

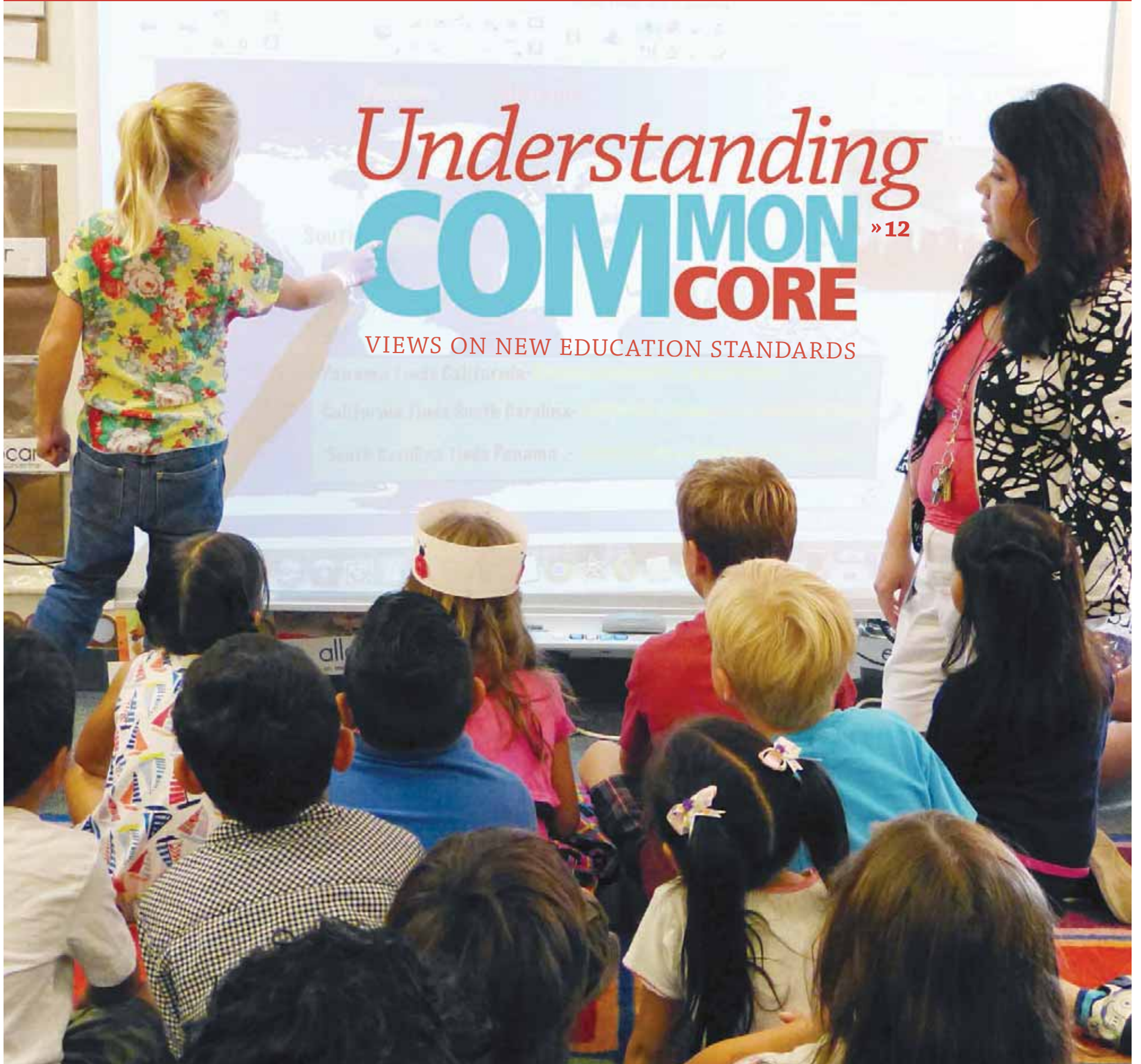
# Pleasanton Weekly

Pleasanton author  
pens allergen-  
conscious cookbook

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*“Kindness in words creates confidence.  
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.  
Kindness in giving creates love.”*

— Lao Tzu

# Thank You

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Due to your generous support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund last year,  
tens of thousands in the Tri-Valley will benefit greatly from your gifts.

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—The Beneficiaries of the 2014 Holiday Fund —



# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



BHV CENTERSTREET PROPERTIES

Artist's sketch shows retail shops planned for Pacific Pearl, an Asian-focused center to be built at Stoneridge Drive and El Charro Road.

## Coming soon: An Asian gateway to Pleasanton

With Pleasanton's Asian-American population nearing 20%, it was only a matter of time before commercial developers built to serve this expanding market. On Feb. 11, BHV CenterStreet Properties of Danville, a retail development firm also operating as Pacific Pearl, will seek approval from the Pleasanton Planning Commission to construct a 112,000-square-foot shopping center and office park on Staples Ranch with a focus on the Asian market.

The shopping center will be anchored by Marina Food Grocery Store, with an international food court operated by an experienced Bay Area Asian restaurant owner, and Tilted Kilt restaurant, also serving Asian cuisine. The center, its variety of 20-30 restaurants, retail stores and service businesses will cater to a many-faceted clientele and taste, but the focus will be Asian.

The center will be built on an 11-1/2-acre site long planned for a retail development on the southwest corner of Stoneridge Drive and El Charro Road, just south of the Livermore Outlets. Its architecture also will have an Asian theme, designed by one of the Bay Area's premier shopping center design firms, FCGA. Construction of the shopping center will begin in the spring of 2016 and will be completed by the spring of 2017, with the opening of the grocery store and initial tenants in the fall of 2017.

The Pacific Pearl Center will be Asian-oriented with the anchor grocery store offering a higher mix of organic products than most of its

competitors. The 15,000-square-foot international public market and food bazaar will be similar to the Republic of Food store in Singapore. The shopping center will include a wide array of restaurants, retail and services to serve the Asian community as well as the broader Pleasanton population.

Clearly, Pleasanton's demographics have evolved over the past two decades, leading now to a substantial Asian population, which is generally well-educated with high incomes. Even so, only 99 Ranch Market in the Rose Pavilion specifically targets this market with many imported groceries and meats. It does a booming business with customers coming from throughout the Tri-Valley.

In their survey of where to locate an Asian center, Brad Blake, co-founder of BHV CenterStreet Properties, and Brad Griggs, a managing partner, found that there is a demand here for international dining and shopping experiences. Most of this demand is now met by centers well beyond Pleasanton, hence, they found that there is significant retail and restaurant sales "leakage" that could be captured by the project they are proposing.

Pacific Pearl will also benefit from the nearby Livermore Outlets. Just a block away, it should attract a high percentage of the outlet center's customers who will find the retail and restaurant offerings attractive, unique and different. Soon to be located at what's becoming a major junction just off I-580 and the Stoneridge Drive/Jack London Boulevard thoroughfare, Pacific Pearl promises to become the east side's gateway to Pleasanton. ■

### About the Cover

Valley View Elementary first-grade dual immersion teacher Christie Carnahan incorporates technology in her classroom by using a "Smart Board" to give students a global connection as part of Common Core learning. Students Skype with a class of third-graders in Panama and collaborate on hands-on learning about each other's countries. Photo by Nicole Steward, PUSD. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XVI, Number 1

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**Arnold Kruse**

Passed away on Jan 11, 2015 at the age of 64. He was born in Pleasanton on December 19, 1950 to Roy and Mildred (Bryant-Wells) Kruse. He was very proud to be a 5th generation Pleasantonian. He is survived by his sister Adrian (Tootsie) Jenkins of Loomis and his niece and nephew. Memorial service Saturday, February 7th at 11:30 at the OLD St. Raymond's Church, 6600 Donlon Way in historic Dublin. Burial will be in the Dublin Pioneer Cemetery in the Wells plot. In lieu of flowers donate to American Diabetes Association.

PAID OBITUARY

**Ward Skinner**  
July 13, 1930-December 26, 2014

Ward B. Skinner July 13, 1930 - Dec 26, 2014 Resident of Hayward Dr. Ward Bosworth Skinner died peacefully on December 26, 2014 in Castro Valley, California at the age of 84. Ward is survived by his daughter, Luree Jones of Pleasanton and 4 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister and son, Ward David Skinner. Ward was very active in the community. Ward opened his dental practice in Hayward in the early 1960's, where he joined the Hayward Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club, making many long time friends. He served as Lions Club President and the President of the Southern Alameda County Dental Association. He was an active member of the Castlewood Country Club and served on the Board of Directors for many years as well as the Castlewood Property Owners Association Board.. A Celebration of Life is scheduled for January 31, 2015 from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, CA. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Ward's life. Additional information is available at: <http://www.bergepappasmith.com/mobile/obituary/Ward-Bosworth-Skinner/Hayward-CA/1465607>

PAID OBITUARY

# Big Game Day SAVINGS!



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YERI YERI TERIYAKI

# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## What do you want to do with your life?



**Roland Rogers (with Elmo)**  
Elementary school student

I want to become a veterinarian because I love animals and want to spend as much time as possible helping them to stay healthy. I especially love horses and cows, and so I'm thinking I'd like to specialize in treating large animals. I bet you didn't know that cows have four stomachs!



**Bailee Alvarez**  
Middle school student

I want to become an Olympic athlete. Either an Olympic swimmer, or the goalkeeper on the women's soccer team because I love playing sports and would be thrilled to represent the U.S. at the Olympic Games.



**Arthur Levitz**  
Front desk/hospitality clerk

Professionally, I'd like to go to law school to become a business lawyer. On a more personal level, I would like to become someone who, because of my actions and deeds, is a person others admire and respect, so that I will leave behind a really positive legacy as well as a world that is better off for my having existed in it.



**Savannah Viggiani**  
High school student

Well, I'm not exactly sure what my business will be yet, or whether it will be large or small, but I am very entrepreneurial and know that I want to own and operate my own business someday. And of course I want it to be a successful business, not a struggling one.



**Tim Smith**  
Elementary school student

I want to become a marine biologist because I love and respect the ocean, and all sea life. I want to do all that I can to protect the oceans and all of the living things in them.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

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



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## DIGEST

### Youth in Government

Pleasanton high school students have until this Saturday (Jan. 31) to apply to participate in the 2015 Youth in Government Day scheduled for Feb. 19.

Students will have the opportunity to shadow Pleasanton city and school district staff.

The event will also have a networking lunch where participants can meet and talk to professionals about their career. During the afternoon session, students will hear presentations from the Pleasanton Youth Commission and a keynote speaker discussing college and career readiness.

Youth in Government Day will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Applications can be found online at <http://ptownlife.org>. They are due to the student's school office by Saturday.

### Literacy volunteers

The Pleasanton Library's Project Read literacy program is seeking volunteer tutors to assist adults with English skills. A new tutor training will be held in the large meeting room of the library this Saturday from 1-4 p.m.

The program provides volunteer tutors with workbooks and study guides. The library staff will assist volunteers in the development of teaching skills.

Volunteer literacy tutors must be at least 18 years old, fluent in American English and able to devote a consistent hour or two weekly to a student for one semester. For more information, call Penny Johnson at 931-3405 or email [pennyjohnson@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:pennyjohnson@cityofpleasantonca.gov).

### Ex-officer convicted

A former California Highway Patrol officer in the Dublin office who forwarded nude photos of arrested women to himself and other officers was sentenced Tuesday to three years of probation.

Sean Harrington, 35, pleaded no contest to two counts of unauthorized access to a computer and copying computer data Tuesday morning and was sentenced to the probation and a suspended 180-day jail sentence, Contra Costa County prosecutor Barry Grove said.

One probation condition is attending a community violence solutions class where he must participate as a speaker. If Harrington violates his probation, he would have to serve the jail sentence, the prosecutor said.

The charges related to photos taken from two women (one from Livermore and one from San Ramon) in custody on suspicion of DUI last year. ■

## School district loses ruling in Vranesh case

### Judge orders PUSD to make 25+ people available for depositions

BY AMANDA AGUILAR

An attempt by the Pleasanton Unified School District to deny former Walnut Grove principal Jon Vranesh a hearing into its allegations against him has been rejected and the district has been ordered to immediately make more than 25 individuals available for depositions.

The Jan. 23 ruling by Administrative Law Judge Diane Schneider means a full hearing on the district's allegations, with witnesses, will be held beginning Feb. 17.

The court order was sought by Vranesh after PUSD counsel Kim Bogard, of Folsom-based Kingsley-Bogard, suspended depositions and

informed Vranesh he had not properly demanded a hearing within 15 days of the district's formal accusations last November — and had therefore forfeited his right to a hearing.

Vranesh was placed on administrative leave in October 2013 for allegedly creating a "hostile work environment" at the school site.

He filed a lawsuit last Oct. 17 against PUSD, and on Nov. 19,

the district notified Vranesh that a statement of charges against him had been adopted by the Board of Trustees, and that he would be dismissed within 30 days from the date of service of that notice unless he filed a written request for a hearing. He was suspended without pay and benefits effective Nov. 18.

According to the court's order, Vranesh's attorney responded to district counsel Nov. 26, saying, "So that there is no misunderstanding, we inform you at the earliest possible moment that Mr. Vranesh is requesting/demanding a hearing." He also included Vranesh's intention to take depositions from PUSD employees.

The judge ruled that Vranesh's demand for a hearing was proper and that he was entitled to depose potential witnesses.

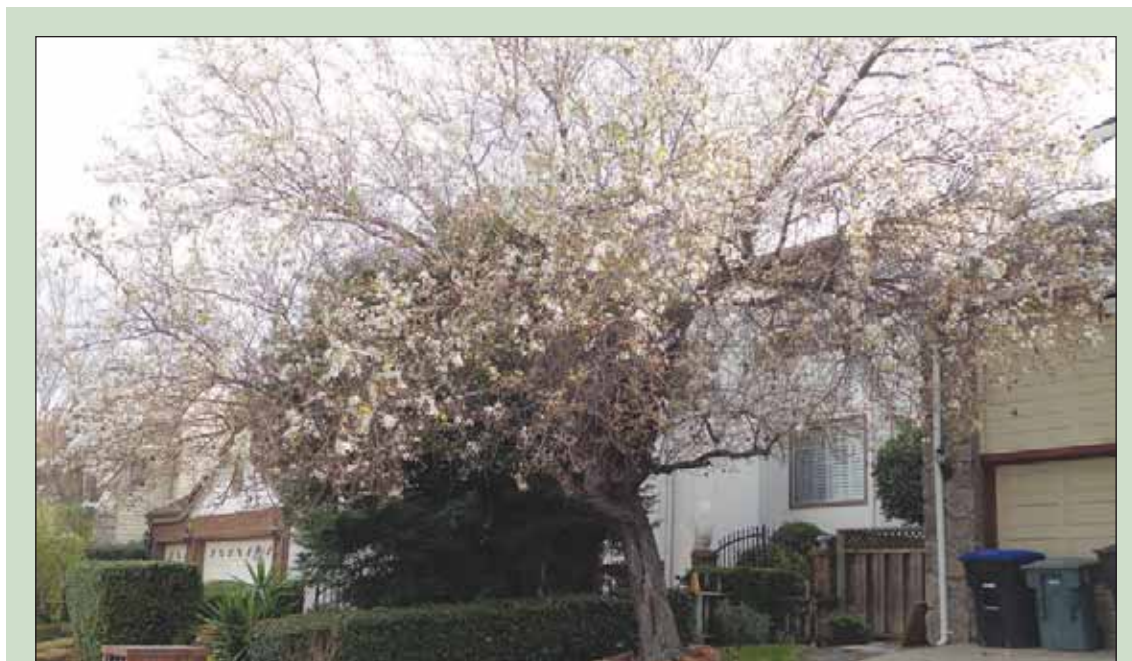
Vranesh filed with the district on Dec. 19 deposition notices for a total of 37 individuals to be deposed between Jan. 6 and 28. Fifteen witnesses were to be deposed between Jan. 6 and 9, but nine failed to appear.

The district's lawyers filed a motion on Jan. 12 to cancel Vranesh's notice of deposition and subpoenas for all depositions scheduled on or after Jan. 13. ■

*Editor's note: A copy of the court order is available with the online version of this story on [www.pleasantonweekly.com](http://www.pleasantonweekly.com).*



Jon Vranesh



JEB BING

### Pleasanton in January

At a time when much of the country is still dealing with a brutal winter, this flowering pear on Montevino Drive jumps the gun with bursting blooms along with hundreds of other trees throughout the city well ahead of spring.

## Hacienda manager installed as chairman of Pleasanton chamber

### Vows ambitious program in 2015 to boost business, city's appeal

James Paxson, general manager of Hacienda, was installed this week as chairman of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce for 2015.

In a ceremony held during a sold-out luncheon at Ruby Hill Golf Club, Paxson said that "with good economic signs coming our way," the chamber will be rolling out ambitious programs to boost business growth and the chamber's effectiveness in the year ahead.

"With the organization that we have here, we are going to see great things happening in 2015," Paxson said.

Paxson, who is the top administrator for Hacienda, a business park and residential community in north

Pleasanton, succeeds David Stark, public affairs director for the Bay East Association of Realtors, who held the post last year. Paxson was installed by Mayor Jerry Thorne.

The Pleasanton chamber, the largest in the Tri-Valley, has represented the business interests in the city for the past 67 years. It has more than 800 members with more than 15,000 employees who work for these member firms.

"When I first started my job in Pleasanton, I was told to go out and get involved with the chamber," Paxson said. "What impressed me in my first meeting was the incredible talent, the dedication of the people there, their energy and, above all, the

idea that these people were coming together to get work done."

"It was phenomenal, and it's the same energy that I see in this room around me today," Paxson told the luncheon audience to loud applause.

"What a great year to be involved in the Pleasanton chamber, not just because we're starting to see some good economic signs coming our way, but because we are getting ready to roll out a really terrific program," Paxson added.

He then cited some of the chamber's achievements and programs:

- 40 ambassadors who represent Pleasanton business interests in

## Albertsons, Safeway merger gets FTC clearance

BY JEB BING

AB Acquisition LLC, which owns Boise-based Albertsons, plans to complete the merger/acquisition of Pleasanton-based Safeway today.

The move comes following Federal Trade Commission's clearance of the merger agreement, which was first announced on March 6, 2014.

The FTC's clearance also follows Albertsons' and Safeway's agreement to a proposed consent order, which includes a commitment to divest 168 stores.

As previously announced, Albertsons and Safeway entered into agreements to sell these stores to four FTC-approved buyers. Albertsons and Safeway also agreed to settlements with the attorneys general of California, Nevada and Washington.

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

The company's common stock is currently traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SWY. The company's securities will be delisted from the NYSE upon closing of the merger today.

Established in 2006 when it acquired Albertsons, AB Acquisition LLC also operates ACME, Jewel-Osco, Lucky, Shaws, Star Market and Super Saver, and stores under the United Family of stores, Amigos, Market Street and United Supermarkets.

The company is privately owned by Cerberus Capital Management, Kimco Realty Corp., Klaff Realty, Lubert-Adler Partners and Schottenstein Stores Corp.

# Dublin council ends two months of debate, chooses Wehrenberg for vacant seat

Ongoing deliberations closely watched, much discussed throughout the Tri-Valley

By JEB BING

After nearly 15 hours of public and closed-door meetings over the last two months, the Dublin City Council on Monday voted 3-1 to appoint former planning commissioner Doreen Wehrenberg to fill Mayor David Haubert's seat on the council.

Even Monday's special meeting wasn't decisive for the first hour as the council voted repeatedly on a number of candidates, either locked in a 2-2 vote or often with a councilman's nomination failing to even gain a second supporting vote.

It took three votes to make the decision and in the end Haubert threw his support to the recommendation of councilmen Don Biddle and Kevin Hart to vote for Wehrenberg while Vice Mayor Abe Gupta continued in his opposition, casting the one vote against her nomination.

The Dublin council's ongoing de-

bate over who should fill the seat vacated by councilman Haubert when he was elected mayor last November has been closely watched and much discussed throughout the Tri-Valley where other city councils generally handle these issues more rapidly and often differently.

Pleasanton's council, for example, long ago decided against filling vacancies by appointment, choosing instead to pay the costs of holding a special election to let voters decide. Councilwoman Kathy Narum first won her council seat in 2013 in a mail-in ballot election after Councilman Jerry Thorne was elected mayor in 2012.

But the four Dublin councilmen said they couldn't support spending an estimated \$300,000 to hold a special election or at least half that for a vote-by-mail election to choose Haubert's replacement for a term that will expire in November 2016.

Most of the 19 speakers at

Monday night's meeting agreed, although many also favored the special election option if the council couldn't reach a decision by this Saturday. That's the date the council had to make a decision or give Gov. Jerry Brown the option of intervening by law and making the appointment.

Nine women and three men were under consideration for the vacancy. They included a number of candidates who currently serve on city commissions and committees, including several who had sought election to the council in earlier races.

Gupta favored Dublin school board vice president Dan Cunningham for the vacant council post, and he also nominated former planning commissioner Lynn Do at last month's meeting, but she did not get a second vote.

But many supported Wehrenberg, including former Council-

woman Claudia McCormick. Councilman Kevin Hart said he had received 200 emails and many phone calls on the selection process.

The council wasted no time in seating Wehrenberg, asking city clerk Caroline Soto to administer the oath of office within minutes after the vote. Wehrenberg then took her seat next to Hart.

"I appreciate everyone's support," she said. "I also want to thank all the other applicants. It's been a very difficult time for all of us and a very long process."

Before adjourning the meeting, Haubert and others on the council reminded those in the chamber that a regular municipal election is scheduled for November 2016.

At that time, because the mayor's term is for two-year segments, Haubert will need to seek re-election, if he chooses. Hart will be termed out and Wehrenberg, who is filling Haubert's unexpired council term



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Doreen Wehrenberg, new Dublin city councilwoman.

that ends in 2016, will also have to seek re-election if she chooses to stay on the council. ■

## SAFeway

Continued from Page 5

Along with the merger approval, Safeway also announced that it has extended its offer to purchase senior notes due in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The offer was previously extended on Jan. 22, after which it was scheduled to expire last Tuesday. The offer was subsequently extended until 5 p.m. Eastern time today, unless further extended or withdrawn by Safeway.

The depositary for the offer has advised Safeway that, as of Jan. 27, approximately \$228,474,000 principal amount, or 45.69% of the outstanding principal amount, of the 2019 senior notes, \$367,658,000 principal amount, or 73.53% of

the outstanding principal amount, of the 2020 senior notes and \$272,518,000 principal amount, or 68.13% of the outstanding principal amount, of the 2021 senior notes had been validly tendered.

Requests for documents and

questions regarding the procedures for tendering senior notes may be directed to D.F. King & Co. Inc. at (866) 751-6309.

For more information on the merger, sign on to [www.Albertsons.com](http://www.Albertsons.com) or [www.Safeway.com](http://www.Safeway.com). ■



COURTESY OF ANDREW NAM

Foothill DECA at the Northern California Career Development Conference.

## Foothill DECA brings home awards from NorCal conference

53 members attended DECA conference

Members from Foothill High School's DECA club excelled at California DECA's Annual Northern California Career Development Conference in San Ramon — bringing home a total of 125 awards.

The conference, held Jan. 16-18, provided an opportunity for more than 1,100 future business and marketing leaders to compete in the fields of marketing, hospitality and tourism, finance, and management.

"Foothill DECA had its best year yet in competition," said DECA member Ardin Lo.

Four team members took home overall first place in their categories:

Lo (food marketing), Bryan Collins (principles of finance), Mallika Pahwa (marketing management) and Nihar Patil (quick serve restaurant management).

Two dozen other Foothill DECA members placed second, third or fourth in one or more categories, and 12 others earned top-eight finishes.

Members were able to compete in over 40 competitive events.

Winners and finalists were determined through the combination of written knowledge and business presentations.

"This conference helped me learn business skills, network with

people across the state, and also allowed me to express myself in a unique professional business setting. I also had a great time," said Patil, Foothill DECA's vice president of membership development.

Foothill DECA is now preparing for the State Career Development Conference — where students will have the chance to qualify for the International Career Development Conference held in Orlando, Fla.

For a complete list of the Foothill DECA high finishers, visit the Pleasanton Weekly website at [www.pleasantonweekly.com](http://www.pleasantonweekly.com). ■

—Amanda Aguilar

## PUSD board talks laptop program for middle schools

By AMANDA AGUILAR

The Pleasanton school board heard a report from middle school principals at its meeting Tuesday night about a proposal to expand the traditional laptop program to all middle school students.

"We want to bring technology to all students," school district staff said.

Currently, only students in the voluntary program have access to a laptop — with each middle school having approximately 30% of its students in the program.

The expanded laptop program proposes that all sixth-graders will have access to a laptop, regardless of socioeconomic status, in the 2015-16 school year.

In 2016-17, all sixth- and seventh-graders will have laptop access; and in 2017-18, all middle school students will have access.

Staff also presented a survey of incoming sixth-grade parents asking, "In order to help improve the ratio of devices to students, would you be willing to provide a device for your child to use in school each day?"

According to staff, 60% of 507 respondents answered "Yes, I will provide a device for my child" and 15% saying "no." The remaining respondents were undecided.

Parents and teachers addressed the board about the program Tuesday night, voicing support and concerns for the proposal.

Pleasanton parent Darby Limkang told board members that the

community is behind the vision, but there must also be a "clear, concise, realistic plan about how we're going to get there."

Trustee Mark Miller echoed Limkang's statements, saying that the district must come up with a plan that notes any ramifications of the program.

The next step for the proposal will include creating a school plan and budget allocation, which will include professional development, infrastructure, hardware and software, technical support and communication.

In other business:

- During the community comment session, Pleasanton teacher Mary Jo Carrion addressed the school board about their unanimous approval to rescind the calendar change.

"We had an agreement and you rescinded it. Trust has been broken," she said.

Carrion also added that teachers should continue to be a part of the calendar committee and the upcoming process should include student opinions. "We will move forward but I would like for us to do it as a team," Carrion said.

According to superintendent of human resources Bill Faraghan, employee bargaining units are currently in the process of setting the new dates for the 2015-16 calendar.

- The school board received a report on four new proposed courses

See **BOARD** on Page 8

## 4 Democrats, 1 Republican enter State Senate race

Candidate nomination period ends ahead of March special primary election

By JEREMY WALSH

The candidate list for the upcoming State Senate special election is set, with four Democrats and one Republican successfully filing nomination papers last week to qualify for the race to represent Pleasanton and the rest of the 7th State Senate District.

The quintet, which includes a Pleasanton native, are vying to fill the seat left vacant when former State Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) resigned to join the U.S. House of Representatives.

The special primary election is scheduled for March 17, with the top two finishers then set to square off in a special election on May 19. The term to be decided expires in 2016.

Sitting State Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla (D-Concord) and former Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo), both of whom declared their candidacy before the special election was scheduled, confirmed their intentions by submitting their paperwork ahead of last Friday's deadline.

Bonilla was re-elected to her third straight term in the Assembly last November while Buchanan was termed out of the Assembly last year after serving since 2008.

Two other Democrats entered the State Senate contest on deadline day: Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer and Concord resident Terry Kremin.

Glazer ran to succeed Buchanan in the Assembly last year but lost in the June primary. Kremin has run unsuccessfully for the Concord

City Council three times, including last November.

The lone Republican in the election is Pleasanton resident Michaela M. Hertle, an information technology professional who works as general manager and partner of Rubiconn, LLC, according to the company's website.

Walnut Creek attorney Mark Meuser, a Republican who lost to DeSaulnier in the State Senate election in 2012, declared his intent to run in the special election late last year but changed course

and announced publicly last Friday that he was bowing out of the race.

Meuser said in part, "A close examination of how this election was shaping up revealed that the odds of winning were growing to almost impossible."

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. ■

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# Financial literacy and U.S. teens: Global study offers path for improvement

## U.S. students in middle rank among 18 participating countries

By **JASON ALDERMAN**

A first-time global financial literacy study shows that the keys to successful personal finance education are student perseverance and an openness to problem solving.

That's one of the main findings in the inaugural financial literacy portion of the Program of International Student Assessment (PISA) test, which evaluated the skills and

knowledge of 29,000 15-year-olds in 18 countries and economies in 2012.

Final results were released in September, and PISA officials announced that the assessment of financial literacy will be offered as an optional component in 2015 testing.

PISA was launched in 2000 by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which promotes policies

that support economic and social well-being around the world.

U.S. students earned an average score of 492 out of a possible 700, which ranks those teens between eighth and 12th place among all 18 participating countries and economies, according to the PISA study.

Other findings from the U.S. results:

About one in 10 U.S. students (or 9.4%) is a top performer, compared with 9.7% across OECD countries. The report said this means they can "look ahead to solve financial problems or make the kinds of financial decisions that will be only relevant to them in the future." It added that top performers "can take into account features of financial documents that are significant but unstated or not immediately evident, such as transaction costs, and can describe the potential outcomes of financial decisions."

More than one in six U.S. students — 17.8% compared with 15.3% across OECD countries — do not reach the "baseline level of proficiency in financial literacy."

The report explained that "at best, these students can recognize the difference between needs and wants, can make simple decisions on everyday spending and can recognize

the purpose of everyday financial documents such as an invoice."

About 50% of all U.S. 15-year-olds said they had a bank account and were found to perform better than those who did not. But the report said the performance gap vanished after accounting for socioeconomic status. Only 32% of students in the lowest quartile of socioeconomic status had accounts, while 70% of those in the highest quartile did.

Countries with students who scored better than their U.S. counterparts seem dedicated to a nationwide, mandatory personal finance curriculum, though most programs have not been in place for very long. The top scorer, Shanghai, China, has a history of placing financial education topics in its national curriculum that dates back to the 1970s, according to the report. It added that beginning in 2009, the Shanghai system has introduced "regular training on finance" throughout its "primary and lower secondary schools."

In the Czech Republic, a working group for the nation's ministry of finance developed financial literacy standards in 2007, defining lesson content and outcomes for education in topics ranging from "money and household budget management to financial products and consumer rights."

Furthermore, in Australia, the nation's education authorities "have endorsed three iterations" of the country's National Consumer and

Financial Literacy Framework since 2005. According to the PISA report, Australia's framework helps structure consumer and financial education throughout the country's educational system and the program has worked with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission to create MoneySmart Teaching a resource portal for K-12 educators.

In America, more teens could improve their financial literacy if states chose to require mandatory personal finance training as a requirement for high school graduation. The Council for Economic Education reported that as of 2014, only 17 states required students to take a high school course in personal finance or that personal finance be included in an economics or civics course as a graduation requirement. That's compared to 13 states in 2011.

However, only six states (Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Missouri, Michigan and Texas) required testing of that material last year. The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy reported that only four states (Missouri, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia) require at least a one-semester course devoted to personal finance.

Bottom line: The results from the first-ever global high school financial literacy test show that organized and system-wide personal finance training helps students excel at money management. ■

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



**Jason Alderman**

## TAKE US ALONG



**German holiday:** Robert, Noelle and Carol Woodward visited friends in Freiburg, Germany. They took the Pleasanton Weekly on an expedition to the Freiburg Christmas Market on a crowded Saturday afternoon.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to [srhodes@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:srhodes@pleasantonweekly.com). Be sure to identify who is in the photo (names listed from left to right), the location, the date and any relevant details about where you took your Weekly.

## CHAMBER

Continued from Page 5

public meetings

- 53 young professionals who are members of the chamber's Pleasanton Young Professionals, a networking group

- More than 700 graduates from Leadership Pleasanton, a special program sponsored by the chamber and the city government for the last 27 years

- Face-to-face business engagement opportunities, including 30 held in 2014

- Over 12 million business "impressions" each year through the chamber's Business Connections newsletter, which is distributed with the Pleasanton Weekly

- Electronic communications that go out weekly.

"All this speaks very well to the ability of our chamber to be an effective and successful promoter of the Pleasanton business commu-



YIANNIA THEODOROU

New Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce chairman James Paxson (left) receives the gavel from the 2014 chairman, Dave Stark.

nity," Paxson said.

Awards also were distributed for commendable chamber service in 2014. They went to:

- Carol Marshall, of The Write Business, received the Carol Bush Award.
- Ken Norvell, CMIT Solutions of

Pleasanton, was honored as the Ambassador of the Year.

- John Sensiba, Sensiba San Filippo LLP, received the Jenny Doehle Leadership Pleasanton Award.
- Jody Amos, Amos Productions, received the Chairman's Award. ■

—Jeb Bing

## BOARD

Continued from Page 6

for the 2015-16 school year.

The proposed high school courses include: international relations, farm to fork, civil engineering and

architecture (Project Lead The Way) and medical interventions (Project Lead The Way).

- The board appointed Chris Connor as interim vice principal at Fairlands and Vintage Hills elementary schools.
- Four Pleasanton students were rec-

ognized for displaying the character trait of compassion: Georgie August, Emily Lahrs, Elisa Elizalde (absent) and Mikayla-Jayde Guevarra.

- The next school board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the district's boardroom, 4665 Bernal Avenue. ■



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consider approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Joint Powers Authority and the International Association of Firefighters Local 1974 with term ending June 30, 2018
- Introduction of an ordinance amending Chapter 17.36 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code concerning the Growth Management Program to address program administration and accommodation for affordable housing units

Please visit our website at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov) to view information on the following meetings.

### Civic Arts Commission

Monday, February 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

### Human Services Commission

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, please visit

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

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Pleasanton police see increase in daytime home break-ins

Pleasanton police put out a warning via Nixle on Jan. 22 advising citizens about a recent spike in daytime residential burglaries.

According to police, the break-ins are happening between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The typical scenario is that one or more subjects approach a home, ring the doorbell and wait for a response, police said. If no one answers the door, the subject or subjects wait outside for a short time then force entry through a side door (usually a side garage door) or the front door.

Police said culprits could be dressed in business attire and have a cover story such as door-to-door sales or marketing. In addition, there might be a getaway car parked in the area that could be occupied by someone acting as a lookout.

Officers are asking residents to stay alert to strange cars or people in their neighborhood.

The Nixle warning stated, "It is critical that residents call the police immediately, before calling

anyone else, when reporting these circumstances."

Police recommend following safety tips to prevent thefts and burglaries:

- Ensure all doors and windows are locked, including side garage doors and second-story windows
- Even if home during the day, it is important to keep the garage door closed
- Vehicles should always be locked
- Do not leave anything valuable in the car (phones, purses, brief cases and computers).

More crime prevention tips can be found on the Pleasanton Police Department website.

In other police reports:

- A 35-year-old man was arrested Jan. 20 after a police sergeant was conducting a patrol check on the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue around 11:22 p.m.

During the patrol check, the sergeant reportedly saw a man standing near a vehicle with its door and hood open in front of a closed business.

The sergeant contacted the man, later identified as Christopher Pedro, and ran a records check on him during which he discovered Pedro was on probation with a search clause and had

a warrant from Livermore Police Department, according to police reports.

Police allege the sergeant found a stolen license plate on Pedro's vehicle, which the man admitted to putting on the car to avoid paying registration. Pedro was arrested on suspicion of probation violation, falsifying car registration and receiving stolen property.

• A police officer's personal vehicle was reportedly broken into while parked on Division Street.

According to police reports, an unknown person or people burglarized the vehicle between 9 p.m. Jan. 24 and 8:30 a.m. Jan. 25.

The culprit(s) smashed the rear driver's side window and stole a police duty bag that contained numerous paperwork and a black Buck knife, police said.

A police exterior ballistic vest was also reported stolen. The vest did not contain a badge, patch or any other identifying information, police said.

The officer was off-duty and is not a member of the Pleasanton Police Department, authorities said. ■

—Amanda Aguilar

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 16

### Fraud

- 11:48 a.m. in the 7800 block of Medinah Court

- 2:22 p.m. in the 500 block of Owens Drive

### Residential burglary

- 1:08 p.m. in the 3500 block of Glacier Court South

- 7:45 p.m. in the 4700 block of Sutter Gate Avenue

Jan. 17

### Alcohol violation

- 9:22 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Theft

- 8:46 a.m. in the 3200 block of Clifford Circle; theft from auto

### Residential Burglary

- 8:13 p.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Jan. 18

### Missing person report

- 11:33 p.m.; street information not disclosed

### Drug violation

- 4:08 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Theft

- 9:52 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; theft from auto

- 7:59 p.m. in the 00 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

Jan. 19

### Burglary

- 5:20 a.m. in the 5600 block of Sonoma Drive; commercial

- 9:03 a.m. in the 5900 block of Kolb

Ranch Drive; residential

- 11:48 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Drive; commercial

### Assault/battery

- 7:37 p.m. in the 1800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Vandalism

- 6:13 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue

### Drug violation

- 3:33 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Jan. 20

### Theft

- 11:42 a.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

- 12:28 p.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway; theft from structure

### Missing person report

- 10:26 a.m.; street information not disclosed

Jan. 21

### Assault/battery

- 4:00 p.m., intersection of Owens Drive and Willow Road

### Residential burglary

- 7:02 p.m. in the 3000 block of Calle De La Mesa

- 7:45 p.m. in the 6100 block of Via De Los Cerros

Jan. 22

### Domestic battery

- 12:32 p.m.; street information not disclosed

Jan. 23

### Vandalism

- 10:04 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive

- 9:30 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

# Grand Opening

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SENATE OFFICE PHOTO

Joining Sen. Dianne Feinstein in her office last week are Tri-Valley mayors (from left) John Marchand, Livermore; Bill Clarkson, San Ramon; Mike Doyle, Danville; David Haubert, Dublin, and Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne.

## Our mayors go to Washington

The mayors of the greater Tri-Valley — Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon — are just back from a week in Washington, D.C. where they met with members of the Senate, House of Representatives and key federal agencies in their annual trip to lobby for funds and projects to benefit our region. Making the trip were Jerry Thorne, Pleasanton; Mike Doyle, Danville; David Haubert, Dublin; John Marchand, Livermore, and Bill Clarkson, San Ramon.

As a result of these trips, millions of dollars have been appropriated for Tri-Valley projects ranging from the new carpool lane on I-580 and a region-wide communications system that allows first responders to talk to each other during emergencies.

Last week's effort in talks with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Congressmen Eric Swalwell and Jerry McNerney, and others, including the Department of Transportation and the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, dealt with funding needs for expanding Highway 84 to expressway standards from I-680 across Pigeon Pass to where its widening has been completed at Stanley Boulevard and on to I-580. Thorne points out a Highway 84 throughway would help alleviate rush-hour cut-through traffic on Pleasanton streets.

The mayors also joined Marchand in seeking transportation funds to extend BART to Livermore. He pointed out that rapid transit to Isabel Road and beyond could reduce congestion on I-580 where trucks carrying vitally-needed materials from the Port of Oakland to the rest of the country are facing costly delays. By stressing BART's extension as a national need, the mayors believe they have a chance at gaining federal funds to make the improvements needed.

Also on the mayors' wish list was a push for federal support of efforts to allow cable television system fees to be used as needed for TV30, the Tri-Valley's community broadcast system. Thorne, Marchand and Haubert serve as board members of TV30 and told their Washington representatives that state regulatory restraints, favored by the cable companies, prevent cable fees from being used for operations. Thorne thinks a federal mandate will be part of a future appropriations bill, providing state regulatory relief.

In making these trips, the mayors work with their paid Washington consultant Pat Jordan, who specializes in city government affairs. The Tri-Valley delegation has especially good reception. Few cities work as closely together on pressing issues of mutual concern as do our five cities.

Mayors, city managers and department heads meet regularly. The Tri-Valley Mayors Council holds regular dinners to hear regional and state representatives. Thorne is a member of the League of California Cities board of directors, which tracks and provides recommendations of state legislation. Clearly, the mayors and their five cities have found a working formula that benefits the Tri-Valley. ■

## GUEST OPINION

BY MICHAEL JON AUSTIN

### The arrogance of the Air Quality Management District

Wood burning ban on 'Spare the Air' days cuts efficiency, raises costs

The bureaucracy that is California's Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) consists of the most selfish, self-centered, arrogant, unelected bunch of engineers ever assembled.

Populated over the years with a grandiose illusion, today it has developed into a narcissistic bureaucratic disorder. Right up there at the top of this bunch is CEO Jack Broadbent. Broadbent does not respond to email; the BAAQMD staff does not respond to voicemails.

Eight years ago I researched wood-burning inserts for the purpose of using the insert in my masonry fireplace. I consulted with the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA recommended several inserts to me. I purchased the top of the line insert. The EPA laboratories rating system certified that the insert I purchased and installed September 2006, emits 1.26 grams an hour. The EPA accepted allowance for particulate release is 7.0 grams an hour.

Two years after my purchase, the BAAQMD adopted Regulation Six, which prohibits wood burning in all residential communities. The BAAQMD exempts wood fired ovens in restaurants, homeless encampments and residential homes without any other source for heat. The BAAQMD does not exempt gas fired lawn equipment.

My insert burns approximately two hours each evening that is not a Spare the Air day. After approximately two hours of burning high-density hard wood, there are enough red hot coals to heat my home throughout, for the rest of the evening. There is no continuous burning.

Wood fired ovens in restaurants emit particulate matter at a rate of 30 grams an hour and often three times that amount. Gas powered lawn

equipment is operating throughout the neighborhoods all day on Spare the Air days. A total of 70% of the air pollution in the San Francisco Bay Area is the result of petroleum fired engines. Another 25% of the air pollution is the result of oil refineries, mortuaries, cement plants, chemical plants, landfills and gravel pits. This data is taken from the BAAQMD website and the state site.

The BAAQMD is prohibiting the residential community from burning wood on Spare the Air days. The BAAQMD is not prohibiting or forcing any of the big polluters I listed above to use alternative sources to limit their pollution.

I have letters from PG&E that state my home is the most energy-efficient home when compared to hundreds of similar homes in my area. I am energy-efficient particularly because of my wood-burning insert, and energy conserving lighting I installed when I purchased my home. I save well over \$1,000 each year in heating costs.

When the BAAQMD prohibits me from burning wood in my insert, my energy efficiency goes down, my costs go up with the consumption of natural gas and maintenance of my forced air furnace.

When the BAAQMD prohibits me from using my wood-burning insert in my home, the BAAQMD is violating my constitutional rights. "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process." ■

*Editor's note: Michael Jon Austin is a retired polymer chemist and former vice president and plant manager at YPC Carrier Tape America, Inc. in San Jose. He served on the YPC Inc. board of directors, was a consultant to International Strategic Alliances in Mountain View California, published scientific research journals on the polymer industry for Kansai Research Institute in Tokyo, and lived and worked in Asia 15 years. He is a licensed independent contractor and currently owns and operates a freight and cargo inspection service in Pleasanton.*



## YOUR TURN

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

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

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## Foothill cheer teams rank high at SoCal competitions

Varsity, JV squads earn trips to Best of the West event in March

By AMANDA AGUILAR

Foothill High School's competition cheer teams placed in the top rankings the past two weekends at the CheerPros State Championship and United Spirit Association (USA) regional competitions in Southern California.

Foothill varsity took second place at CheerPros (Jan. 24-25) and was awarded a full-paid bid to the Best of the West Competition in March.

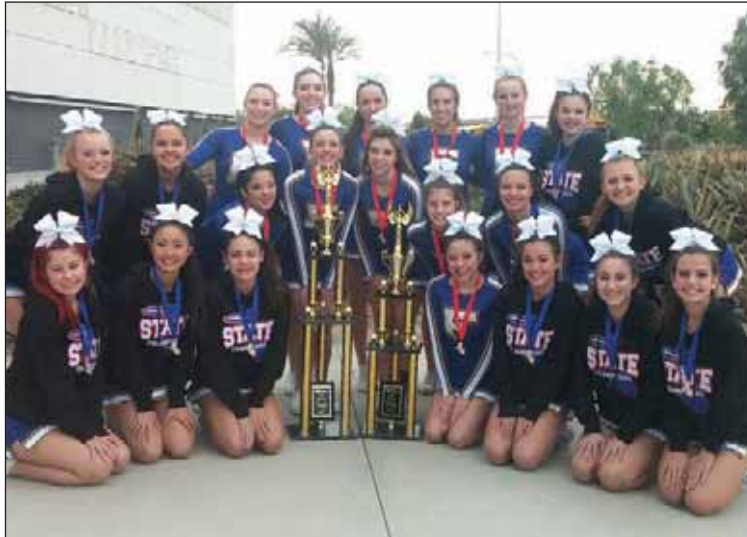
The junior varsity cheer team placed first in its division, also earning a full-paid bid to Best of the West.

USA regional competitions were held at Yorba Linda and Brea Olinda high schools the previous weekend, Jan. 17-18.

Foothill's varsity cheer team placed first at both events, competing against a total of 13 other teams in the Varsity Show Cheer Intermediate category.

The junior varsity cheer team placed first at Brea Olinda and second at Yorba Linda — competing against a total of 10 teams.

According to varsity cheer coach



COURTESY OF KIM DEJOY

Foothill varsity and junior varsity cheer teams celebrate after ranking high at CheerPros State Championship, earning full-paid bids to the Best of the West Competition in March.

Kim DeJoy, both teams competed against strong competitors whom they will see again during the national competition in March.

Foothill teams are now preparing for the USA California Open Championship this Sunday at UC Davis. ■



AMANDA AGUILAR

## Teen honored for NFL Punt, Pass and Kick performance

Harvest Park Middle School hosted a celebration last week for eighth-grader Collin Travazos (second to left), who competed earlier this month in the national finals of the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick youth event. Representing the Oakland Raiders, Travazos finished fourth in the boys 12-13 age group.

Taking part in the afternoon celebration Jan. 22 were Harvest Park classmates and school officials as well as representatives from the Pleasanton school district, Camp Parks U.S. Army Reserve training area, Assemblywoman Catharine Baker's office and the Raiders, including players (from left) Taiwan Jones, Maurice Jones-Drew and Kevin Boothe.



CITY OF PLEASANTON

## Sign-ups underway for adult softball, bocce and more

The city of Pleasanton has announced ongoing registration for spring adult sports programs offered through its Community Services Department. Sign-ups are available for teams to compete in softball (shown), bocce, volleyball and men's basketball — or players can register as free agents. For more information, visit [www.pleasantonfun.com](http://www.pleasantonfun.com) or call 931-3437.

## DINING ON THE TOWN

### Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

[www.eddiepapas.com](http://www.eddiepapas.com)

## Seahawks swim at All-Star Meet

Three Pleasanton Seahawks represented the Pacific Swimming association at the Pacific Coast All-Star Meet in Commerce (outside Los Angeles) earlier this month.

Chris Jhong, Mackenzie Lee and Tyler Lu helped the Pacific Swimming team to a second-place finish in the competition that brought together all-star swimmers from Southern California, Pacific Northwest, Oregon and British Columbia associations.

Jhong and Lu represented the 13-14 boys age group while Lee swam in the 11-12 girls division.

The Southern California team took home first place. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

—Jeremy Walsh Pleasanton Seahawks (from left) Chris Jhong, Mackenzie Lee and Tyler Lu.

## CROWN TROPHY



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# Understanding Common Core

## Views on new education standards

By AMANDA AGUILAR



As the first month of the new year ends, the Pleasanton school district is continuing to fully implement the new Common Core State Standards.

As stated on the Common Core State Standards Initiative website, the standards were created to ensure that all students graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, career and life — regardless of where they live.

“We in Pleasanton have been good at getting students college-accepted, but what our goal now is to take it to the other level ... college-accepted but really, truly college-ready,” said Pleasanton special projects coordinator Lisa Hague.

The standards, adopted by 43 states and the District of Columbia, are essentially benchmarks in mathematics and English language arts for what skills a student should have at each grade level.

While some praise the transition to Common Core, there are others who believe the standards are coming with challenges, such as the new teaching methods, the implementation process and worsening grades — especially in mathematics, where school systems are seeing the biggest shift.

“The introduction of Common

Core is overwhelming because it is just adding to the difficulty of these already hard classes,” said Amador Valley High junior Pooja Kumar.

According to Kumar, during her Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC class, students sit with partners and collaborate.

“It is sometimes difficult because some students understand the material quicker but the majority of the students are confused,” Kumar added.

That emphasis on collaboration is something new with the standards, according to Hague. “We sit, we talk, we bring new solutions to the table,” she said.

District officials say they recognize that students, as well as parents, may be struggling with classwork or homework but urge them to be patient.

“It might take you a whole class period to figure out the whole problem’s solution but we want to encourage that,” said Nicole Steward, coordinator of communica-

tion and community engagement for the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD). “In the industry, you’re not going to just get the answer. Your boss is going to say, ‘Hey team, here’s the problem. Get me a solution.’”

During a Common Core parent forum in November, representatives from Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) discussed the skills Fortune 500 companies are currently looking for in employees — the top two being teamwork and problem solving, which helps explain the push for collaboration in Common Core learning.

“When you’re working with different people, you’re working with different levels of thinking ... you’re getting new perspectives,” said Odie Douglas, PUSD assistant superintendent of educational services.

Another aspect of Common Core where some students and parents struggle is the multiple mathematical methods being taught to come up with an answer. Parent critics argue that all these different strategies are making math way more complicated than it should be.

Hague agreed that this isn’t “your mother’s algebra,” but she said Common Core aims to help students acquire a deeper understanding instead of teaching students to memorize a formula to get to the right answer.

“The process to get to the answer is equally important,” she said.

The Common Core math standards identify eight mathematical practices that should be engaged in students K-12:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
  - Reason abstractly and quantitatively
  - Construct viable argument and critique the reasoning of others
  - Model with mathematics
  - Use appropriate tools strategically
  - Attend to precision
  - Look for and make use of structure
  - Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning
- “These practices ask students to

go deeper with mathematical understanding versus just utilizing a trick,” Hague said.

Math instructional coach Duane Habecker compared the practices to a soccer game saying: “If you go and watch a soccer game with 6-year-olds and then 16-year-olds, they’re going to be different — the level is going to be different. But they’re playing the same game with the same rules with the same concepts. But every year kids are in soccer ... they’re gaining more skills, they’re going in depth.”

Steward recognized that this “deeper, deeper” concept is a challenge with current high schoolers, saying, “They haven’t had that, and now they’re just getting into the deep end.”

Douglas added that most students are at Level 1 and 2 depth of knowledge levels according to Dr. Norman L. Webb’s Depth of Knowledge Guide.

Depth of Knowledge Level 1 asks students questions such as:

- Can you recall ...?
- What is the formula for...?
- Can you identify...?

Depth of Knowledge Level 2 asks:

- Can you explain how ... affected ...?
- How would you summarize...?
- How would you compare ...? Contrast ...?

Hague said standardized assessments tested students in these levels of thinking, so “even if our students are being found proficient and advanced, it was in Levels 1 and 2.”

“We’re trying to push kids’ thinking to Level 3 and 4,” Douglas added.

Concepts on these two levels include:

- How would you adapt ... to create a different...?
- Can you predict the outcome if...?
- What information can you gather to support your idea about...?
- Design and conduct an experiment. Gather information to develop alternative explanations for the results of an experiment.
- Apply information from one text to another text to develop a persuasive argument.

### Common Core math content

“Our (California) standards were already pretty rigorous,” Steward said. “So the Common Core standards are similar to the previous

standards, almost word for word.”

For example, in California Department of Education “Crosswalk” Analyses, a math standard in geometry stated, “Students use trigonometric functions to solve for an unknown length of a side of a right triangle, given an angle and a length of a side.

The Common Core standard aligned to it states, “Explain and use the relationship between the sine and cosine of complementary angles; use trigonometric ratios and the Pythagorean theorem to solve right triangles in applied problems.”

Hague said some math standards have moved to different grade levels, such as operations and algebraic thinking found in California’s old state standards for third grade now being partially found in Common Core standards for second grade.

“Yes, we have a lot to adjust to, but some states are seeing more significant shifts,” she said.

### Assessments

Along with students being asked to think more critically, assessments will also be aligning to Common Core, which includes the two higher levels of thinking.

California has adopted the Smarter Balanced Assessment Con-



NICOLE STEWARD, PUSD

The Pleasanton school district has offered Common Core parent forums and a Common Core fair (shown above) to aid in the transition to new state standards.



The use of technology, such as this “Smart Board” classroom, is an integral part of Common Core

sortium (SBAC) — officially named the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) — to assess its students' academic performance.

Last spring, PUSD conducted a SBAC field test, a trial run focused on assessing the test-taking process for local students and teachers rather than tracking actual test results.

Twenty other states and the U.S. Virgin Islands conducted a field test for the SBAC as well.

ACOE provided data about the multi-state field test at the Common Core fair in January. The data showed 22% of 11th-graders scored at Level 3, which has been deemed "conditionally college-ready" by SBAC. The data also showed that 67% of 11th-graders were not college-ready, while 11% were college-ready.

This spring, Pleasanton students in third through eighth grades, as well as 11th-graders, will be taking the CAASPP during which their scores will count.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment System also includes interim assessments which provide districts information about a student's progress throughout the year as well as to assess Common Core.

Districts can choose when the interim assessments are conducted, such as every 30, 40 or 60 days. According to Steward, PUSD has determined not to administer them for this year.

"The interim assessments will not provide us information early enough to act upon given their anticipated release dates," she said. "In order to prepare our third through eighth and 11th-grade students for SBAC they will be taking a practice SBAC test and benchmark assessments in English language arts and

math during the next few months. Upon release of the interim assessments we will analyze and determine their viability for the future."

The SAT — used for college admissions — will also be aligning to Common Core in 2016.

The new standards and upcoming tests have some local high schoolers and parents worried about lowering grades.

"My child is now failing in math when she used to be good at it. She doesn't even know if she'll be accepted to her top college choice," an unidentified Pleasanton parent said during November's Common Core parent forum.

District officials say they understand the frustration coming from students and parents but want them to realize this push is also coming from the colleges and

universities. In a letter addressed to the California State Board of Education, the University of California, California State University, California Community College, and Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities endorsed Common Core.

"We believe California's implementation of the Common Core standards and aligned assessments has the potential to dramatically improve college readiness and help close the preparation gap that exists for California students," the agencies wrote.

In an effort to ease students and parents worries, ACOE is hosting a Common Core Summit on Feb. 28 where a panel of university faculty will address what professors and admissions officers are looking for and the course options students have to build these skills besides AP Calculus.

At January's Common Core fair, ACOE representative Jamie Marantz said that although California adopted the standards in 2010, districts didn't really receive direction until a couple years later.

"It was basically like 'This is your deadline, you as a district figure out how to do it,'" explained Steward.

PUSD board trustee Mark Miller said at a school board candidates forum last October that the implementation process has been rocky, but now has seen efforts from the district that aid in smoothing the transition.

"The amount of time and energy that has been spent implementing has been staggering, and should be appreciated," he added. "But I think this has been more difficult than anyone imagined."

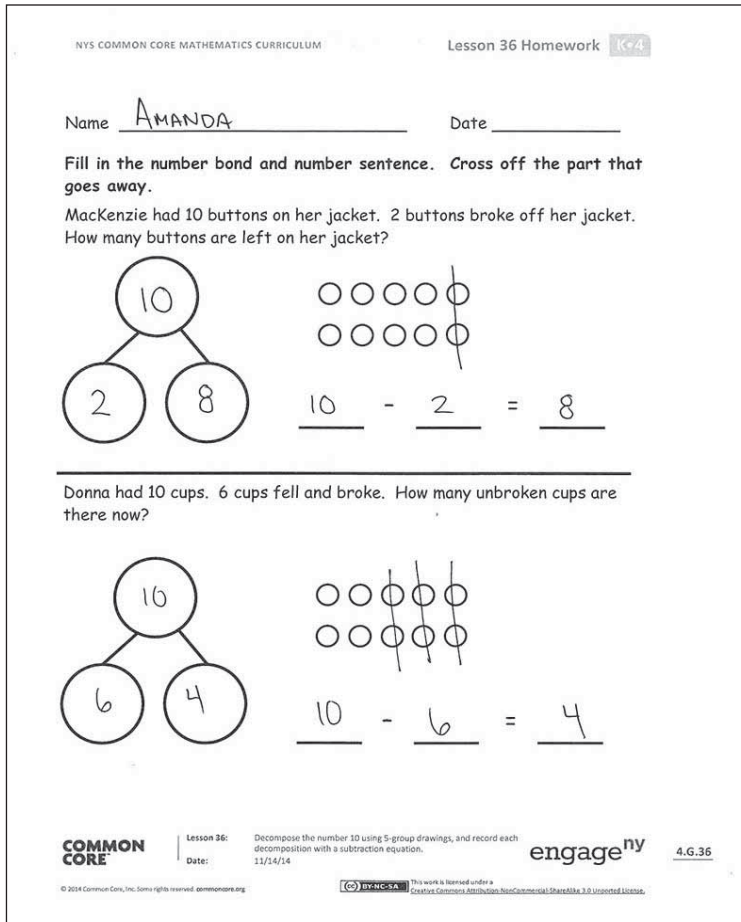
PUSD used a three-year implementation plan, which district officials say has been looked at by other districts and even other states.

Pleasanton parents have also asked, "Why couldn't we roll out the implementation?" "We can't wait," Douglas contended. "If we have a slower roll out, we'd have students taking assessments that don't understand how to take it. Scores would absolutely drop."

Steward added that districts didn't have the choice of when to

**"The introduction of Common Core is overwhelming because it is just adding to the difficulty of these already hard classes."**

- Pooja Kumar, AVHS junior



Students in grades K-2 are using "number bonds" (shown above) as part of Common Core curriculum to represent a part-part-whole relationship among three numbers.

more we saw it was becoming a national movement," Indiana State Sen. Dennis Kruse said in a phone interview. "We wanted to be independent. In Indiana spirit as we say, 'We do things the Indiana way for the people of Indiana.'"

Kruse also pointed out that although Indiana has its own state standards, they are very much aligned to Common Core — just without the 'Common Core' reference. This is also happening in Mississippi.

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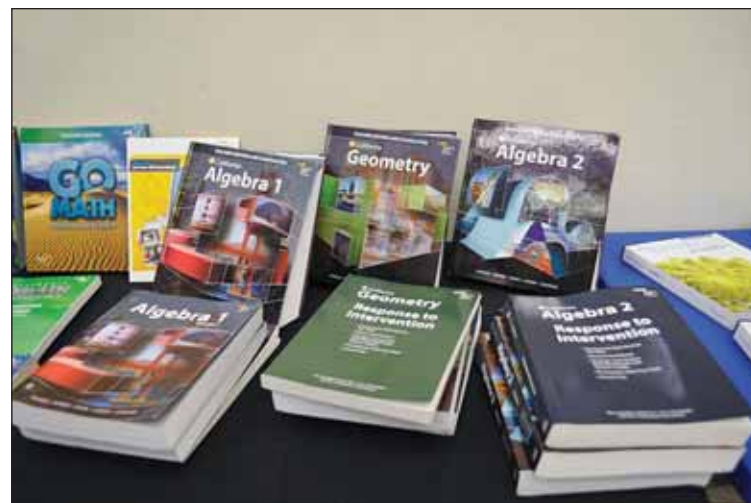
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"We can't wait," Douglas contended. "If we have a slower roll out, we'd have students taking assessments that don't understand how to take it. Scores would absolutely drop."

Steward added that districts didn't have the choice of when to

begin the new assessments. Hague recalled when the state standards changed in 1997, "We saw something very similar, and state test scores did not come back looking fabulous."

"It's going to look very different for awhile but it's going to improve every year," she said.



AMANDA AGUILAR

PUSD has the proposed, Common Core-aligned K-12 math instructional materials (shown above and below) available for public preview in the district's offices until Feb. 13.



AMANDA AGUILAR

**Support for teachers, parents, students**

PUSD is providing as much support as it can to the community, district officials said.

Teachers are receiving support through staff development days and curriculum committee meetings where they are teaching each other and learning from one another.

While some parents are unsure of ways to support their children, district officials say the best thing families can do for them is to stay positive.

"If you're talking about Common Core in a negative way, our students are going to absorb that and also get frustrated with it," Steward said.

Hague advises parents to sit with their children and be patient as they go through this process.

"Have students talk through what they understand," she said. "If you've reached a point where you both don't understand it, write a letter to that teacher and let them know what you and your child aren't understanding."

In addition, because Common Core has become national, Steward said parents can search for some problems online and see resources from other states.

Gale Naylor, a math tutor whose child is a high school senior, said she attended January's Common Core forum to learn about how she can support her students.

"It's a change. It's going to take awhile and it's not going to be comfortable," Naylor said. "But it's a step in the right direction for our children." ■



NICOLE STEWARD, PUSD

in a Valley View Elementary first-grade for all students in grades K-12.

## Food is *love* — so keep it safe

New book tells how to cook  
for friends with food allergies

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Christina Gray grew up in an Italian-Irish-American family that loved to eat.

"Mom and dad were both excellent cooks, and growing up, at the dinner table we appreciated food," said Gray, a Pleasanton resident and owner and principal photographer of Bella Luna Studio.

She also fancies being in the kitchen and was planning a cookbook using her well-loved recipes alongside a low-calorie, low-fat alternative.

But the project took a different turn when she became alerted to the immediate dangers of food allergies. In October 2008, a friend brought her 2-year-old son to Gray's house for her to babysit.

"She put his EpiPen on the kitchen counter and said he was allergic to gluten, eggs and nuts," Gray recalls in the book's preface. "She showed me how to use the EpiPen, made sure I knew how to do it myself, and then said she would be back in two hours."

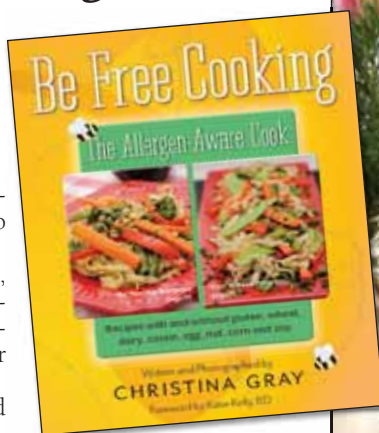
"At this point, I felt like I needed to use the EpiPen on myself because I was in shock at the thought of hurting this little boy from something I might feed him," Gray adds.

'15 million people in the United States have food allergies, but her target market is the 299 million who do not but who might cook for someone next week who does.'

That very day, Gray decided she needed to learn all she could about food allergies, and she spent the next few years working on creating tasty new recipes without allergens.

The result was just released — a cookbook titled "Be Free Cooking: The Allergen-Aware Cook."

The book begins with "Tips for Starting Out." The two most important things, Gray notes, are to carefully read labels to see what is contained in packaged foods, and to have



a clean food preparation area for allergen-free ingredients as well as dedicated serving dishes and utensils. She also offers a line of cookware products online.

"Read every label for every ingredient you buy," Gray cautions. "Never skip this step! You would be surprised at the allergens in our food that you were not aware of."

"One brand of tomato sauce may be allergen-free, yet a different brand could contain dairy, casein, corn and/or soy," she adds.

Even white wine might contain gluten, she said, because wine barrels may have been sealed with a water and flour mixture.

Because broth so often contains a multitude of ingredients, she does not include it in any of the book's recipes. The fewer ingredients listed on a label, the better the product, she said.

"Get a ham that just says, 'Ham,'" she suggested.

One of her favorite snacks is Fritos corn chips because they have just three ingredients: corn, corn oil and salt.

The soft-covered volume has her family's traditional recipes on the left page, labeled "Be." They have been tweaked by her own years of experience cooking for her husband, Lonnie, and their two children, Ethan, 11, and Lauren, 8.

On the page opposite is a similar recipe called "Free," which Gray developed for an allergen-free diet — meaning no gluten, wheat, dairy, casein, egg, nut, corn or soy.

The book has 80 side-by-side recipes, divided into categories of soup, salad, grains, pasta and chicken, and each is illustrated with a photograph by Gray. Her family often waited impatiently for dinner as she arranged the freshly cooked food in attractive serving dishes and set about capturing them on camera, she said with a laugh.



LAUREN GRAY

Christina Gray, who just released her new cookbook, "Be Free Cooking," stresses the importance of different sets of cutting boards and utensils for items that might contain allergens.

The recipe pages also have interesting and often fun tips.

For "Decadent Potato Soup," the tip reads: "It also makes a great appetizer at parties. Serve in small shot glasses and you have a show stopper of a starter!"

On the facing page, the "Free" recipe for baked potato soup encourages the cook to "add some flavor complexity to this soup" by adding chopped ham, diced bell peppers, jalapenos, "or anything else you like. Make this soup your own by adding ingredients you love."

In July 2013, when 13-year-old Natalie Giorgi died at Camp Sacramento after eating a Rice Krispies Treat that contained peanut butter, it reinforced Gray's determination that anyone who cooks for others needs to be educated about allergens.

"My heart broke," she said. "And it inspired me to not give up, how important it is to share this information."

Gray became so engrossed in developing allergen-free recipes in her kitchen that when her cousin Ugo visited from Italy and came to their house for dinner, her husband remarked, "Chrissy would really like it if you had allergies."

"He admitted he did have allergies, and I cooked him gluten free pasta," Gray recalled, adding that she didn't do it very well because she put the entire package in a pan that was too small. "But he ate the whole thing because he was so hungry."

When invited to a potluck, Gray recom-

mends asking two questions:

1. What can I bring?
2. Who is coming; anyone with a food allergy?

Although her immediate family is free of food allergies, she is on a mission to provide for those who aren't.

"My kids could have allergies and be growing up in a world that doesn't care," Gray said. "I want the world to care, I want people to have awareness, and I want them to discover all the wonderful foods they can still eat."

She said 15 million people in the United States have food allergies, but her target market is the 299 million who do not but who might cook for someone next week who does.

Now Gray hopes that her cookbook can help people cook better for themselves and their friends, whether they have allergies or not.

"I'm waiting for the day when someone tells me their story," she said. "Food is love. In all of the world, food is a blessing." ■

### Meet the author

Christina Gray will be signing her book, "Be Free Cooking," from 3-5 p.m. this Saturday (Jan. 31) at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. in Pleasanton.

# Review: 'Les Mis' hits all the right notes

Audience responds with outbursts of applause, standing ovation

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Haunting music performed to perfection. Comic relief delivered with verve. A good man rising above injustices done to him. Motherly and fatherly as well as romantic love. And throw in young men fighting for freedom in early 19th-century France.

The Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's excellent performance of "Les Misérables" last week kept the audience mesmerized — until they jumped up to applaud after the finale, which apparently is happening at every performance. Each voice delivered the complex rhythms truly, accompanied by the orchestra led by Amador Valley High music teacher Mark Aubel, reinforcing the fact that TVRT always finds the top talent in the Bay Area for its productions.

Thursday's performance and an extra matinee Jan. 30 were added after the scheduled performances quickly sold out, perhaps owing to the popularity of the enduring Broadway hit but also certainly due to Tri-Valley Rep never failing to deliver a near-professional rendition of whatever it tackles.

This show is produced by Kathleen Breedveld and directed by Kendall Tieck. The cast's bios in the pro-

gram show that even the members of the ensemble have had lead roles in other musicals, which explains the strong production of this sung-through musical.

In "Les Mis," based on the tome written by Victor Hugo in 1862, we follow the travails and triumphs of Jean Valjean, played by Mischa Stephens in his debut with TVRT. The curtain rises on a dramatic prison scene, where laboring Valjean is released on parole after spending 19 years in prison after stealing bread to feed his sister's starving child.

Stephens portrays Valjean inspiringly through his difficulties as a parolee, his determination to change his life, and his rise to factory owner and mayor. His suffering and humanity shine through, as does his voice in his solos and duets with the dying Fantine (Morgan Breedveld), and his interplay with the deliciously wicked Thenardiers as he retrieves Fantine's daughter, Cosette, from their care. We first meet the young Cosette (Emily Joy Kessel), the inspiration for the mournful symbol of the musical, as she aces the wistful "Castle on a Cloud."

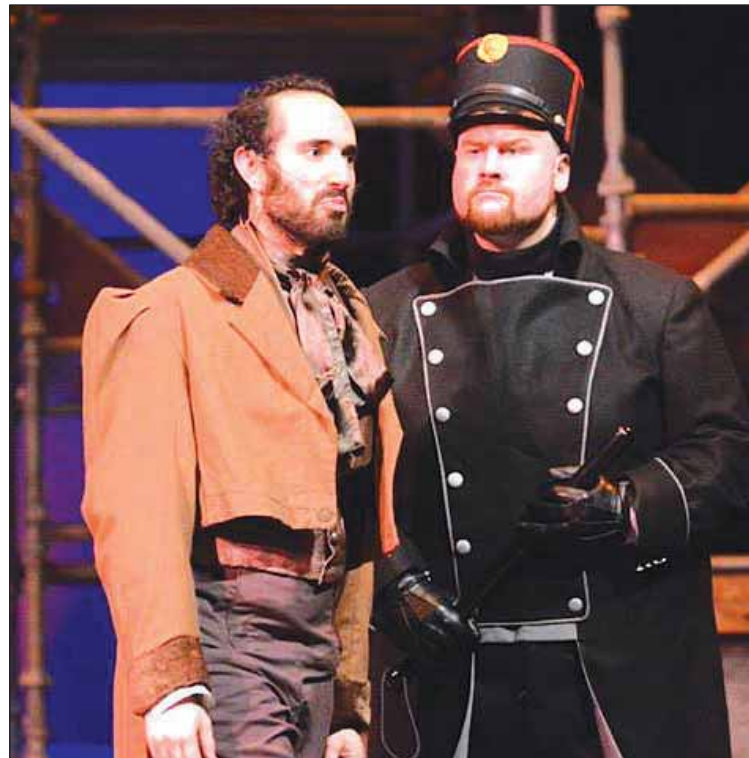
DC Scarpelli and Jennifer Stark

play to perfection the scoundrel innkeepers who never miss a chance to overcharge or outright steal from their customers. They are the comic relief as they appear again and again in new guises to rip off the unwary, and quite funny they are. The musical also presents a grim look at the darker side of life with an explicit "Lovely Ladies" of the night, highlighting their vulnerability as Fantine is forced to join their ranks.

Matthew Liebowitz is a strong Inspector Javert, who relentlessly pursues Valjean through the years until he finds himself questioning the morality of his quest when faced with Valjean's decency. His brilliant, dramatic Act One solo, "Stars," also brought a burst of applause.

The second act opens at the barricades in Paris in 1832 as students, among them Marius (Nikita Burshteyn), take a stand for freedom that ends with many fatalities, including Eponine (Katherine Delacruz). She sings in a powerful voice of her unrequited love for Marius, and the two of them touchingly perform the beautiful "A Little Fall of Rain" as she dies in his arms.

But the love shared by Cosette



JOSH MILBOURNE

Jean Valjean (Mischa Stephens) comes face to face with his pursuer, Inspector Javert (Matthew Liebowitz).

(Kristen Vellinger) and Marius ends well, with a wedding feast crashed by — you guessed it — the irrepressible Thenardiers posing as an unlikely baron and baroness.

The masterful music by Claude-Michel Schonberg, lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer, as performed by this gifted cast kept the audience rapt for more than three hours. The remaining per-

formances were sold out as of this writing; for more information, call 373-6800 or visit [www.trivalleyrep.org](http://www.trivalleyrep.org).

The nonprofit Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is in its 31st year, thanks to its many donors because ticket sales alone do not cover the cost of its productions. What a worthy cause, to sustain such excellent theater right in our own backyard. ■

## Amador Theater resounds with dynamic two-piano concert

Siprashvili, Yerzhanov delight fans with energetic classical pieces

The two classical pianists embraced the keyboards of the Steinway grands last Saturday night at the Amador Theater with a finely tuned fervor that brought out the nuances of the well-chosen program.

Pleasanton's own Tamriko Siprashvili has found an excellent fellow artist in Temirzhan Yerzhanov, a Los Gatos resident, to perform with her on two pianos, which were donated by Steinway & Sons in Walnut Creek for the weekend's performance to benefit arts in the Pleasanton schools. The two internationally acclaimed musicians shone in "A Night to Remember," presented by the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council as Siprashvili returned to the Pleasanton stage after six years.

"I wanted to know what it would be like to perform again — and here I am," she told the appreciative audience before sitting down to play. She also noted, "The life of a musician is grueling."

And she told of their individual musical and life journeys, she growing up in Tbilisi, Georgia, and Yerzhanov in Kazakhstan.

"We both left our countries and came to Moscow, and we both chose the same teacher," Siprashvili said.

They also both came to love the works of composer Robert Schumann (1810-56), and they opened their concert with his Six Etudes in canonic form Op. 56, transcribed for

two pianos by Debussy. The program continued with Ravel's "La Valse," Rachmaninoff's Suite No. 2, Op. 17, Saint-Saens' "Dance Macabre," and the premier of La Fantaisie 180 for two pianos, a stirring piece by Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu, who died in 1959.

The romantic parts of the compositions rolled poignantly off the fingertips of the pianists, alternating with dynamic passages that saw both of them lifting off their seats. The audience responded with equal enthusiasm.

"We hope they will come back to perform for us again next year," said Charlotte Severin, co-chair of the

concert committee.

Pleasanton schools superintendent Parvin Ahmadi was also at the concert to thank the pianists for their concert to benefit the school district.

"I have long felt the profound importance of Arts in the Schools as a necessary component of academic success in all of our classes," she said.

Siprashvili is the owner of Inspire Academy of Music and Arts in Pleasanton, and many young people came out to hear her and Yerzhanov perform. Surely they were inspired, as was everyone in attendance. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Tamriko Siprashvili and Temirzhan Yerzhanov receive a standing ovation from their appreciative audience last Saturday night at the Amador Theater.

## PCRT brings '50s to the Firehouse stage

'Forever Plaid' and 'The Taffetas' playing alternate dates, Jan. 30 to Feb. 15

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre (PCRT) continues its fifth season starting tonight at the Firehouse Arts Center with a pairing of the classic 1950s musicals, "Forever Plaid" and "The Taffetas."

"Forever Plaid" tells the tale of four guys who share a love of the music of their idols: the Four Freshman, the Hi-Lo's and the Crew Cuts. Rehearsing in the basement of a plumbing supply company they become "Forever Plaid," and when they are killed in a car crash, they posthumously take the stage for one final gig. They squabble over the smallest intonations, and execute their outlandish choreography with over-zealous precision while performing the pop hits of the '50s.

"The Taffetas" takes place in 1950s Muncie, Ind., when the four singing Taffeta sisters are making their national debut appearance on the fictitious television show, "Spotlight on Music." The show pays fun-filled tribute to the sounds of the McGuire Sisters, the Fontane Sisters and the Chordettes.

"PCRT is the first theater company in the Bay Area to ambitiously stage the two productions together," said Joy Sherratt, one of the company's founders, who plays Peggy in "The Taffetas."

"Co-artistic directors David Judson and Pat Parr decided to offer a unique theater experience for the community of Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley area," she continued, noting that audiences

"will be able to enjoy two completely different musicals filled with all of the '50s nostalgia and tunes that were embraced in that decade."

"Forever Plaid" opens Friday, Jan. 30, with "The Taffetas" following the next night, both at 8 p.m. The two shows will play in repertory (alternate dates) for the three-week run, giving fans plenty of options to see both.

On Saturdays Jan. 31 and Feb. 7, the shows will alternate between matinee and evening performances, allowing audiences to take a dinner break downtown then return for the other production in the evening.

Both musicals are directed by PCRT founding member Scott Maraj and co-choreographed by Maraj and Jenna Harris. New York actor Adam Elsberry and Beach Blanket Babylon veteran Jessica Fisher are in the two professional casts. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

### Classic 1950s

**What:** "Forever Plaid" and "The Taffetas"

**Who:** Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre

**Where:** Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

**When:** Shows will alternate, Jan. 30 to Feb. 15

**Tickets:** \$17-\$38. Purchase online at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org); by phone at 931-4848; or in person at the box office.

## Clubs

### CALLIPPE NINERS GOLF INVITATION

The Callippe Niners Ladies Golf Club will be meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 3 for a pre-golf luncheon at the Callippe Golf Course, 8500 Clubhouse Drive. Prospective new members are invited to join. No-host lunch. Contact Joan Zaine at 462-1054 or plszaine@sbcglobal.net.

### 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.

**KIWANIS OF PLEASANTON** Kiwanis of Pleasanton is celebrating the 100th anniversary of their organization this year. Those interested in making a difference in the community are invited to join for lunch from 11:50 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 Main St. Call 425-9127 for more info.

## 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](http://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](http://rotarianfoundationlivermore.org).

### FOOTHILL BAND CRAB FEED AND AUCTION

Join for great crab and music by the award-winning Foothill Jazz band and help sup-

## PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

### Class clown

Gabbi, a 6-month-old pit bull-cattle dog cross, is a big silly pup. With her around, it's a little like having a slightly rowdy teenager in the house — lively and funny, but in need of firm guidance from time to time. Meet playful Gabbi at the East Bay SPCA Dublin Adoption Center located at 4651 Gleason Drive. For more information, visit [www.east-bayspca.org](http://www.east-bayspca.org) or call 479-9670.

port 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>.

### NEW ORLEANS BASH AT THE BOTHWELL

Enjoy live New Orleans jazz and decor, fortunetelling, dancing, "Preservation Hall" tributes, NOLA-style food and drink, hurricanes and a great party to benefit Bothwell Arts Center from 5-10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7

at the Bothwell Arts Center. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, Preservation Hall experience and party \$30. Call 373-6800 or go to <http://mylvpac.com/index.php/bac/new-orleans-bash-at-the-bothwell.html>.

### 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](http://Paws-In-Need.org) or send check to Paws In Need, P.O. Box 3436, San Ramon, CA 94583. Call 323-8517.

## Health

### DIABETES SELF MANAGEMENT CLASSES

This 7 week series will teach you how to manage your diabetes with exercise, healthy eating and medications, and answer all your questions about living with diabetes. Classes are 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 4-March 18 at the Dublin Senior Center. Call (510) 383-5185 or go to <http://www.acphd.org/diabetes/contact-information.aspx>.

## 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.

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Sports All Day Long

Voted Best  
Barber Beauty Shop  
Again in 2014!

\$3 OFF Any Haircut

Mens Haircut reg. \$10  
Boys Haircut reg. \$9

\$2 OFF

Senior Haircut reg. \$9  
Long Hair \$12 & Up  
Women's Haircut \$12 & Up  
Girls Under 12 \$10 and UP

Must bring in coupon for discount. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer, per visit. Exp. 4-15-15

\$10 OFF Women's Highlights

Starting at \$65

\$5 OFF Men or Women's Hair Color

Starting at \$45

We Also Do Updos & Hair Straightening  
Must bring in coupon for discount. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer, per visit. Exp. 4-15-15

SPECIAL \$25 Haircut & Shave

Must bring in coupon for discount. Not valid with any offer. One coupon per customer, per visit. Exp. 4-15-15

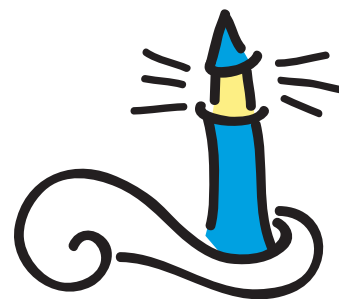
In celebration of our 40 years, receive a complimentary glass of Cosmo's homemade wine upon request

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**Pregnant?**  
Considering adoption? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (CalSCAN)

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

### 130 Classes & Instruction

**Aviation Grads**  
work with JetBlue, Boeing, NASA and others- start here with hands on training for FAA certification. Financial aid if qualified. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

**Train at Home**  
to process medical billing and insurance claims. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! Become a Medical Office Assistant now with our online training program! HS Diploma/GED & Computer/Internet required to participate. 1-877-649-3155. (Cal-SCAN)

### 150 Volunteers

**Did You Know**  
that not only does newspaper media reach a HUGE Audience, they also reach an ENGAGED AUDIENCE. Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

## For Sale

### 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

**Did You Know**  
Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

### 202 Vehicles Wanted

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

**Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat**  
to Heritage for the Blind. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. 800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

### 235 Wanted to Buy

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

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items



**Exquisite Furniture**  
Baker, Stickley, Thomas Pheasant, Jaques Garcia, and other distinguished designers.

Superb quality. Pristine condition.

Call for prices, description, and to preview. 650-454-6160

### 245 Miscellaneous

**DirectTV**  
Start saving \$\$\$ with DIRECTV. \$19.99 mo. 130 channels, FREE HDDVR 4 ROOM install. High Speed Internet-Phone Bundle available. CALL TODAY 877-829-0681 (AAN CAN)

**DirectTV!**  
Get The Big Deal from DirectTV! Act Now- \$19.99/mo. Free 3-Months of HBO, starz, SHOWTIME & CINEMAX. FREE GENIE HD/ DVR Upgrade! 2014 NFL Sunday Ticket. Included with Select Packages. New Customers Only. IV Support Holdings LLC- An authorized DirecTV Dealer. Some exclusions apply - Call for details 1-800-385-9017 (Cal-SCAN)

**Dish Network**  
Save! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months.) Premium Channel Offers Available. FREE Equipment, Installation & Activation. CALL, COMPARE LOCAL DEALS! 1-800-691-6715. (Cal-SCAN)

**DISH TV**  
Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) SAVE! Regular Price \$34.99. Ask About FREE Same Day Installation! CALL Now! 888-992-1957 (AAN CAN)

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

**Safe Step Walk-in Tub**  
Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)

**Sawmills**  
from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N (Cal-SCAN)

## Kid's Stuff

### 345 Tutoring/ Lessons

**Math Tutoring**  
Get your child to love math. Free trial. (925)487-1691

## Mind & Body

### 425 Health Services

**Struggling with Drugs**  
or alcohol? Addicted to pills? Talk to someone who cares. Call The Addiction Hope and Help Line for a free assessment. 800-978-6674

## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

**JANITORIAL**  
SEEKING EXPERIENCED JANITOR WITH HIGH QUALITY HOUSEKEEPING SKILLS FOR CITY OF PLEASANTON FACILITIES. REQUIREMENTS 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF JANITORIAL, DRUG & BACKGROUND CLEARANCE AND VALID CA. DRIVER LICENSE. EMAIL RESUME AND CONTACT INFORMATION TO IMPERIALMAINT@AOL.COM.

### 560 Employment Information

**AVON**  
Earn extra income with a new career! Sell from home, work, online. \$15 startup. For information, call: 877-830-2916. (CalSCAN)

**Change the Lives of Others**  
Start your humanitarian career! Change the lives of others while creating a sustainable future. 1, 6, 9, 18 month programs available. Apply today! www.OneWorldCenter.org 269-591-0518 info@oneworldcenter.org

**Delivery: Contract Driver**  
If you have a vehicle that can tow at least 7,000 pounds, you can make a living delivering RVs as a contract driver for Foremost Transport! Be your own boss and see the country. ForemostTransport.Blogspot.com or 866-764-1601!

**Drivers: Attn: Drivers**  
\$2K Sign-On Bonus! SAME DAY APPROVALS. Stay Warm w/ APU New KW Trucks! Earn \$55K p/yr! CDL-A Req - (877) 258-8782 www.ad-drivers.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Drivers: Obtain Class A CDL**  
in 2 A½ weeks. Company Sponsored Training. Also Hiring Recent Truck School Graduates, Experienced Drivers. Must be 21 or Older. Call: (866) 275-2349. (Cal-SCAN)

**Make \$1,000 Weekly!**  
Mailing Brochures From Home. Helping home workers since 2001. Genuine Opportunity. No Experience Required. Start Immediately. www.theworking-corner.com (AAN CAN)

## Business Services

### 601 Accounting/ Bookkeeping

**NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS?**  
Over 21 years experience in all aspects of bookkeeping. No job too big or too small. Call Linda, 925/918-2233

### 605 Antiques & Art Restoration

**"A Labor of Love" ANTIQUE RESTORATION**  
Preserve special memories... Recycle the past into the future  
Impeccable Quality  
Integrity of Workmanship  
Conveniently located in Pleasanton For 14 Years  
925-216-7976 License #042392

### 609 Catering/Event Planning

**Did You Know**  
7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Intelligent's limo service**  
Intelligent's Limo services. Call (800) 520-2114 to book us now!

### 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, and resolve tax debt FAST. Call 844-753-1317 (AAN CAN)

**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, and resolve tax debt FAST. Seen on CNN. A BBB. Call 1-800-761-5395. (Cal-SCAN)

**Reduce Your Past Tax Bill**  
by as much as 75 Percent. Stop Levies, Liens and Wage Garnishments. Call The Tax DR Now to see if you Qualify 1-800-498-1067. (Cal-SCAN)

**Social Security Disability**  
Benefits. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! WIN or Pay Nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 1-800-966-1904 to start your application today! (Cal-SCAN)

### 636 Insurance

**Auto Insurance**  
starting AT \$25/month! Call 855-977-9537 (AAN CAN)

**Lowest Prices**  
on Health and Dental Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 888-989-4807. (CalSCAN)

## Home Services

### 715 Cleaning Services

**Convenient Cleaning**  
Personalized service. Move in/ move out. 15+ years exp., refs. \$60 for 3 hours. Lic. 060612. Natalie, 925/922-3920

### 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.

**MARIO NAVEA G. Bldg. Contractor**  
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

### 781 Pest Control

**Did You Know**  
144 million U.S. Adults read a Newspaper print copy each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

## Real Estate

### 809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

**All Areas: Roommates.com**  
Lonely? Bored? Broke? Find the perfect roommate to complement your personality and lifestyle at Roommates.com! (AAN CAN)

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

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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Westside Pleasanton

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925.963.1984 for details

680 HELIGAN LANE #3, LIVERMORE



This home has it all! 1-story on the ground floor!! Shows Like a Model!! Gourmet Kitchen includes, slab Granite, stainless Steel appliances, Hardwood, Upgraded bathrooms!! Must see!! 3 bed 2 bath approx 1635 sq ft.

7919 PARAGON CIRCLE, LAGUNA OAKS



\$1,655,000

9459 BLESSING DR., THE PRESERVE



\$1,898,000



**Cindy Gee**

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925.218.1210

cindy.gee@BHGHome.com

BRE# 1307919

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Grand Masters



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## SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Dec. 22-31)

**Total sales reported:** 11  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$537,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,620,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,095,955

Dublin (Dec. 22-31)

**Total sales reported:** 13  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$395,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,320,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$683,962

Livermore (Dec. 22-31)

**Total sales reported:** 17  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$235,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,250,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$626,147

San Ramon (Jan. 2-8)

**Total sales reported:** 15  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$300,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,838,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$837,733

Source: California REsource

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Dublin

**4 BEDROOMS**

**3289 Cydonia Court \$969,000**

Sat/Sun 1-4 Julia Murtagh 997-2411

Livermore

**3 BEDROOMS**

**1003 Redondo Way \$600,000**

Sat 2-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

Pleasanton

**3 BEDROOMS**

**1021 Division St. \$899,000**

Sat 1-4 DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema 260-2220/413-6544

**5567 Baldwin Way \$649,000**

Sat/Sun 1-4 Jan Pegler 519-1455

**4 BEDROOMS**

**415 Abbie St. \$1,350,000**

Sat 10-4 DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema 260-2220/413-6544

**8031 Bethel Lane \$1,759,000**

Sat 1-4 Gail Boal 577-5787

**5 BEDROOMS**

**4106 Parma Court \$2,885,000**

Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

**6 BEDROOMS**

**110 East Angela St. \$1,648,000**

Sat 1-4/Sun 12-3 Mike Carey 963-0569

San Ramon

**3 BEDROOMS**

**2029 Watermill Road \$714,999**

Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 397-4200

**4 BEDROOMS**

**39 Terraced Hills Way \$819,000**

Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 463-2000

Find more open home listings  
at [pleasantonweekly.com/real\\_estate](http://pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate)

## Helping Sellers and Buyers in the Tri-Valley



*Julia Murtagh*

925.997.2411

jmurtagh@apr.com

JuliaMurtagh.com

CalBRE #01751854



See reviews of Julia

on



**JUST LISTED!**



**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!

**LISTED FOR \$969,000**

## BUYER NEEDS

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

**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**

**JUST SOLD**



**673 Palomino Drive**

Great Townhome in Oak Tree Villas in one of the most private locations. This home has 2 beds & 2 baths, with 1198 Sq. Ft of Living space. One Bed and Bath on each floor~Call Julia for more details.

**MULTIPLE OFFERS  
SOLD FOR \$400,000**



JUST SOLD

39 Terraced Hills Way

Pristine 4 Bedroom with Designer Upgrades  
\$819,000



JUST SOLD

7756 Country Lane

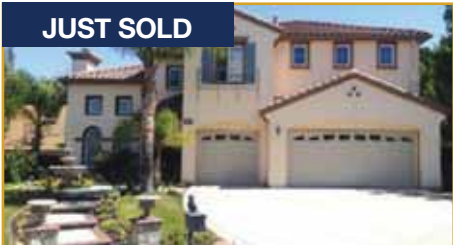
4 BR One Story on 1.1 Acres  
\$1,735,000



JUST SOLD

6304 Singletree Way

4 Bedroom with 2 Master Suites  
\$755,000



JUST SOLD

Bridle Creek

4 BR + Bonus on 1/2 Acre Lot  
\$1,588,000



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& THE 680 GROUP

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## How Accurate is Zillow?

Zillow Estimate Price vs. Actual Comparison  
Last 50 Sales in Pleasanton

Price Range	Average Sold Price	Average Zillow Estimate	More than 5% Difference	More than 10% Difference	More than 20% Difference	% of Estimates Below Sales Price	% of Estimates Above Sales Price
\$500,000 - \$1 Million	\$818,640	\$806,472	38%	4%	4%	70%	30%
\$1 Million - \$1.5 Million	\$1,303,711	\$1,185,493	58%	24%	0%	63%	37%
\$1.5 Million - \$2 Million	\$1,721,222	\$1,838,516	50%	36%	16%	34%	66%
\$2 million +	\$2,340,910	\$2,789,619	86%	70%	34%	4%	96%

First let me say that I love Zillow. It is informative, interesting, and has tons of data. I like that it adds transparency to the real estate process. I also advertise on Zillow periodically. The one item that never ceases to cause a stir is their estimate of home values, or Zestimate®. I hear comments from sellers regularly about how wonderful Zillow is (usually because they value their home high), or how awful zillow is (not surprisingly, when the Zestimate® seems low). So how accurate are Zillow's estimates anyway?

I took a look at the most recent 50 sales of single family homes in Pleasanton. These sales spanned from early 2014 to present. I compared the actual sold prices to the estimated value from Zillow. The results are certainly interesting:

A few observations:

1. The higher the price range, the less accurate Zillow was. This is not shocking, as there are more pronounced differences in larger, more expensive homes than there are in modest (by Pleasanton standards, not by the standards of the rest of the country who thinks we are all crazy for paying \$900,000 for a 1700 sq ft house, but I digress).

2. Zillow's estimate was off by 5% or more 38% of the time for homes between \$500k - \$1.0 Million. That percentage increased as the price range increased, and showed more than 5% difference a whopping 86% of the time on homes over \$2 million.

3. Zillow's estimate was off by more than 20% from the actual sales price 4% and 0% of the time for lower end homes, jumping to 16% and 36% for the higher priced homes ... Go to [www.680homes.com](http://www.680homes.com) to read the rest of this article.

### Considering selling or buying a home?

Call me today and put my market knowledge, experience, and negotiation skills to work for you.

Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these and other homes, along with market trends, tips & advice, and advanced home search

# Coldwell Banker

#1 IN CALIFORNIA



BRENTWOOD

2274 BLACKSTONE DRIVE

NEW LISTINGS! \$700,000  
6 BR 3 BA This is a former model home and fully loaded with gorgeous upgrades!  
Shannon Shepherd, CalBRE #01350212 925.847.2200



HAYWARD

688 MACABEE WAY

NEW LISTING! MUST SEE \$449,000  
2 BR 2 full BA + 5 half just listed, 2br, 2.5 ba townhouse in hayward. spacious kitchen, two car garage, with dryer.  
Suzan Gladieux, CalBRE #01245705 925.847.2200



MARTINEZ

4114 CABRILHO DR

GREAT SINGLE STORY HOME! \$295,000  
3 BR 1.5 BA Hdwd floors, newly kitchen bths, cathdral ceiling livng rm, new roof, dble pane wdw, hge bkryrd.  
Romar De Claro, CalBRE #01341138 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

BRENTWOOD

2265 HARMONY CT

TRULY A VISION OF BRENTWOOD! \$625,000  
4 BR 3.5 BA Huge front yard, Courtyard w/Fireplace accessible from Family Room & Dine Room Uppr bedrooms w/wrap-arud balcony.  
Sandra Burt, CalBRE #01205844 925.847.2200

OAKLAND

455 CRESCENT ST

STUNNING CONDO IN OAKLAND! \$329,000  
2 BR 1.5 BA Located in a secluded complex, it boasts with upgrades, slab granite counters and kitchen, baths, laminate floor.  
Romar De Claro, CalBRE #01341138 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 granite slab contrs, cherywood cabnts.  
Carmen Nica, CalBRE #01134456 925.847.2200

OAKLEY

2444 DUTCH SLOUGH RD

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

LIVERMORE

12457 MINES ROAD

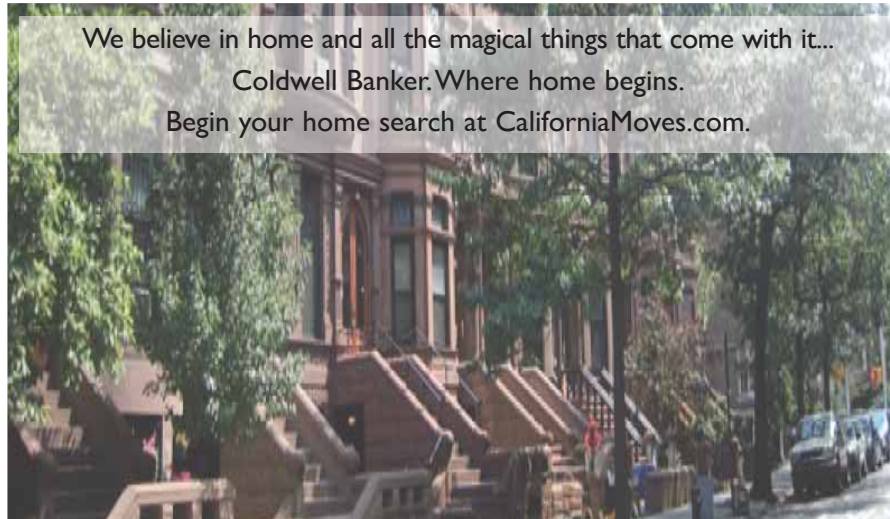
FABULOUS ESTATE! \$1,099,000  
5 BR 2.5 BA 5 Acre Estate! Remodeled kitch. Updated BAs w/marble. Fireplaces. Lovely landscaping, pool/spa.  
Mary Anne Rozsa, CalBRE #00783003 925.847.2200

TRACY

302 W MOUNT DIABLO AVE

POSSIBLE FINANCING AVAILABLE! \$229,000  
Could be subdivided into 2 lots. Live on one and sell the other! Close to elementary school.  
Suzan Gladieux, CalBRE #01245705 925.847.2200

We believe in home and all the magical things that come with it...  
Coldwell Banker. Where home begins.  
Begin your home search at [CaliforniaMoves.com](http://CaliforniaMoves.com).



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VINTAGE 1910 HOME

6 bedrooms, 4 baths, approximately 2800 sq ft. plus bonus room, 2 car garage and private backyard with fire pit. Quality craftsmanship and vintage details including crown moulding, bead-board, wainscoting and original doors and windows. Private master suite with claw-foot tub, separate shower, skylight and walk-in closet. New chef's island kitchen with farm sink, stainless appliances, stone counters and backsplash, built-in wine fridge and much more.



Open Sat 1-4  
Sun 12-3

\$1,648,000

## 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 5br, 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!



\$1,817,000

## COMING SOON IN PLEASANTON

### 228 Spring Street, Pleasanton

Rare downtown central commercial district zoning allows for commercial, residential or mixed use. Approx. 1200 sq. ft. main building plus approx. 200 sq ft separate entry rear office and off-street parking. 1/2 block off Main Street.

\$889,000

## COMING SOON IN DUBLIN

### 3290 Maguire #323, Dublin

Newer Dublin Ranch 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo with approx. 1250 sq ft. Secured parking, gated entry, and close to nearby parks and shopping with easy freeway access.

\$509,000

**MIKE CAREY**, Broker

925.963.0569 Cell  
925.846.0506 Office



## Gold Creek Townhome

OPEN HOUSE SAT. JAN. 31<sup>ST</sup> & SUN. FEB. 1<sup>ST</sup> 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

Inside laundry room

2-car attached garage

Great location - close to BART, schools, shopping, freeway

Asking price \$649,000



**Jan Pegler**

REALTOR®  
(925) 519-1455

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# The Grass Really Is Greener Over Here!

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Open Sat 1-4 & Sun 11-2:30



**Carol Beck**

**619 Little Lane - Pleasant Hill - \$ 629,900**  
New to market. Three bedroom, 2.5 baths with a finished basement. Over 2,000 square feet. Updated from top to bottom. Landscaped private backyard with deck. Hurry, this property will sell quickly.



**Gina Piper**

**2691 Vista Diablo Ct. - Pleasanton - \$ 1,175,000**  
SPECTACULAR home & breathtaking backyard! Views of Mt. Diablo & preserved open space. Brazilian Ipe deck & spa. Built in BBQ w/granite counters. Japanese maples, azaleas, lemon, plum, palm trees, raised garden beds, pizza oven. An entertainers delight!

Pending



**John Manos**

**4726 Aires Ct.-Livermore- \$517,500**  
Court location in desired Springtown. Well maintained 4 bedrooms 2 baths, with a Dining area. Atrium and Courtyard style entry which leads to a spacious backyard with possible side yard access for RV/Boat Parking. Close to elementary school, public Golf Course, I-580, and Kaiser Medical Center.

Pending



**Cindy Gee**

**680 Heligan Ln. #3 - Livermore - \$ 668,000**  
Gorgeous, 1-STORY, END UNIT with breathtaking VIEWS, SHOWS LIKE A MODEL!!! Including.. Hardwood floors, unique GRANITE counters, STAINLESS appliances, upgraded baths with tile floors, DESIGNER paint, upgraded carpets, Darling Patio, close to school, commute and shopping.. Move-in!! Must see!

Pending



**Gina Piper**

**1614 Paseo Del Cajon - Pleasanton - \$980,000**  
Stunning 5 bed home in highly sought after Del Prado. Light, bright & very open floor plan perfect for family & entertaining. remodeled kitchen and baths. Master has walk-in closet. Newer roof, flooring, windows, lighting, pool equip & solar, fireplace, speakers, RV parking

Pending



**Linda Newton**

**59 Rockrose St.- Livermore- \$ 845,000**  
Exceptionally beautiful & clean! Spacious relaxing backyard & perfect for entertaining w/pool, grass area, patio, charming sitting area, side yards & sheds. Flowing floor plan. Bedroom & full bath downstairs, vaulted ceilings, shutters, granite counters, walk-in pantry, formal dining & family room & more!

Considering a career in real estate? Want to increase your production? Call to schedule an appointment.

Let me show you our tools, training and amazing new office.

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**6010 ALISAL STREET**  
PLEASANTON

MILLION DOLLAR VIEW, single-story home offers 3,961 SF of living space on 3.5+ acres, 4 BD, 3.5 BA, formal dining and grand family room. Panoramic views of the Pleasanton Valley and Callippe Golf Course. City sewer/water, solar, private well, detached RV garage with potential for in-law unit and geo-thermal heating system are additional features of this home.

**CALL FOR PRICING**



**4155 CASTERSON COURT**  
PLEASANTON

Located in Kottinger Ranch. Panoramic views of Mt. Diablo! Custom built w/ over \$250k in recent upgrades. 4 BD, 2 offices, bonus/media room. Wainscoting & custom millwork throughout. Gourmet kitchen w/ large island, walk-in pantry, marble counters, wood flooring. Open design w/ attention to details. Backs to open space w/ oaks.

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



**3468 PALERMO WAY**  
DUBLIN

Located in Sorrento Dublin Ranch. Arzano Grande model offers 2 BD, 2.5 BA with 1,630 sf. Open kitchen w/ large bar, granite counters & stainless steel appliances. Open floor plan combines living room, dining room & large terrace for great entertaining. Master suite offers 2 closets and a large terrace. 2-car attached garage. Community features include a clubhouse w/ pool, spa & fitness center.

**OFFERED AT \$640,000**



**1162 EL DORADO DRIVE**  
LIVERMORE

Single-story & move-in ready! This 5 BD, 2 BA home offers 1,763 sf. Open floor plan features a formal dining room & eat-in kitchen area. The home is updated throughout with new wood-grain flooring. Rear yard features a covered patio area providing entertaining space all year round! Close to award-winning schools & provides easy commute.

**CALL FOR MORE DETAILS**



**641 DEL SOL AVENUE**  
PLEASANTON

Single-story near downtown. This charming 3 BD, 2 BA home features 1,609 sf with a formal dining room and an updated kitchen and baths. Home features fantastic views from the private rear yard with a deck overlooking a grassy area surrounded by mature fruit trees.

**CALL FOR MORE DETAILS**



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**6602 S. MARIPOSA LN., DUBLIN**  
3BD/2.5BA, Built 2013, 1817 Sq. Ft.  
Totally upgraded at \$665,000  
LOIS COX 925-200-8495  
REALTOR® CRS | CalBRE#01005829



**4200 MAYMONT CT., DUBLIN**  
5BD/4BA, Built 2002, 3121 Sq. Ft.  
Beautiful Greenbriar home \$1,095,000  
KARLA BROWN 925-200-1909  
BROKER ASSOC. | CalBRE#01349250



**7391 DALMALLY LN, DUBLIN**  
3BD/2.5BA, 1387 Sq. Ft. Private bkyd  
Close to 580/680. Call for Pricing.  
VARSHA UPADHYE 925-339-8090  
REALTOR® | CalBRE#01706653



**1602 AUTUMN OAK DR., LIVERMORE**  
2BD/1BA, Built 1986, 959 Sq. Ft.  
Represented the buyer. \$422,000  
DEBRA McMURPHY 925-699-0604  
REALTOR® | CalBRE#01118766



**CONDO IN VILLA VINCENTE, PLEASANTON**  
2BD/1.5BA, 950 Sq. Ft. Prime  
Downtown Location. Call for Pricing  
TRACEY BUESCHER 925-352-7307  
REALTOR® | CalBRE#01495743



**2886 KELLY ST., LIVERMORE**  
3BD/2BA, Beginner's Luck!  
Updated kitchen & baths. \$549,950  
RICH NOVOTNY 925-989-7639  
REALTOR®, CRS | CalBRE#00455262



**7436 NORTHLAND AVE., SAN RAMON**  
4BD/2BA, Built 1963, 1855 Sq. Ft.  
Super home, large backyard. \$745,000  
ALEX MOIR 925-789-7821  
REALTOR® | CalBRE#01956665



**3231 VINEYARD AVE.#38, PLEASANTON**  
2BD/2BA, Built 1991, 1204 Sq. Ft.  
Senior Community 55+ \$125,000  
JO HUNTER 925-413-4278  
REALTOR® | CalBRE#00692688



**6053 SKYLINE BLVD., OAKLAND**  
6BD/3BA, Built 1999, 3103 Sq. Ft.  
Large wrap around yard. \$424,950  
JO GIBBONS 925-216-6496  
REALTOR® | CalBRE#00952581



**7964 RIVIERA CT., PLEASANTON**  
3BD/2.5BA, Built 1991, 2523 Sq. Ft.  
Represented the buyer. \$950,000  
TERI POHL 925-588-8300  
REALTOR® | CalBRE#01948064



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**Karen Carmichael**  
Client Services



### 2594 SANDERLING DR, PLEASANTON

Gallery model in "Birdland" 2200sf, 4bedroom/3 full baths with 1bd/1ba downstairs, updated kitchen and marble baths, dual pane windows, steel tile roof and a pebble tec finish pool, new redwood fencing and large side yard access. Call for more details.



### 5217 RIDGEVALE WAY, PLEASANTON

Expanded Monterey model in "Pleasanton Valley", 2799 square feet. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, updated kitchen, large family room with wet bar and attached bonus room, new front door, large walk-in master closet, dual pane windows, steel tile roof. Call For More Details

# Venture

# Sotheby's

## INTERNATIONAL REALTY

### Inspiring Home with Views



#### 3828 Antonini Way in Ruby Hill

Custom Italian Villa

**4 Bd, 5.5 Ba, 6,343 Sq. Ft.**

For the connoisseur of life, this home has style and comfort! Views of the hills from every room! Quality Construction, cherrywood flooring/cabinetry, spacious rooms, gourmet kitchen, library/office, bonus rm. Private backyard w/views, pool/spa, backing to Open Space.

**Offered at \$2,850,000**

**Fran Cunningham**

925.202.6298 | [www.rubyhill.net](http://www.rubyhill.net)

### Open Feb. 7th & 8th



#### 300 Milton Ct. at Windemere San Ramon

Coming Soon - Elegantly Upgraded Windemere Home in Court Location

**4 Bd, 2.5 Ba, 2,232 Sq. Ft.**

This 4-bedroom 2.5-bath Torello home at Windemere features Gourmet Kitchen, plantation shutters and remote controlled Hunter Douglas blinds. Excellent court location with hill views and backyard for entertaining. TOP schools nearby.

**Offered at \$1,030,000**

**Kent Hu, CRS, GRI**

925.222.KENT (5368) | [KentHuRealEstate.com](http://KentHuRealEstate.com)

### Open Feb. 7th & 8th



#### 4518 Sandyford Court, Dublin

New listing in Dublin!

**3 Bd, 2.5 Ba, 1,565 Sq. Ft.**

Updated Condo in Dublin close to freeway, shopping and parks. 2 car attached garage. This listing won't last!!

**Offered at \$599,000**

**Stephany Jenkins**

925.989.3318 | [stephanyjenkins.com](http://stephanyjenkins.com)



#### 500 Oakshire Place, Alamo

Masterpiece of Contemporary Architecture

**4 Bd, 3.5 Ba, 4,400 Sq. Ft.**

4,400 sq. ft. of sleek, refined style. Boasting every modern convenience, including a wine cellar/study, media room, gourmet chef's kitchen, master suite, and over-sized patio with firepit. With full-height windows and doors providing spectacular views, this signature residence makes an impact with every detail.

**Offered at \$2,995,000**

**Anton Danilovich**

925.818.5749 | [500Oakshire.com](http://500Oakshire.com)



#### 7795 Cedar Mountain Road, Livermore

Tuscan Vineyard Estate

**7 Bd, 6 Ba, 6,671 Sq. Ft.**

Exceptional custom home with producing vineyards, on 16.2 acres in the Livermore Wine Country

**Offered at \$3,950,000**

**Donna Garrison & Susan Schall**

925.980.0273 | 925.519.8226 | [FabulousProperties.net](http://FabulousProperties.net)



#### 573 Bernal Ave, Livermore

Upgraded Livermore Home

**3 Bd, 2 Ba, 1,366 Sq. Ft.**

Updated home on quiet Cul De Sac next to a Park & school! Kitchen has Granite counters, breakfast bar, Stainless Steel appliances & more. Tile flooring in living areas, Hardwood in the master. Updated bathrooms with Granite counters. Large yard with a built in BBQ. New Interior Paint.

**Offered at \$575,000**

**Stephany Jenkins**

925.989.3318 | [stephanyjenkins.com](http://stephanyjenkins.com)

### Price Reduced



#### 3558 Crespi Court, Pleasanton

Kottinger Ranch View Home

**6 Bd, 4 Ba, 4,857 Sq. Ft.**

Panoramic views from Mt. Diablo to the Altamont pass are yours in this custom home with resort styled yard, pool, spa and full sized sport court. Cherry floors, gorgeous features.

**Offered at \$2,150,000**

**Donna Garrison & Susan Schall**

925.980.0273 | 925.519.8226 | [FabulousProperties.net](http://FabulousProperties.net)

### Sold - Mixed Use Retail Building



#### 718 Webster St. in Oakland

Oakland Chinatown Mixed Use Retail and Office

**16 Bd, 10 Ba, 18,452 Sq. Ft.**

Here is a 2-story free standing commercial building in Prime Location of Oakland Chinatown. Ground floor of 7 commercial spaces of restaurants and grocery stores, and first floor of 9 office spaces. 100% Occupancy with most 5-year lease. Zoned CBD-P/CH. **Offered at \$6,980,000**

**Kent Hu, CRS, GRI**

925.222.KENT (5368) | [KentHuRealEstate.com](http://KentHuRealEstate.com)

### For Lease



#### 5713 Moorjani Street, Dublin

Positano in Dublin

**5 Bd, 3.5 Ba, 3,400 Sq. Ft.**

Home backs to a natural preserve. Walk to the new community park. Convenient access to the entire Bay Area. This prime location offers the luxury of attending Dublin's highly rated schools.

**Offered at \$4,500/month**

**Kevin and Bernetta Wess**

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**550 Selby Lane  
Livermore**

Built in 2013! 2,031 sq ft Belmont model in Shea development. 3 bedrooms with loft, 2.5 bathrooms. Highly upgraded and right next to the hills. Granite, hardwood, plantation shutters, covered patio, 2-car garage with premium lot! Great view!

Offered at \$789,000



**Cindy and Gene Williams**

REALTORS® BRE LIC # 01370076 and 00607511

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www.WilliamsReGroup.com



FOR SALE



**3784 Jerrold Road  
Livermore**

A Winning Combination  
Luxury Living  
Ranch Style Living

Gorgeous 5 bedroom/5 bath home is 3890 sq ft and showcases stunning panoramic views. Five-acre estate offers 3 fenced pastures with crossing gates and water access, tack room, hay barn, 4 horse stables with paddocks, and large roping arena with return. Minutes from downtown.

Offered at \$1,999,999

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CA BRE #01813021



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**Jill Denton**

REALTOR®, International

925.998.7747 jill@jilldenton.com



**2929 Amoroso Court, Pleasanton**

Gorgeous Custom Home. 4BR, 3BA, Sun room, bonus room over garage. Hardwood floors, Custom built-ins, A Rare Find! Built-in Gas BBQ and Putting Green, Premium Schools!

Offered at \$1,475,000

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**A RUSTIC LANE**



**23 Carver Lane, Sunol**

Leads to a very private home situated on 5 acres of rolling hills just outside Pleasanton in the quaint town of Sunol. Panoramic views from each of its 5 bdrms! Over 2800 sq ft, 2 car garage and detached 3 car garage. Perfect for a private vineyard or horses

Priced in the low \$2,000,000's

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RARE Gorgeous single level custom with breathtaking panoramic views! Approx 4000 sq ft, 4 bedroom, 3 baths. This home is perfect for entertaining! Please call Gail for more information. Offered at \$1,759,000



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OPEN SAT 1PM-4PM



**1021 Division St., Downtown Pleasanton**

Location! Well maintained and upgraded 3 BR, 2.5 BA home within walking distance to Downtown amenities! Offered at \$899,000

OPEN SAT 10AM-4PM



**415 Abbie St., Downtown Pleasanton**

One of a kind Downtown home! Incredible remodel in 2004. 4BR, 3BA with bonus room. 2000+/-sq. ft. Offered at \$1,350,000

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**in Market Share!**

Based on Terradatum info 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014 – Cities Pleasanton, Dublin, and Livermore

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