."

"It's been my pleasure to work for the city and I appreciate this opportunity," Wagner said. "My husband and I came here in 1974 after graduating from college, and I actually graduated from Amador Valley High School. I feel very fortunate to have the chance to work here."

Fialho said Wagner has agreed to stay on for the next few months in a special capacity to review and develop financial plans for specific projects. Those will include determining the financial requirements for building a new public library and possibly a new civic center, and also reconfiguring the contributions required from developers who build in Pleasanton. ■

—Jeb Bing

Police dispatcher retires after 32 years

PPD chief: Her 'contributions and presence at our department will be missed'

By AMANDA AGUILAR

Pleasanton police dispatcher Denise Lakner has retired after 32 years of service with the Pleasanton Police Department.

Lakner started at the Pleasanton PD in December 1982 where she took many 9-1-1 calls and worked various shifts.

According to Pleasanton police chief Dave Spiller, her personnel folder is full of commendations and accolades from supervisors, peers and Pleasanton residents — universally applauding her customer service, work performance, dedication and tenaciousness.

In addition, Lakner received a Customer Service Award for Excellence in 2002.

Lakner began her law enforcement career in 1977 as an Alameda County reserve deputy sheriff. In 1979, she was hired by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office as an administrative clerk.

Lakner has an associate's degree in the administration of justice from Diablo Valley College.

"Denise's contributions and presence at our department will be missed," Spiller said. "We all wish her well after 32 years here and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement." ■



Denise Lakner (right) shakes the hand of Pleasanton police chief Dave Spiller at the department inspection in October 2013.

COURTESY OF PLEASANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

MTC seeks to fill vacancies on advisory council

One open seat available for Alameda County candidate

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) — the Bay Area's transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency — is recruiting interested Bay Area residents to fill three vacancies on its Policy Advisory Council.

In Contra Costa County, there is an opening for an individual representing disabled interests.

In Santa Clara County, the vacancy is for an individual to represent either the economy or the environment.

And the third vacancy is an at-large seat, to be filled by an individual representing either the economy or the environment from

any of the nine Bay Area counties, including Alameda County.

The Policy Advisory Council meets the second Wednesday of the month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Oakland, and advisers are reimbursed for their transportation to and from the meeting.

Created by the MTC in November 2009 to advise MTC on transportation policies in the Bay Area, the council incorporates diverse perspectives relating to the environment, the economy and social equity. It also advises MTC on a range of dynamic topics, including:

- Regional planning efforts linking

transportation, housing and land-use plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Public transit service productivity improvements to produce more efficiency from the region's existing transit investments.

- Pursuit of new revenues to support a transportation system that better serves all Bay Area residents.

"The commission wants and needs to hear various viewpoints when making transportation policy and investment decisions," said MTC chair Amy Rein Worth.

"Incorporating different perspectives enhances our decision-making process," she added. "The

Policy Advisory Council helps the commission to improve mobility for all Bay Area residents."

Applications for the three vacancies will be accepted through Feb. 9. No specific educational background is needed for most seats, just a background in the specific application category, and an interest in transportation and how it affects residents in the nine Bay Area counties.

Experience working on public policy issues or community-related issues is desirable.

Appointed advisers are expected to attend monthly meetings at MTC's offices in Oakland and will

serve through the term ending in July 2017. While positions are voluntary, advisers do receive a small stipend for their attendance at certain meetings.

MTC's appointing commissioners will review the applications, and the full commission is scheduled to approve the selections in March. The selected applicants will attend their first meeting on April 8.

To apply for a vacant position or to learn more about the Policy Advisory Council, visit www.mtc.ca.gov/get_involved/advisory or call (510) 817-5757. ■

—Bay City News Service

FORUM

Continued from Page 5

sentatives in November.

Attorney Mark Meuser, a Republican from Walnut Creek who lost to DeSaulnier in the 2012 election, has also thrown his hat into the ring this time around.

The 7th State Senate District special primary is scheduled to take place on March 17, with the top two finishers set to then square off in a special election on May 19. The candidate list will be finalized after the nomination period closes this afternoon.

The senatorial district includes parts of Contra Costa and Alameda counties, including Pleasanton.

With their campaigns already underway, Buchanan and Bonilla appeared in front of about 90 people attending the Tri-Valley Democratic Club's candidate forum Monday night at the IBEW Local 595 Union Hall in Dublin.

The pair gave opening statements before answering questions from club officials and audience members as each attempted to convince the regional club to endorse her candidacy for State Senate. The term to be decided in the special election expires in 2016.

A prominent theme throughout the opening remarks and Q&A session was public education, an important issue for both women — Bonilla, a former teacher, and Buchanan, a longtime school board member.

"Voters in California need to believe that public education can be saved, that it is getting better, that the money is being put to good use and that our students are becoming more and more successful," Bonilla said.

"I think we're making that case, and we're going to need to go out for continued or new revenue for education — K-12, child care, preschool and higher education," she added. "We've got to put our money where our mouth is. There's no way that you can get education on the cheap. It just doesn't work."

"When I go to the Senate, I want to be one of the strongest advocates for public education," Buchanan said. "Long-term, we have all got to be willing to pay more money for education, and I believe the voters already are with us ... The people in the state of California support their schools. They put education at a high priority."



JEREMY WALSH

State Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla (left) and former Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan listen to an audience question during a State Senate candidate forum Monday night in Dublin.

"I don't see education funding increasing from the (state's) general fund," Buchanan added. "As a society, we're going to have to tax ourselves and dedicate that money to public education because every kid deserves opportunity. And not only the opportunity in K-12 to receive a high-quality education, but the opportunity to go to college."

The candidates also described their legislative history.

Bonilla highlighted her work at the state level with the Education Budget Subcommittee and new student assessments under the Common Core State Standards as well as her efforts in local office with the Concord Naval Weapons Station and employment assistance in Contra Costa County.

Buchanan discussed her Assembly bills regarding student data privacy, information technology and the teacher dismissal appeal process as well as her work with local constituents in areas such as business permitting, homelessness and health care.

Each woman began her political career in local elected office before successfully making the jump to the State Assembly.

Buchanan sat on the San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board of Education for 18 years, which included four turns as board president. Bonilla, a former high school English teacher, served on the Concord City Council and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

The wide-ranging Q&A session Monday also touched on issues such as prison reform, job training, support for military veterans and

fracking.

At one point, each candidate answered an audience query about whether she would drop out of the race now and endorse the other to ensure a single Democrat candidate has the most support possible to avoid the party losing the seat in the special election.

"I'm in the race to stay," Buchanan said. "A Republican is not going to win this."

"I'm here to stay, too," Bonilla said with a smile on her face. "We don't get this far involved and committed without having really given it a lot of careful thought and without really believing that we can win."

At the end of the forum, Tri-Valley Democratic Club members voted overwhelmingly in favor of endorsing Buchanan, with 29 votes cast for the former assemblywoman compared to two votes for Bonilla — four club members voted to make no endorsement.

The 7th State Senate District includes Pleasanton, Livermore and Sunol at the south end, Brentwood, Antioch, Pittsburg and Concord to the north, Orinda, Lafayette and Walnut Creek to the west, and the San Ramon Valley.

The district consists of all of Buchanan's former 16th Assembly District and a portion of Bonilla's 14th Assembly District as well as parts of the 11th Assembly District (represented by Jim Frazier, D-Oakley) and a sliver of the 20th Assembly District (represented by Bill Quirk, D-Hayward).

The candidate nomination period closes today at 5 p.m. ■

Sunflower Hill to host 'Special Needs' planning symposium

Forum will talk about benefits for those with disabilities

By JEB BING

Sunflower Hill, a Pleasanton-based nonprofit organization for families and individuals with special needs, has scheduled its second annual financial planning symposium from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. next Saturday (Jan. 31) at Las Positas College.

The symposium will address the role of public benefits and how they can be maximized for individuals with special needs/disabilities.

Topics will include the difference between Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Issues in dealing with Medicaid, Medicare, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), special needs trusts, the Affordable Health Care Act and conservatorship issues will round out the agenda.

Speakers will also address the

new ABLÉ (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act. ABLÉ allows for tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities.

Headlining the event will be Kevin Urbatsch, national director of the Academy of Special Needs Planners. His legal practice is devoted to the unique needs of individuals with disabilities.

He will be joined by Jim Huyck, former executive director of Alta Regional Center and a public benefits consultant, and Jon Elfin, a financial planner with Sagemark Consulting.

Cost for the half-day symposium is \$75 per person or \$120 per couple. Regional Center of the East Bay clients are urged to contact their case manager as the conference may qualify as a reimbursable expense.

To register, visit the Sunflower Hill website at www.sunflowerhill.org. ■

FIREFIGHTER

Continued from Page 5

City Council will review the memorandum at its meeting next Monday night.

The new contract, which will be retroactive to last July 1, replaces the previous two-year contract in effect from Jan. 1, 2012, to last June 30. Because of the recession at the time that contract was written, there were no cost-of-living (COLA) adjustments included.

However, that contract called for all employee groups, including firefighters, to start contributing 9% of their salaries to the CalPERS retirement program, and implemented a reduced retiree medical program for new employees.

The new contract, effective from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018, will

provide 1% COLA increases starting this month, again in July, and then again on July 1 of 2016 and 2017.

Unionized members of the fire department will begin paying 10.5% of their salaries toward retirement, with "classic" employees who are not in the union to start paying 12% by 2017.

Council members endorsed the new contract without actually voting on it.

"This is a good and fair contract," said Councilwoman Kathy Narum. "It also recognizes that firefighters had no wage adjustment in their last contract when they stepped up and helped us in a tough (economic) situation."

Vice Mayor Karla Brown agreed. "I understand the value that our fire department brings to citizens," she said. "This (contract) is a win-win for everybody." ■

Pleasanton teen talks about 'American Idol' audition

By AMANDA AGUILAR

A Pleasanton teen is set to appear on Fox television next week as part of her audition for the 14th season of "American Idol" in San Francisco.

Maddy Hudson, 16, will be singing a song by Beyoncé in hopes for the "golden ticket" to Hollywood.

Hudson said she grew up watching the singing competition television series and always dreamed of auditioning once she was old enough.

"You know in your soul what you're supposed to do in life," said Hudson, who hopes "American Idol" will launch her singing career.

Locals may recognize Hudson from Tully's Coffee on Main Street, where she sings every Saturday morning during the farmer's market, in addition to the private performances she has booked.

Hudson, who attended Foothill High School for three years, is now being home-schooled for her senior year to focus on her passion.

According to Hudson's mother Ashli, the teen is on track to graduate in June but "while other students are applying to colleges, she's ready to start her career."

Ashli Hudson added: "When you

have a child with so much talent, you just know this is what they're meant to do."

Maddy Hudson recalled a defining moment in her life when she sang at a school talent show as a fifth-grader, saying, "I got off the stage and the kids were asking for my autograph."

"It made me happy knowing something that I love to do made them happy," she said.

Now, Hudson must also impress "American Idol" judges Harry Connick Jr., Jennifer Lopez and Keith Urban. The episode is set to air this Wednesday at 8 p.m. on Fox. ■



COURTESY OF HUDSON FAMILY

Maddy Hudson's San Francisco audition for "American Idol" is set to air next week on Fox.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Families line up for an Italian dinner at last year's Pasta Feed & Family Carnival, which will be held again Sunday from 4-8 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. The fundraiser is sponsored by Pleasanton North Rotary Club.

YMCA breakfast to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday

Community leaders will come together to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this Monday at the 15th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast hosted by the Tri-Valley YMCA.

This year's program will include inspirational speakers and artistic expressions related to the theme, "Dare to be Great." The keynote speaker will be Napoleon Kaufman, pastor of The Well Christian Community Church in Livermore and a former running back for the Oakland Raiders.

As part of the annual event, the Tri-Valley YMCA will be honoring two community leaders and an organization with its Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award. They are:

- Dale Eldridge Kaye, chief executive of Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group and president and chief executive of the Liver-

more Chamber of Commerce. • Liz Buckley, a counselor at Valley Continuation High School in Dublin.

• Toys for Tots, a program led by firefighters in the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and the Alameda County Fire Department.

The breakfast is held on the Monday following the actual Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration so that those who are away on the holiday can join in the observance.

The breakfast will be held from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Drive, in Pleasanton. The cost is \$40. Contact Kelly O'Laigue Dulka at 263-4444 to register.

Proceeds from the breakfast will directly benefit youth leadership programs. ■

—Jeb Bing

Rotary holding spaghetti feed, family carnival Sunday

Open to public, event supports youth programs, 4-H

Pleasanton North Rotary will offer a fun-filled afternoon and evening for parents and children from 4-8 p.m. Sunday at its third annual Spaghetti Feed & Family Carnival at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St.

Proceeds from the family-oriented event will support Pleasanton youth programs, including the Interact Club of Foothill High School and the Abbie 4-H Club.

Geared to be an inexpensive family outing, the event provides various local youth groups with an opportunity to raise funds by operating carnival games. The Rotary Club also will sponsor a raffle.

Dinner will include a mixed salad with dressing, pasta with a red meat or marinara sauce and toasted garlic bread. Bottled water will be free. Wine and beer will be available by the glass (\$5). Wine will also be

sold by the bottle (\$15). Desserts will be awarded to the winners of cake walk competitions.

Admission is \$10 per person. Children under 10 will be admitted for free. Tickets can be purchased for cash at the door.

For more information, sign on to the Pleasanton North Rotary Club's website at www.pnr-rotary.org. ■

—Jeb Bing



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New Leaf Community Market store at 3550 Bernal Ave., in Pleasanton's Vintage Hills shopping center.

JEB BING

New Leaf, customers donate poultry, cash to Alameda Food Bank

Contributions provide 9,850 meals for hungry families during holidays

New Leaf Community Markets and partner Smart Chicken donated 695 pounds of chicken to the Alameda County Food Bank during the store's holiday food drive, held Nov. 4 to Dec. 31.

In addition, customers donated \$39,753 at cash registers in New Leaf Community Markets stores to local food banks during the annual holiday food drive.

New Leaf also contributed matching funds totaling \$4,923 to the Food Bank, providing over 9,850 meals for hungry

families in Alameda County.

For every ten pounds of Smart Chicken purchased at New Leaf during the month of November, New Leaf donated one pound to the food bank.

New Leaf is a grocery chain featuring organic and locally sourced foods and prepared meals. Its Pleasanton store is located at 3550 Bernal Ave., in the Vintage Hills shopping center. For more information about New Leaf's giving programs, visit www.newleaf.com/community. ■

—Jeb Bing

Applications available for PG&E scholarships

Deadline is Feb. 9 for submitting requests for awards

Applications are now available for PG&E scholarships for college-bound high school students as well as current college students.

The awards from the company's employee resource groups will mean that at least 100 students in PG&E's Northern and Central California service area will receive up to \$6,000 next year for exemplary scholastic achievement and community leadership.

Every year, PG&E's 10 employee resource groups — each representing the company's diverse 23,000-plus workforce — conduct fundraisers in order to award scholarships to help reduce the cost of higher education.

Scholarship information, including criteria and applications, is available on PG&E's website. To be considered for a scholarship, all applications must be submitted by Feb. 9.

In 2014, PG&E's employee resource groups distributed \$317,000 in scholarships to 157 deserving students. In some cases, recipients are the first in their families to attend college.

Since 1989, more than \$4 million in scholarships have been awarded to thousands of recipients. The funds come from em-

ployee donations, fundraising events and Campaign for the Community, the company's charitable giving program.

"The scholarships recognize and honor the incredible work so many students lead in their schools and communities, and help cut the cost of college," said PG&E director of performance and inclusion Joyce Ibardolasa, who's also the board president of the Employee Community Fund, an umbrella charitable organization that provides governance for the scholarships.

At the same time, PG&E announced that applications are avail-

able for summer internships. Last summer, PG&E employed 200 interns in the company's various lines of business. PG&E interns receive practical experience while also becoming eligible for full-time employment within the company.

Other scholarships PG&E offers include its Bright Minds Scholarship Program, targeting high achieving, low-income students. The Pacific Service Employees Association (PSEA), a nonprofit mutual benefit organization serving employees and retirees of PG&E, also provides scholarships for dependents of company employees. ■

—Jeb Bing

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Staying Healthy

JANUARY 23, 2015

Inside:

- Exercising on the slopes **Page 13**
- Delicious ways to incorporate veggies **Page 14**



for them and allows them to have in life what they want.”

Fairchild first had hired a life coach for herself.

“My background is in human resources,” she said. “Then I went through a pretty significant life change, I got divorced ... I needed to go back to work but didn’t want to go to a regular job because I had a teenager at home.”

“I hired a coach to figure out what I wanted to do. I wanted work to align with my skills, and hours that worked,” Fairchild said.

“There are things in life that happen that throw us out of whack. How you approach them can make all the difference — it can be the starting point for something new and better,” she said.

Fairchild completed her training at Coach Inc., one of the founding schools of the discipline, went on to complete an advanced coaching program, and now is credentialed through International Coach Federation.

“Coaching is very forward-focused, very action-orientated,” she said. “You have to be willing to do things differently, to explore and play, to tell the truth and take action.”

Most life coaches work with clients via telephone or Skype.

“Coaching is meant to be on the phone,” Fairchild said. “I do not have an office, we may meet in my home, their home, on the phone or in a coffee shop. I have a client in Kansas and we Skype.”

“The advantage is that being on the phone is more succinct, it gets to the heart and gets them in action. My part is to be here and pick up their body language over the phone,” she added.

A life coach is different from a therapist, and Fairchild said she has found that some clients may be better served in therapy, such as those suffering depression.

“I would certainly encourage them to go to therapy,” she said. “Or if I was working with someone and continually things about their past came up, it would be an indicator they need therapy.”

“Coaching helps you move forward faster; therapy digs inside and looks for why, what pattern of thoughts gets in your way,” explained life coach Mai Vu, who works out of Pleasanton and Danville. “Coaching looks at what you want and how to create that.”

“A therapist is for when you hit the same pattern over and over again and want to understand the cause of that,” she added. “If you just want to move forward and create strategies to do that, a coach is better.”

Vu cited two sources for life coaching in the Bay Area, the Coaches Training Institute in San Rafael and Coach U, which operates more online.

“Together they really spearheaded and brought this technology into the world — and have been rocking the world for the last



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pleasanton-based life coach Lisa Fairchild.

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Finding a fresh perspective

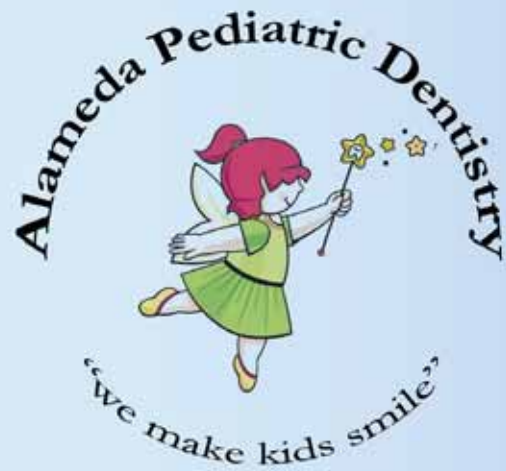
Life coaches can help you define your goals and live life to the fullest

When Caroline, 42, welcomed a woman into her home, courtesy of Airbnb, the two ended up having some good conversations. The guest noted all the decorative candles that Caroline had placed throughout her tasteful condo and suggested she light them for herself. Don’t save them for visitors, she advised, but light them to bring beauty and joy into your own life.

The lodger was a life coach. During the last couple decades, people have been turning to life coaches to help them define their goals and achieve them, whether in their personal lives or careers. The coach objectively helps them identify their strengths, their values and their purpose, and together they develop a plan. The coach then assists them around any

obstacles, plus celebrates their successes with them.

“Life coaching is listening, acknowledging, asking all kinds of questions,” said Pleasanton life coach Lisa Fairchild. “It really comes from a place of believing that people aren’t broken and have their own answers. You pull them out in terms of questioning and giving assignments, finding out what works



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To help community members meet the challenges of caregiving, Hope Hospice is offering a six-session Caregiver Education Series beginning on March 14, 2015.

This program provides training, education, support and resources for the growing number of individuals caring for loved ones with chronic or disabling conditions.

All sessions are held at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin on Saturday mornings, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch is included. The fee to attend the six-week program is \$100 for community members; complimentary for current and former Hope Hospice families. Space is limited to 30 people, and advance registration is required.



Learn more about this program or register online at HopeHospice.com or call (925) 829-8770

STAYING HEALTHY

COACHES

Continued from Page 11

20-plus years," she said.

Industrial psychologists have helped senior executives for years to improve their skills, and sports psychologists can be found in the stands at any sporting event. Life coaches specialize in areas such as relationship coaching, health coaching, career coaching, business coaching, executive coaching and leadership coaching, to name a few.

Vu is a relationship coach.

"My typical client is around 42-43, and she has been divorced for a few years, has one or two kids, around 5 and 8 years old," Vu said. "She is exhausted, trying to keep her career going and she's also trying to be a good mom. She doesn't have time for a date, and when she does date, she is wondering why all the good guys are taken, and how come her ex-husband is such a jerk to her. She's in a real bind."

Before anything else, her kids need to be thriving, Vu said, plus she has to be able to pay her bills. Then she can possibly relax and start dating.

"In order to get those pieces in alignment I have to help her get in touch with herself," Vu said. "I have to help her resentment, her abandonment issues, her anger. She has to tend to herself and start moving forward."

Vu was a mechanical engineer for many years, climbing the corporate ladder at PG&E.

"I was being promoted, had a house in Pleasanton. I was fine. I was safe, secure and successful but not fulfilled and not fully happy," she recalled. "I started questioning leadership and people's relationships with each other."

She earned a master's degree in organization development and questioned how people work and their dealings with each other. She began coaching men and women clients but gradually began to focus on women and their relationships.

"Either they are married but their marriage is on the rocks, or they are already divorced and want to bring new love into their lives," she said.

Vu is an international coach and speaker. She hosts events called "Hot Life, Hot Love," with the next one taking place at the Holiday Inn in Dublin on March 7-8.

"When all of the pieces in your life work together, it's really super 'hot,'" she explained. "Hot" might also mean when things go bad — it's how you solve it, in a way that is loving, that is effective, and no drama."

"I used to just call it 'Hot Love' but people wouldn't want to sign up for it on Facebook because they didn't want their friends to see," she added with a laugh.

Anne Kirwan, who moved here from Ireland in 2001, runs a nonprofit organization and hired Vu to help her become the best possible leader.

"Life coaching helps us to bring out our strengths and be bigger, better and bolder," Kirwan said. "My family is back in Ireland so I am creating a new life in the U.S. and wanted a life as fulfilling as possible."

"I tend to be an analytical person, and I wanted to work with a coach that wasn't analytical," she continued. "We all have ways to muddle through life — my way was to work through pros and cons, 'paralysis by analysis,' so from that point of view I think Mai



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life coach Mai Vu, who operates out of Pleasanton and Danville.

is a great champion of the people she works with. And she would also really challenge me if I were resisting change."

"I think effective coaching is a mixture of championship and challenge," she added. "It starts from the premise that we're all creative, resourceful and whole, then we have to identify who we want to be and what mark we want to have on the world."

"Coaching is really supporting you to just be more fully yourself," Kirwan said. "You leave the baggage behind and move forward more fully with your life."

Kirwan said she receives her coaching about 95% on the phone, with a bit of emailing back and forth, and she likes the efficiency.

"We are all very busy professionals. I coach with Mai at 7 a.m. for 45 minutes, and it gets my day off to a good start," she said.

"Life is a constant journey," she added. "I'm always aiming higher. I can see how my life in terms of friendships and relationships has become so much more fulfilling and joyful."

Gail Koffman is another woman who started on a path of self-discovery with a life coach and realized that she wanted to become a coach herself.

"The interesting thing is I am still in this process of recreating myself and realize I have a lot to offer as a coach myself," Koffman said. "One of the key ingredients is to have great listening skills and empathy and offer support, and that's part of my personality. Why not make good use of my natural abilities? I like to specialize in people in transition."

She said her life coach — who helps people in transition, especially in their careers — helped her define in general what she wanted, asking, "What do you want your life to feel like and look like?"

"She gave me and other people in the class different activities and exercises to practice," Koffman recalled. "In general it's nice to have support, to know I wasn't alone in this journey of transitioning."

"Ever since I've been taking coach training programs, I'm seeing a variety of different styles and coaching techniques," she said. "Most recently I studied with Lion Goodman who does the Clear Your Beliefs ... you can only go so far in life as your hidden beliefs will allow you to. Through this ingenious process we work through someone's subconscious, find the hidden beliefs, and let go of the hidden beliefs that hold us back and replace them with affirming beliefs."

"When does someone need a life coach? When her heart hungers for something more than she has," Vu said. "She knows she should be treated better, she deserves more than this, but by herself she can't seem to do it. That's the perfect time to go to a life coach." ■

There are things in life that happen that throw us out of whack. How you approach them can make all the difference — it can be the starting point for something new and better'

Lisa Fairchild

Pleasanton life coach

Exercising on the slopes

Four common errors to avoid after putting on those skis

BY CHALKY WHITE

As the season continues and skiers of all levels journey to the Sierra, chances are that a great many of them will do some things that won't help their cause.

You can boil down skiing to a few basic principles, but like any sport, there are many finer details that matter, and with a winter activity like skiing, the details can mean the difference between a safe ski trip and a hazardous one.

Skiing is a truly wonderful sport; it changed my life. I hate to think that there are beginners who may be steered away from it due to avoidable mistakes. And, there are those who've become decent skiers — they love the sport and they continue skiing each season — but they're held back by questionable technique and inaccurate practice.

Here are four common mistakes that skiers make on snow-capped slopes:

"I'm too old to be a great skier, so I'll just wing it."

Some people are raised on the slopes, carving up the snow at age 6 and entering competitions at age 8. Most folks, however, have average natural ability and aren't raised on skis. But they can, if accurately trained, become very competent skiers.

If you're completely new to ski-



COURTESY OF WHITE

Professional ski instructor Chalky White glides down a slope.

ing, take the time to learn some basics — preferably with a qualified instructor. The most important fundamental to learn is balance, as applied to skiing; all sports rely on

balance to some extent, and for skiing it all starts there.

"I can be great if only I can overcome my fear."

Indeed, hurling one's body down

what they perceive to be a steep slope of slippery snow takes courage. It makes sense to have butterflies at the top of a slope, but overcoming nerves alone won't make you great.

Some skiers, even a few new to the sport, have little fear when skiing — but that's often because they've practiced and have undergone sound training. The more adept you become as a skier, the more fear-based emotion is pushed to the "back-burner" and is, as practice continues, largely replaced by new-found confidence and more fun.

"I'm beyond the basics."

Ninety-five percent of skiers, including some professionals, do not fully appreciate and utilize the power of balance — at least not consciously. Many simply believe they are fully balanced, but this is often delusional and maybe arrogant thinking. The best advice is to be a constant student, which means consistent vigilance toward one's balance.

A great skier is one who can consistently recover following balance losses. You may be frustrated that you lost balance at all. However, the ability to recover with ease is a sign that you are well-balanced.

"I don't want to pre-release from my ski bindings; my gear seems OK."

Just as it is silly to think that gear alone will make you a good skier, so too is the idea that gear doesn't have specific requirements. Most vitally, you'll want to make sure ski bindings — a device that connects

a ski boot to a ski — adhere to the right DIN (German for "Deutscher Institut Fuer Normung") standard.

If your bindings are accurately set to suit your age, ability and weight, and if you are skiing with proper technique, you will probably not pre-release from them. But if you make a mistake serious enough to merit a release from attachment to your skis before falling, then chances of injury are dramatically decreased. Some skiers tamper with these professional standards to prevent release, which can be extremely dangerous.

Other important facets include boots — the most important gear item for technique — and ski poles, which should be the correct length.

I have heard far too many disturbing stories due to the inaccurate setting of the binding alone. Too many of my friends, and the general skiing fraternity, have experienced broken legs. Don't be one of many skiers, experts included, who neglect the binding setting. Get your skis' bindings regularly checked by a professional, and don't tamper with them. ■

Chalky White, author of "The 7 Secrets of Skiing," is a professional ski instructor who is highly regarded for helping to develop balance for skiers of all levels, including experts. He has taught students in the Alps, New Zealand and the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, where he remains a longtime member of the esteemed Vail and Beaver Creek Ski School. Chalky is also a motivational speaker.

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STAYING HEALTHY

Breakfast and beyond

Show kids just how delicious veggies can be



FAMILY FEATURES

Eggs, sausages, cheese, cream and frozen veggies make for a delicious, nutritious breakfast served in individual ramekins.

A great day starts with a balanced breakfast filled with healthy ingredients fit for the whole family. Enticing the youngest family members to enjoy as many food groups as possible at the morning meal — including veggies — may be challenging, but it's an important step to ensuring a well-rounded diet all day long.

Here are some tips to get youngsters to eat more vegetables, starting with the breakfast table and continuing throughout the day.

1. Look for dining occasions for vegetables throughout the day, including breakfast.

While veggies are often only thought of at dinnertime, parents can help ensure their kids get the proper amount of vegetables by combining frozen fruit and veggies into other meals and snacks, such as smoothies. These are a great start to the morning and an easy way to work in extra servings of fruits and vegetables.

Another option is combining many ingredients, including veggies, into a single breakfast dish, such as the baked eggs with peppers and breakfast sausage recipe below.

2. Whether frozen or fresh, it's important to get veggies in every meal.

Nine out of 10 Americans don't eat enough vegetables on a daily basis, so incorporating them into each meal is important.

From a nutritional perspective, there is little to no difference between fresh and frozen vegetables. Veggies are often flash-frozen within four hours after harvest, locking in peak freshness, nutrients, taste and color. Easy to store in the freezer, they make it a snap to have nutritious ingredients on hand for any meal.

3. Mix up the veggie and flavor profiles to keep meals exciting.

It's easy to become bored with the same meals or flavors, so mix up mealtime. Vegetable varieties are available year-round at

Baked eggs with peppers and breakfast sausage

- 6 ounces breakfast sausage (if links, remove from casing)
- 1/2 bag Frozen pepper & onion blend
- 4 large eggs
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup whole milk or heavy cream
- 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- Chopped fresh parsley for garnish

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Lightly grease four 8-ounce ramekins with nonstick cooking spray.

Brown sausage over medium heat in nonstick skillet, stirring and breaking up sausage, about five minutes. Stir in peppers and onions and cook, stirring occasionally, five minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Evenly divide vegetable mixture among prepared ramekins.

Gently break one egg into each ramekin and season with salt and pepper. Evenly top each egg with milk and cheese.

Place ramekins on baking sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes or until egg white is opaque but yolk is still soft.

Garnish with parsley and serve.

affordable prices, fresh as well as frozen in the Bay Area, allowing families to change up their meals regardless of the season.

With a little creativity, you will have the kids in your family eating more vegetables at every meal, beginning with breakfast. ■

— Family Features

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Our emergency doctors treat everything from cuts and breaks to life-threatening illnesses. Our 24-hour Emergency Department has private treatment rooms, and a comfortable, large waiting room. While we hope you never have an emergency, our experienced physicians and nurses are here, close to home and around the clock. For non-life threatening conditions, try InQuickER on our website.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **P14-1276, City of Pleasanton**
Application to amend Title 18 (Zoning) of the Pleasanton Municipal Code to establish a permit process and performance standards for beekeeping.
- **Work Session to discuss the existing Conditional Use Permit (UP-77-13)** granted to operate a private lodge (Pleasanton Masonic Center) at 3370 Hopyard Road.

Energy & Environment Committee

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
Operations Services Center, 3333 Busch Rd

- Selection of 2015 Chair and Vice-Chair
- Committee Priorities Recommendations to Council 2015-16

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

Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

A park for dogs, great views for owners

Within a year, Pleasanton's 26,800 dogs should have a better place to romp when the city's second, larger and more elaborate dog park opens along the Marilyn Kane Trail just off Bernal Avenue and West Lagoon Road. Sandwiched between the southbound on-ramp to I-680 and the Arroyo de la Laguna, the dogs will have 1.5 acres for running, playing and even trying their skills on special amenities, such as a dog teeter-totter and a climbing wall.

It's been 14 years since Pleasanton acquired the 328-acre Bernal Community Park with hopes from dog owners that they would get a much bigger, better dog park to supplement the first one opened in Muirwood Community Park in 1998. That narrow back-of-the-park exercise area lies just under the noisy I-680 freeway, with the only amenities consisting of a watering bowl and a picnic table.

But in the public referendum to approve plans for the Bernal open space, a dog park was specifically ruled out, whether by cat owners or an anti-dog coalition. After "loud talk" at their meetings, City Council members heard the message. Tuesday, they voted to approve the conceptual plan (see schematic at right) and asked the Berkeley-based Tanaka Design Group to develop final plans. With luck, the design will be ready to go out for a contractor's bid in July and the park could open in early 2016.

The estimated cost of the park is between \$350,000 and \$400,000 and will include separated fenced off sections for small and large dogs, dog waste dispensers, fresh water faucets, an engineered wood fiber surface and even a bulletin board for dog owners. The small off-street parking lot used by trail walkers will be expanded to at least twice its size, and the park will be heavily landscaped with shrubs and trees to soften any barking noise from nearby neighborhoods.

Of course, in a perfect world, dog parks would not have to exist as well-behaved dogs would have the privilege of being off-leash. And, despite laws to the contrary, dogs often can be seen running free in Pleasanton parks under the benevolent eyes of their owners. Good dog parks, it is said, encourage owners to take their dogs there for safety and hygiene reasons. Perhaps that's what makes dog parks the fastest-growing segment of the urban park population. Today, in the 100 largest cities in the United States, there are over 600 off-leash parks for pooches to putter around and play.

Jacksonville, Fla., charges \$11 per pup to enter, but there you get 42 acres of open space and Lake Bow Wow, a 2-acre swimming lake with a fountain. Chicago's Mondog Park offers a chance for dog owners to walk their pets along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Remember Millie, President George H.W. Bush's English springer spaniel? Millie died of pneumonia in 1997 at age 12, but Millie's name lives on with the sprawling, 13-acre dog park with three ponds, water fountains and wash-stations established in her honor in Houston.

Closer to home, Point Isabel in Richmond is a one-of-a-kind, landscaped, 23-acre off-leash dog park that is one of the largest in the country. It has sweeping views of the Bay Area, and is well known for its dog bath facility, Mudpuppy's. Half a million dogs visit Point Isabel each year.

Pleasanton's new dog park will be less spacious and, hopefully, attract less out-of-town traffic. Plus, dogs and their owners will have the spectacular views of the Ridgeland. Beat that Richmond! ■

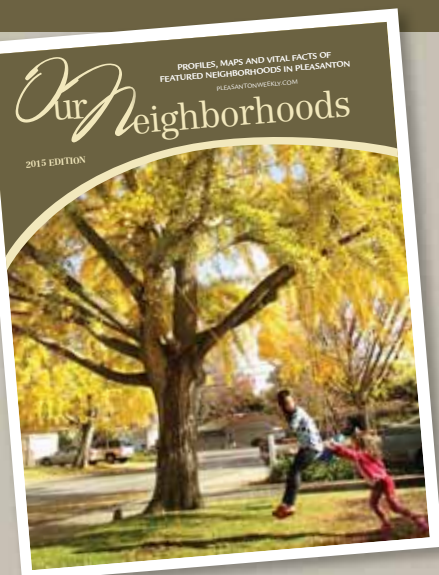


TANAKA DESIGN GROUP

Welcome to

Our Neighborhoods

An annual magazine featuring the neighborhoods of Pleasanton



Look for
Our Neighborhoods
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on **February 27**

Advertisers — There's still time to get your ad featured inside Our Neighborhoods.
Call 925.600.0840 for more details
COPY DEADLINE FEB. 4

Our Neighborhoods will showcase selected neighborhoods in Pleasanton and capture the particular qualities and resources such as schools, parks and local shopping venues that make it unique.

Each Neighborhood profile will also include a fact box with information including the median home sale price in 2014, how many homes were sold and the schools.

A great resource for current residents or those looking to relocate to Pleasanton.

Pleasanton Weekly

Pleasanton Weekly

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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Author Visits

CHRISTINA GRAY'S 'BE FREE COOKING' Meet Christina Gray, owner of Bella Luna studios, photographer, and author of "Be Free Cooking," a new allergen-aware cookbook, at her book-signing event from 3-5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. The book pairs original recipes for everyone and similar recipes for those who have allergies or diet restrictions.

Book Clubs

GREAT BOOKS OF PLEASANTON The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie at 846-1658.

Civic Meetings

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

Classes

SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS Weekly social enhancement and development classes for children/teens with and without developmental challenges. Zones of regulation classes and bully-proofing classes also available. Call 484-0074.

Clubs

JON COUPAL AT TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN DINNER Jon Coupal, President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA), will be the guest speaker at the Tri-Valley Republican Women meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5 at Cattlemens Restaurant in Livermore. Cost is \$30 for members, \$34 for guests. Contact/RSVP Linda Krikorian at krikorianpublishing@yahoo.com or 426-1474.

PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB The Pleasanton Lions Club meets for dinner at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at The Regalia House, 4133 Regalia Court. The dinner fee is \$10. For more information please visit <http://pleasantonlionsclub.org>.

Concerts

HOPE BRIGGS CONCERT AT PLEASANTON LIBRARY Verdi soprano Hope Briggs will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25 at the Pleasanton Library. Free and open to all. Hope Briggs has wowed with roles in "Aida," "Il Trovatore," and "Doktor Faust."

Events

GIRLS NIGHT OUT NETWORKING Girls Night Out Networking and Pans on Fire invite you to join them

from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at Pans on Fire for networking opportunities, raffle prizes, socializing, great food and fun. Cost is \$10-\$15. RSVP and prepay required by Monday, Feb. 2. Call 487-4748 or go to www.gnon.org/rsvp.html.

Fundraisers

BELLA ROSA BALL FOR AXIS COMMUNITY HEALTH The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore will present the Bella Rosa Ball from 6-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14 at the new event center at the Garre Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. Enjoy a three-course gourmet meal, a glass of champagne or wine, dessert, and an evening of dancing to the Cool Tones Big Band. Tickets are \$125. Benefits Axis Community Health programs. Go to rotarianfoundationlivermore.org.

FOOTHILL BAND CRAB FEED AND AUCTION Join for great crab and music by the award-winning Foothill Jazz band and help support the music program, from 6-10 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6 at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 301 Main St. For tickets and information go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/foothill-band-crab-feed-and-auction-2015-tickets-14181793125?aff=es2&rank=40>.

PAWS IN NEED: VALENTINE CRAB FEED Save the life of a pet- attend the Paws In Need Valentine Crab Feed from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Fresh cracked crab, sides, no-host bar and raffles. All proceeds benefit local pets. Tickets are \$50 before Jan. 17 and \$55 after. Buy at Paws-In-Need.org or send check to Paws In Need, P.O. Box 3436, San Ramon, CA 94583. Call 323-8517.

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. Call 484-3524 or go to 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.

SLEEP TRAIN'S PAJAMA DRIVE FOR FOSTER KIDS Sleep Train's annual Pajama Drive aims to make night-

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/V. KELLY

Have a royal good time with Duke

A Lab/Rottweiler mix, 4-year-old Duke has excellent manners and leads a very dignified procession. He's a bit jealous when it comes to sharing his treasures with other dogs, but will eagerly present a person with his favorite scepter for a good game of fetch. Visit Duke at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. For more info, visit valleyhumane.org or call 426-8656.

time cozier for local foster children ensuring they go to bed wearing their own pair of comfortable pajamas. Donations of new PJs in every size, infant to adult, can be dropped off at any Sleep Train store now through March 1.

Holiday

TRI-VALLEY CULTURAL JEWS TU B'SHVAT CELEBRATION Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for the annual Tu B'shvat celebration from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1 at Alviso Adobe Community Park. Some habitat improvement community service followed by a potluck. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty! Traditional Tu B'shvat potluck items include figs, apples, nuts, carob, etc. Free to members, \$10 for guests. Call 485-1049.

Lectures/ Workshops

GRIEF WORKSHOP The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. The reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Join bi-monthly for your healing journey at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday evenings, Dec. 11-Mar. 26 (no session on Christmas) at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Call Mary Hagerty at 846-5377.

HEALTHY EATING HABITS Julie Emmett will present "Healthy Eating Habits: Simplifying Family Meal Times Overcoming Sugar Craving" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Pleasanton Library. Learn facts about clean eating, ways to not break the bank, making meal time fun again and saving time as well.

PATRICK HUNT: THE ALPINE ICEMAN Dr. Patrick Hunt of the Stanford Alpine Archaeology Project will discuss new research on the oldest mummy ever discovered, "Otzi," found embedded in the ice in the Oztal Alps. Join from 7:30-9

p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30. Call 3736800 or go to www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

SELF ADVOCACY AND SPECIAL NEEDS Self-Advocacy and Special Needs-Helping Your Child Help Yourself. Todd Gary, SRVUSD Special Needs Liaison 2007-13, attorney and advocate, will explore how we can foster effective self-advocacy in our children with special needs, and provide pragmatic tools for doing so from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29 at Harvest Park Middle School. Free event. Go to bit.ly/1E3MtbO.

On Stage

'LES MISERABLES' See "Les Miserables" at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, from Jan. 17-31 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. An additional matinee will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31. Tickets are \$20-\$39. Call 373-6800 or go to <http://tickets.livermoreperformingarts.org/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=3912>.

PACIFIC COAST REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS 'FOREVER PLAID' When four young singers are killed in a car crash, they posthumously take the stage for one final gig in this goofy 1950's nostalgia trip. Full of classic barbershop quartet harmonies and wonderful tunes. See the show at 8 p.m. on Fridays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 13; 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7; 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31; and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15. Tickets are \$17-\$38. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

PACIFIC COAST REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS 'THE TAFFETAS' It is 1950-something, and these four singing sisters, Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl and "Donna, from Muncie, Indiana are making their national television debut. See the show at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 14; 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6; 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7; and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8 at

Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$17-\$38. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

Spiritual

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/>.

THREE DIAMONDS QIGONG SERIES "Three Diamonds Qigong" will focus on exercises that tap into and cultivate the three greatest reservoirs of energy within ourselves to create more stamina, more joy, clearer thinking, and better overall health. Classes will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; and March 3, 10, 17 at Unity of Tri-Valley's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd. Suite 120, Dublin. Drop-in classes are \$12, prepayment for entire 8-week course is \$80. Contact Gayle Staehle at 200-1765 or gstaehle@comcast.net.

Support Groups

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

TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS AND ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at the Groves at Dublin Ranch in the Clubhouse, 3115 Finian Way, Dublin. It hosts special speakers like doctors or specialists. For more information, call JoAnne at 875-0960.

Volunteering

SUNOL DOCENT TRAINING Become a Sunol Regional Wilderness docent to volunteer at a variety of parks and join the East Bay Regional Park District's volunteer community. The next Sunol Docent training class will take place on Monday and Wednesday mornings, Jan. 28-March 16. Contact (510) 544-3240 or Docents.Sunol@ebparks.org. Go to www.ebparks.org/about/getinvolved/volunteer/docent.

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN FOOD PANTRY The Tri-Valley Haven food pantry is in need of volunteers to help sort, organize, and bag donated food items along with other duties. If you can help out please contact Stacey at 449-5845. All shifts available Monday-Thursday at Tri-Valley Haven food pantry, 418 Junction Ave., Livermore.

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550 Business Opportunities

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560 Employment Information

Drivers: Attn: Drivers \$2K Sign-On Bonus. Accelerate your Career! \$\$ RECENT PAY INCREASE \$\$ Make \$55,000 your first year! CDL-A Req - (877) 258-8782 www.ad-drivers.com (Cal-SCAN)

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601 Accounting/ Bookkeeping

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605 Antiques & Art Restoration

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609 Catering/Event Planning

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624 Financial

Big Trouble with IRS? Are you in BIG trouble with the IRS? Stop wage and bank levies, liens and audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 844-753-1317 (AAN CAN)

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636 Insurance

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704 Audio/Visual

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715 Cleaning Services

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751 General Contracting

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

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We do new additions, bathroom/kitchen remodeling, dry rot repair, fences, foundations, earthquake retrofit, interior/ exterior painting, decks. Give us a call for a free estimate. Give me a call at 510-734-9780

Real Estate

809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

PAKMAIL OF PLEASANTON FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 499602 The following person(s) doing business as: PAKMAIL OF PLEASANTON, 5424 SUNOL BLVD. SUITE 10, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ARSHIDCO, LLC, 5424 SUNOL BLVD. SUITE 10, PLEASANTON, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Hassan Zafari, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/29/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23; 2015)

HEALING OASIS MASSAGE & REFLEXOLOGY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 499174

The following person(s) doing business as: HEALING OASIS MASSAGE & REFLEXOLOGY, 712 BANCROFT ROAD #853, WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Katherine Li-Young, 712 Bancroft Road #853, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. 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: Katherine Li-Young. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/15/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30; 2015)

JP TESTARMATA CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 499752 The following person(s) doing business as: JP TESTARMATA CONSULTING, 1532 RUBINO COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jan P Testarmata, 1532 Rubino Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 12/28/2009. Signature of Registrant: Jan P Testarmata. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 01/02/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13; 2015)

A'REVE EVENT PLANNING & DESIGN FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 499439

The following person(s) doing business as: A'REVE EVENT PLANNING & DESIGN, 3737 AVIANO WAY, DUBLIN, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Whitney Johnson-Valentine, 3737 Aviano Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 01/01/2014. Signature of Registrant: Whitney Johnson-Valentine. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 12/22/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13; 2015)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 493883-4 The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): BUSINESS BABES, BUSINESS-BABES, 2269 ST. CHARLES COURT, LIVERMORE, CA 94550. FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 07/15/2014 UNDER FILE NO. 493883-4 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): BUSINESS-BABES LLC, 2269 ST. CHARLES COURT, LIVERMORE, CA 94550 (DELAWARE). THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY a Limited liability company. Signature of Registrant: Mandana Moshiri. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on Jan. 2, 2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13; 2015)

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A bold new approach to classifieds for Pleasanton

Pros and cons of reverse mortgages

By JASON ALDERMAN

Over the last decade, reverse mortgages have been marketed as an easy way for seniors to cash in their home equity to pay for living expenses.

However, many have learned that improper use of the product — such as pulling all their cash out at one time to pay bills — has led to significant financial problems later, including foreclosure.

In actuality, there are some cases where reverse mortgages can be helpful to borrowers. However, it is imperative to do extensive research on these products before you sign.

Reverse mortgages are special kinds of home loans that let borrowers convert some of their home equity into cash. They come in three varieties: single-purpose reverse mortgages, home equity conversion mortgage (HECM) loans and proprietary reverse mortgages.

Who can apply? Homeowners can apply for a reverse mortgage if they are at least 62 years old, own their home outright or have a low mortgage balance that can be paid off with the proceeds of the reverse loan. Qualifying homeowners also must have no delinquent federal debt, the financial

resources to pay for upkeep, taxes and insurance, and live in the home during the life of the loan.

Consider the following pros and cons as a starting point for trying or bypassing this loan choice. Even though HECM loans require a discussion with a loan counselor, you should bring in your own financial, tax or estate adviser to help you decide whether you have a safe and appropriate use for this product.

Pros of reverse mortgages

- They're a source of cash. Borrowers can select that the amount of the loan be payable in a lump sum or regular payments.
- Proceeds are generally tax-free. Final tax treatment may rely on a variety of personal factors, so check with a tax professional.
- Generally, they don't impact Social Security or Medicare payments. Again, important to check personal circumstances.
- You won't owe more than the home is worth. Most reverse mortgages have a "non-recourse" clause, which prevents you or your estate from owing more than the value of your home when the loan becomes due and the home is sold.
- Reverse mortgages may be a smarter borrowing option for some downsizing seniors. With proper advice, some borrowers use them to buy new homes.

Cons of reverse mortgages

- You may outlive your equity. Reverse mortgages are viewed as a "last-resort" loan option and certainly not a singular solution to spending problems.
- You and your heirs won't get to keep your house unless you repay the loan. If your children hope to inherit your home outright, try to find some other funding solution (family loans, other conventional loan products) first.
- Fees can be more expensive than conventional loans. Reverse mortgage lenders typically charge an origination fee and higher closing costs than conventional loans. This adds up to several percentage points of your home's value.
- Many reverse mortgages are adjustable rate products. Adjustable rates affect the cost of the loan over time.
- If you have to move out for any reason, your loan becomes due. If you have to suddenly move into a nursing home or assisted-living facility, the loan becomes due after you've left your home for a continuous year.

Bottom line: Reverse mortgages have become a popular, if controversial, loan option for senior homeowners. For some, they may be a good fit, but all applicants should get qualified financial advice before they apply. ■

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



Jason Alderman



Gretchen Pearson and Steve Fast.

JEB BING

Berkshire, Prudential agents celebrate new office center

By JEB BING

Gretchen Pearson, owner of the 21 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, Drysdale properties in Northern California, joined sales manager Steve Fast at festivities of offices at 4725 First St. in downtown Pleasanton where agents from its newly acquired Prudential California Realty are part of the Berkshire Hathaway agency.

The Prudential Real Estate network generated more than half a billion dollars in sales volume on nearly 2,600 closed units in

2013. It now joins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices brokerage's network that has grown to nearly 1,100 offices and 35,000 agents in 47 states since its network's launch in September 2013.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices brokerage has its California corporate office in San Diego and is part of the HSF Affiliates LLC family of real estate brokerage franchise networks.

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, sign on to its website at www.bhh-srep.com.

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Apple Executive and family seek- 3500+sf 5bdrm home in gated community with sizable lot and preferably views up to \$2M (Pleasanton/Blackhawk)



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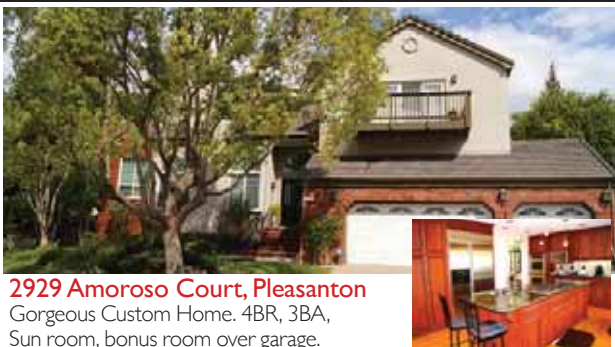
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550 Selby Lane Livermore

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Location! Well maintained and upgraded 3 BR, 2.5 BA home within walking distance to Downtown amenities! Built in 1992, open floor plan among 1926+/- sq. feet of living space. Elegant LR/DR with fireplace, new SS appliances, and master suite with balcony. 2 car garage plus parking spot. Backs to open space.

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NEW LISTING!



415 Abbie St., Downtown Pleasanton

One of a kind Downtown home! Just blocks from Historic Main Street. Built in 1944, incredible remodel completed in 2004. Unique custom touches throughout. 4 BR, 3 BA among 2000+/- sq. ft. Stunning entertainer's backyard with amazing views. 5000+/- sq. ft. lot.

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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 18-31

Pleasanton

433 Adams Way S. & D. Gerit to A. Coles for \$1,170,000
3608 Annis Circle A. & C. Delapena to A. Kumar for \$750,000
5230 Armani Court T. Chancellor to H. Vancurachilson for \$675,000
3567 Ballantyne Drive J. & D. Thiede to R. Kan for \$800,000
4920 Blackbird Way W. Raridan to L. Vujjini for \$850,000
9477 Blessing Drive B. Lin to S. & S. Kamath for \$1,610,000
714 Bonita Avenue D. & B. Boehme to R. Shaw for \$935,000
7134 Corte Balboa Gallucci Trust to T. Hirakawa for \$850,000
4117 Cortina Court Pula-Nattuva Trust to S. Chitullapally for \$672,000
3745 Crofters Court M. & R. Rodriguez to R. Estimo for \$270,000
4264 Dorman Road R. & J. Lange to R. Cain for \$730,500
3736 Fairlands Drive F. & C. Wu to X. Li for \$823,000
1029 Hometown Way Mital Trust to B. Gao for \$690,000
4436 Mirador Drive Ottens Trust to T. & R. Bruner for \$770,000
8015 Mountain View Drive #E A. Harris to A. Rose for \$315,000
8119 Regency Drive Long Trust to S. Mishra for \$1,485,000
4561 Sutter Gate Avenue Zollinger Trust to Patterson Trust for \$927,500

Dublin

3806 Branding Iron Place Rancho Silvera Ventures to R. & V. Megeath for \$446,500
3808 Branding Iron Place Rancho Silvera Ventures to J. Garzon for \$620,000
3816 Branding Iron Place Rancho Silvera Ventures to M. Mohabbat for \$459,000

3465 Dublin Boulevard #117 Zemlok Trust to A. Anayat for \$416,000
10616 Eastertown Lane W. & B. Hadfield to T. & T. Mesloh for \$470,000
5509 Esprit Way Western Pacific Housing to A. Natarajan for \$723,000
5515 Esprit Way Western Pacific Housing to J. Huang for \$749,500
5305 Garces Court S. & S. Phatak to K. Roy for \$875,000
7678 Ironwood Drive C. Djan to J. Tross for \$605,000
7330 Kolb Place Rasmussen Trust to S. & A. Manidaw for \$775,000
11711 Ladera Drive B. Horchler to Y. & L. Shinohara for \$700,000
4687 Mangrove Drive #47 Dermetizis Trust to F. Peng for \$605,000
3403 Monaghan Street K. Weidensaul to R. & L. Li for \$528,000
6131 Moore Place J. & R. Janakes to A. Aeimula for \$627,000
5740 North Dublin Ranch Drive Deianni Trust to E. & D. Ou for \$960,000
3739 Oakhurst Way K. & N. Supan to R. Prattipati for \$1,050,000
5671 Old Westbury Way Choudhury Trust to A. Vardy for \$825,000
11667 Padre Way Hider Trust to J. & M. Rego for \$735,000
6156 Shadow Hill Drive M. & L. Dugan to A. Prakash for \$830,000
11890 Silvergate Drive Leoni Trust to A. & S. Gianopoulos for \$660,000
2346 Valentano Drive National Residential to J. Kunjoonju for \$1,221,000
3610 Whitworth Drive L. & E. Wu to Y. Desta for \$700,000

Livermore

1442 3rd Street Greci Trust to G. Thayer for \$708,000
1233 Amalfi Common C. & C. Richter to K. Suileabhain for \$685,000
2401 Ancona Circle Durst Trust to D. & S. Amiri for \$1,145,000
751 Barleta Court G. & J. Miceli to O. & J.

Zargham for \$1,162,500
476 Bernal Avenue Alvarez Trust to H. & D. Psaros for \$390,000
1833 De Vaca Way S. & D. Dewarns to Thissell Trust for \$423,000
3162 Golden Crest Common #2 Macklin Trust to U. Maddala for \$480,000
71 Heligan Lane #5 Shea Homes to A. & J. Conway for \$561,000
71 Heligan Lane #6 Shea Homes to R. & B. Revels for \$600,000
3873 Inverness Common D. Fridlund to V. Hsiao for \$580,000
87 Jami Street W. & A. Fannon to L. & D. Vanoli for \$719,000
5170 Lenore Avenue W. Anderson to S. Scott for \$590,000
678 Lido Drive LMP Acquisition II to T. & K. Lehouillier for \$770,000
3848 Madeira Way H. & V. Johnson to J. & A. Bateman for \$450,000
1356 Meadow Court L. Napolitano to M. & G. Donofrio for \$550,000
2587 Palm Avenue P. Lester to Rounds Trust for \$630,000
2811 Quarryhill Avenue #2 Shea Homes to J. Lee for \$585,000
2811 Quarryhill Avenue #3 Shea Homes to T. Pashkevich for \$677,000
2811 Quarryhill Avenue #4 Shea Homes to A. Peyrovan for \$670,000
2811 San Minete Drive T. Hung to G. & N. Ghannoum for \$1,069,000
713 Sandpiper Common B. Wilson to J. Kukahiko for \$375,000
2737 Vernazza Drive Coler Trust to R. & J. Miles for \$1,500,000

San Ramon

2263 Ashbourne Drive Toll Land XXII to C. & C. Chen for \$2,180,000
2002 Bayport Way G. Poon to A. & R. Asija for \$720,000
208 Compton Circle #A Lane Trust to L. Wu for \$350,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Dublin

5 BEDROOMS
4200 Maymont Court **\$1,095,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Karla Brown & Steve Fast 785-8239

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS
5433 Desiree Ave. **\$599,950**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

5 BEDROOMS
1478 Cheryl Drive **\$949,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Linda Futral 980-3561

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS
1021 Division St. **\$899,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema 260-2220/413-6544

4 BEDROOMS
8031 Bethel Lane **\$1,759,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Gail Boal 577-5787

1576 Foothill Road **\$1,750,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Sheri Platter 858-5400

4051 Nevis St. **\$798,000**
 Fri/Sat 1-4 Mike Carey 963-0569

5 BEDROOMS
7927 Doral Court **\$1,891,000**
 Sun 1-4 Mike Carey 963-0569

4106 Parma Court **\$2,885,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Leslie Faught 784-7979

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate



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See reviews of Julia



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Open House Sat. Jan. 31 (1-4) and Sun. Feb. 1 (1-4)

3289 Cydonia Court, Dublin

Fabulous home in Dublin, built in 2012. This home has barely been lived in. There are 4 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, with 2371 sq.ft. of living space. With no rear neighbors, this home enjoys spectacular valley views!
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Testimonial

"Julia can only be described as exceptional. She has good follow through, returns calls promptly and is experienced. Julia helped us sell our Bonde Ranch Home in Pleasanton and we would not hesitate to use Julia again. Professionalism, accountability and responsiveness are the most important criteria in a realtor to us and Julia is all of it."

—Nancy Chang, Pleasanton



JUST SOLD

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



JUST SOLD

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

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- ✓ 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

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INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE COMPANY

RESIDENTIAL SALES • INCOME PROPERTIES
1031 EXCHANGES • LAND AND DEVELOPMENT

4051 Nevis St, Pleasanton

JUST LISTED!

Walk to everything from this desirable Jensen tract 1-story 4 bedroom, 2 bath home! Approx. 1875 sq ft with newly-refinished hardwood floors, new interior paint, new interior doors, hardware and fixtures throughout. Open slab granite kitchen, updated stone bathrooms and dual pane windows. Spacious living spaces with wood burning fireplace in family room. Master with large walk-in closet/dressing room and built-ins. Covered front porch and private rear yard. Walk to all 3 levels of school, area parks, aquatic center, post office, shopping and downtown's Main Street! \$798,000



Open Sat/Sun 1-4

7927 Doral Ct, Pleasanton

SPACIOUS WESTSIDE HOME ON OVER 1/2 ACRE!

Approx. 4500 sq ft Golden Eagle gated-entry home in court location with 5 br, 4.5 baths + office, master retreat and spacious game room. Enjoy modern styling inside and out, with gorgeous yard with pool, spa, fire-pit, built-in bbq island, outdoor kitchen bar area, covered patios, beautiful stonework/hardscaping and multiple entertaining areas! Ideal floorplan with 1 bed, 1 full bath + additional 1/2 bath downstairs — can be in-law/au-pair setup with existing separate entry from yard. 3 car finished garage, loads of off-street parking and so much more! \$1,817,000



Open Sat 1-4

COMING SOON IN PLEASANTON

110 East Angela Street, Pleasanton

Walk just one block to Main Street from this tastefully updated 1910 home. Approx. 2800 sq ft with 6 br, 4 baths, giant island kitchen, spacious family room and rare for downtown 2 car garage + bonus room/office. Entertainers yard with fire pit. \$1,648,000

228 Spring Street, Pleasanton

Rare downtown central commercial district zoning allows for commercial, residential or mixed use. \$889,000

MIKE CAREY, Broker

925.963.0569 Cell
925.846.0506 Office



COMING SOON

Gold Creek Townhome
Will Be On Market Next Week - January 30
Open Sat. January 31st & Sun. February 1st 1 - 4pm

3 bedroom, 2.5 bath end unit with over 1600+ square feet
Immaculate - neutral colors and sparkling clean
Has separate dining room, wood flooring and tile
2-car attached garage, inside laundry
Great location - close to BART, schools, shopping, freeway

Asking price \$640,000



Jan Pegler
REALTOR®
(925) 519-1455
www.bhghome.com/janpegler
BRE# 01384196





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DONNA GARRISON | SUSAN SCHALL

Dedicated to the extraordinary. The exceptional. The unique.

2014 was a banner year for Donna Garrison and Susan Schall/Fabulous Properties!

- We sold almost \$60M in real estate
- Voted by Pleasanton Weekly's Readers as a Favorite Pleasanton Real Estate Team
- Received national recognition from the Wall Street Journal and Real Trends for a 2nd year
- Ranked #4 team in the world at previous brokerage, Keller Williams

We look forward to helping many families buy and sell their homes this year. Please give us a call to get started!



RECENT HOMES SOLD by Donna Garrison & Susan Schall

- 656 Varese Ct., Ruby Hill, sold for \$2.04M
- 740 Avio Ct., Ruby Hill, sold for \$1.74M
- 3274 Derby Ct., Livermore, sold for \$1.575M (represented buyer)
- 798 Vineyard Terrace, Pleasanton, sold for \$1.738M
- 678 Lido Drive, Livermore, sold for \$799k (represented buyer)
- 4889 Charlotte Way, Livermore, sold for \$515k
- 1496 Calle Enrique, Pleasanton, sold for \$548k
- 614 Escondido Circle, Livermore, sold for \$899k



LIVE AMONG THE WINEMAKERS
7795 Cedar Mountain Road, Livermore
 7 Bd., 6 Ba., Exceptional custom home with producing vineyards, on 16.2 acres in the Livermore Wine Country
Offered at \$3,950,000



NEW PRICE
3558 Crespi Court, Kottinger Ranch
 Entertainer's dream on .88 acre with panoramic views and resort styled yard. 4857 sq. feet, 6 bed/4 bath, Office & Bonus in Kottinger Ranch.
Offered at \$2,150,000



PENDING
1279 Lozano Court, Ruby Hill
 4 Bd., 3.5 Ba., Cherry floors, extensive millwork, gourmet kitchen and traditional styling. Resort styled yard.
Offered at \$2,425,000



PENDING
551 Montori Court, Ruby Hill
 4 Bd, 3Ba, 2680 sq. ft. in desirable Premier Private Yard.
Offered at \$1,299,000

For more information on these another extraordinary properties contact
DONNA GARRISON | SUSAN SCHALL REALTORS®
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Coldwell Banker #1 IN CALIFORNIA



BRENTWOOD
2265 HARMONY CT
TRULY A VISION OF BRENTWOOD! \$625,000
 4 BR 3.5 BA Huge fnt yard, Crtyard w/Firepl acsible from Fam Rm & Dine Rm Uppr bdrms w/wrap-arud balcy
 Sandra Burt, CalBRE #01205844 925.847.2200



DUBLIN
7314 EMERALD AVE
MUST SEE! \$950,000
 7 BR 3 BA 2 mast.suts. total of 7Bdrs. 3 handcpd BA. Gormt kin/w gran.slabs contrs, cherywood cabnts. Carmen Nica, CalBRE #01134456 925.847.2200



DUBLIN
10605 MELVICH LN
BEAUTIFUL CAL HIGHLANDS TOWNHOME! \$595,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA Very open&updated flring, Vaulted ceilings, spacs patio area w/ garden area w/hill view
 Suzanne Bieser, CalBRE #01355940 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
5622 MOUNT HAMILTON
NEW LISTING! \$775,000
 4 BR 3 BA Spacious 4bdm, 3 ba, w/over 2500sqft. Open ktch w/eat n dining, family rm combo. Daisy Ng, CalBRE #01311067 925.847.2200

BRENTWOOD

274 BLACKSTONE DRIVE
COMING SOON! CALL FOR PRICING
 6 BR 3 BA This is a former model home & fully loaded w/gorgeous upgrades!
 Shannon Shepherd, CalBRE #01350212 925.847.2200
2918 SPANISH BAY DRIVE
EXECUTIVE HOME IN DEER RIDGE! \$620,000
 5 BR 3 BA Elegant 5BR/3BA home w/ amazing views. 1BR/BA on main level. HWV flrs upgrades throughout. Dedorah Levine, CalBRE #01386245 925.847.2200

HAYWARD

688 MACABEE WAY
JUST LISTED! \$449,000
 Beautiful 4yr old townhouse w/2bd, 2.5 ba spacious kitchen, two car garage. Wash/dryer.

LIVERMORE

12457 MINES ROAD
FABULOUS ESTATE! \$1,099,000
 5 BR 2.5 BA 5 Acre Estate! Remodeled kitch. Updated BAs w/marble. Fireplces. Lovely landscaping, pool/spa. Mary Anne Rozsa, CalBRE #00783003 925.847.2200

OAKLEY

444 DUTCH SLOUGH RD
LOTS & LAND PROPERTY \$119,950
 Must See, lots of new additions.
 Delwyn Lounsbury, CalBRE #00330978 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

1822 HARMS DRIVE
NEW LISTING! \$668,000
 3 BR 3 BA Must see new listing, 3 bds, 3bs, plantation shutters, 1609 sqft. Heater/AC.
 Nancy Sutorius, CalBRE #00628232 925.847.2200



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PLEASANTON

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TURN THE KEY



DANVILLE \$3,790,000

5870 BRUCE DR
6bd 6(1)ba | Dan Gamache
By Appt



PLEASANTON \$3,300,000

6010 ALISAL ST
4bd 3(2)ba | Moxley Team
By Appt



RUBY HILL \$2,885,000

4106 PARMA CT
5bd/5+ba | Leslie Faight
Open Sat & Sun 1-4



PLEASANTON \$2,079,000

8053 HORIZONS CT
5bd 3(2)ba | Blaise Lofland
By Appt



PLEASANTON \$1,980,000

4155 CASTERSON CT
4bd 3(1)ba | Moxley Team
By Appt



LIVERMORE \$949,000

1478 CHERYL DR
5bd 3.5ba | Linda Futral
Open Sat & Sun 1-4



LIVERMORE \$517,000

343 ANDREA CIRCLE
3bd 2ba | Daniel Alpher
By Appt



LIVERMORE \$499,900

2895 KELLY ST
3bd 2ba | Robin Young
By Appt



DUBLIN \$339,988

3385 DUBLIN BLVD #202
2bd 2ba | Jo Ann Luisi
By Appt