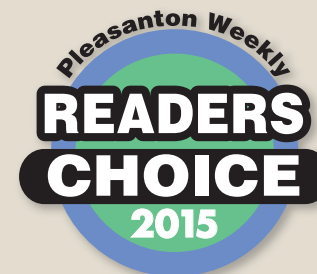


# Pleasanton Weekly



It's time to vote!  
PAGE 16

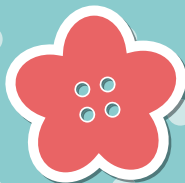
VOL. XVI, NUMBER 15 • MAY 8, 2015

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## LOOKING LIKE MOM IS PRETTY COOL



FAMILIES GET INVOLVED AS MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS ENTER CONTEST



PAGE 10



- 5 | **NEWS** Vranesh alleges firing was retaliation by PUSD
- 5 | **NEWS** Foothill grad drafted by NFL's St. Louis Rams
- 12 | **TRI VALLEY LIFE** Big Draw returns to downtown

# Mother's Day Brunch

May 10, 2015  
10am - 3pm

~ COLD DISPLAY BUFFET ~  
Fresh Fruit Display  
Fresh Vegetable Display  
Assorted Meats and Cheese Display  
Ceviche Salad,  
Fresh Tomato, Onion and Cilantro Salad  
Mixed Green and Caesar Salad  
Assorted Salad Dressings

~ BREAKFAST STATION ~  
Cooked to Order Omelette  
Scrambled Eggs  
with Spinach, Diced Tomatoes and Cheddar Cheese  
Hickory Smoked Bacon  
Sausage Links  
Breakfast Potatoes  
Waffles  
Sweet Butter & Syrup

~ CARVING STATION ~  
Roasted Pork Leg with Creamed Chipotle Sauce  
Slow Roasted NY Strip Slice with Au Jus & Creames Horseradish

~ SEAFOOD STATION ~  
Fresh Oysters, Shrimp and Clam Display  
with Cocktail Sauce  
Dungeness Cracked Crab  
Poached Fresh Salmon Display  
Smoked Sliced Salmon

~ ENTREES ~  
Saltimbocca Chicken  
Cheese Cannoli with Pesto Sauce  
Roasted Tri Tip with Bourgogne Sauce  
Broiled Salmon with Cilantro Lemon Sauce  
Bisi Bisi Rice  
Greens Beans Almadine

~ DESSERTS AND CANDY STATION ~  
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Pies  
& Pastries

~ BREAD STATION ~  
Assortment of Muffins and Danishes

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



JEB BING

New Nordstrom Rack at Persimmon Place in Dublin has a storefront design that features colored ribbons showcasing the brands of merchandise being sold inside.

## Shoulder-to-shoulder at new Nordstrom Rack

Hundreds of shoppers were expected to fill Nordstrom Rack yesterday for its official grand opening as the first major store in the new Persimmon Place shopping center at Hacienda Drive and Dublin Boulevard in Dublin.

But if the crowd was anything like the shoulder-to-shoulder group I was with at a pre-opening gala Tuesday, it will be great news for the Rack's manager Rachel Reed and for Regency Center Corp., the developer that is opening its 173,410-square-foot open air shopping center in stages over the next few weeks. Both Home Goods and Whole Foods will open later this month.

Regency built the center after marketing surveys showed the Dublin location would be a retail hub similar to the already-popular Hacienda Crossings just across the street that would draw from a high daytime population in an area where more than half earn \$100,000 or more and, like Pleasanton, have an average household income of well over \$130,000. It helps, too, that Nordstrom Rack has a full service Nordstrom department store just across I-580 at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Naomi Tobis, a Nordstrom spokesperson who escorted me through the 35,000-square-foot Rack store Tuesday night, said the off-price division gives shoppers who are not familiar with the Seattle-based retailer an opportunity to try Nordstrom merchandise.

Both the full-line store and the Rack carry the same brands, but the Rack offers a different self-service, open space shopping experience. Customers shop on their own and usually find the merchandise they're seeking on their own. Bright-green-shirted "team members" (we used to



PLEASANTON WEEKLY PHOTO

Nordstrom Rack customer Kelly Nixon (left) pays for her purchases on mobile credit card device handled by Daniela Zapien, a Nordstrom team member.

call them clerks) roam the Rack with mobile devices to quickly check out customers paying by credit card.

"No standing in long lines," Tobis said, although team member Jim Thomas from Walnut Creek helped scores of shoppers without a Nordstrom card find the lines in front of a bevy of cash registers at one end of the store.

The new Dublin store is Nordstrom's 178th Rack outlet in the country, with 13 now in Northern California where the company also has 10 full-line stores. Discounts range from 30-70% with 55% of the merchandise for men, women and children, and the rest being accessories, handbags and shoes.

Today and through the weekend, the Rack is offering Triple Point Nordstrom Rewards and also highlighting gifts for Mother's Day, such as fragrances, scarves, watches, handbags, robes, loungewear and jewelry boxed with sentimental themes. It's worth another trip. ■

### About the Cover

Jennifer Lillard and Kendall Harris, 12, are the winners in the 2015 Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest. They look even more alike in person, they say, because they share characteristics and mannerisms. Contributed photo. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XVI, Number 15

# Coming Next Week!



## 409 NEAL STREET

*Modern living with a vintage feel!*

This charming Victorian style home epitomizes the downtown Pleasanton lifestyle. Take a short stroll to historic downtown for dinner and a show or the Saturday morning farmer's market. Located just few blocks from Main Street in a quiet alcove of lovely homes, this is a must see!

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**2,262 Sq Ft - 9,121 Sq Ft Lot**  
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# Camp Connection

Summer 2015

## Alameda Pediatric Dentistry

1443 Cedarwood Lane, Suite D  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
(925) 846-KIDS  
www.alamedapediatricdentistry.com

Our dental staff provides dental care to children, teens and special needs patients in the greater East Bay Area. We strive to create a fun-filled environment where children feel at home! With three kid friendly locations in Alameda, Pleasanton & Oakland, we're conveniently located to better serve your family needs.

## Building Kidz School

4300 Mirador Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
(925) 249-9000  
www.buildingkidzschool.com

Building Kidz School provides the best preschool, day-care, kindergarten, nursery, academic and childcare facilities in California. Our staff is well trained in the field of early child education. We are located in Pleasanton, Morgan Hill, Pacifica, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Mountain View, Scotts Valley and Concord.

We invite you to visit our facilities, meet our staff, see our classrooms, play on our playgrounds and to learn more about our programs: Infant Care, Toddlers, Pre-school, Kindergarten and Performing Arts.

## Critter Camp at Valley Humane Society

3670 Nevada Street  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
(925) 426-8656  
www.valleyhumane.org

Whether you're curious about cats or dedicated to dogs, Valley Humane Society has the camp for you! Our fun, fur-filled humane education programs for ages 7-15 offer kids and teens an exciting variety of animal activities, games, crafts, special guests, and hands-on opportunities. Week-long day camps start June 12 and run until July 31.

## Customize Your Summer with Dublin's Camp Connector

June 15 - August 21  
For more information (925) 556-4500  
www.dublin.ca.gov/dublinkampconnector

Customize a weekly camp experience that fits your schedule and is unique to your child's interests. Dublin's Camp Connector offers traditional day-camps and specialty camps including: sports, arts, STEM, swimming and cooking. Morning, Noon and post-camp extended care is offered each week to provide your child with a full day camp experience. Let us provide your child with the best of both worlds by allowing you to sign up for a day camp and/or specialty camps in the same week. Register Now!

## enGAGE! Summer Enrichment Camp

at Harvest Park Middle School  
(925) 577-6981  
www.engagethegifted.org  
info@engagethegifted.org

enGAGE! Summer Enrichment Camp inspires kids to stretch themselves beyond grade-level standards and use higher order thinking skills to become creative problem solvers. enGAGE! students thrive with the time and encouragement to deeply investigate topics of interest and learn to ask questions that will lead to a lifetime of discovery. Two-week or four-week options for incoming 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Courses include Creative Writing, Brain Fitness Through Art, Creative Problem Solving, Music Production, Digital Art & Animation and LEGO NXT Robotics. Session 1 is June 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, July 1 & 2. Session 2 is July 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 & 16. Tri-Valley Music Camp is July 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31.

## Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFTZ!

7690 Quail Creek Cir.,  
Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 271-0015  
www.KidzKraftz.com

Focus on sewing stylish, wearable clothing, accessories, craft and jewelry projects, while introducing children to fashion design concepts, sewing techniques, basic pattern manipulation and fashion illustration. Sewing machines and notions provided. FREE fabric for first day of the camp. Pizza Party on last day of the camp. Early Bird Registration Special, as well as many discount options available.

## New World Music Academy

4430 Willow Road, Suite M  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
(925) 462-5400  
www.newworldmusicacademy.com/  
summer-music-classes/

New World Music Academy is proud to offer the best in value and quality in music education this summer. Improve your skills with our world-class educators and local professional musicians. Our summer programs are designed to expose students to and have them interact with professional musicians while making their summer exciting by playing with people their own age and level. Music is not a seasonal art so make the best of summer by enrolling in our well-crafted music programs.

Summer classes include Funky Beat Drum Camp, Crescendo Piano & Strings Chamber Music, Crescendo Chamber Strings, 'Stairway to Heaven' Rock Camp, and Improv for Jazz, Blues, Pop and Rock N' Roll. Most programs run Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. Visit our website for detailed information.

## Roughing It Day Camp

1010 Oakhill Road  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 283-3795  
www.roughingit.com

Roughing It is an all-outdoor summer day camp for campers age 4-16. Activities include instruction in Horseback Riding, swimming, fishing, boating, outdoor living skills, and more! 1, 2, 4, and 8-week sessions available from June 22 - August 21. Free transportation to and from camp each day with 2 central bus stops in Pleasanton. Free Extended Care also available. Helping children grow in wonderful ways since 1972!

## Spectrum of Science Foundation

(925) 820-2415  
www.spectrumofscience.com  
AmyBeth@spectrumofscience.com

WOW! DYNAMIC SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS! Explore, Test, Discover, Experiment, Take it home & HAVE FUN with science! The children will investigate physics, participate in the Angry Bird challenge, discover new creatures, mix it up with Chemistry and send in flying in Let It GO! We feature interactive & unique curriculum developed by the *Spectrum of Science* staff. Future scientists will be engrossed in science activities which are designed to create a passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). We believe that the liberal arts including history & art help develop the well rounded student & include these activities in our exceptional program. Camps in Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville. Join *Spectrum of Science* for this ALL new summer of science! Be challenged! Children will think, laugh & "play" ("play" = science!) all day! Mention Pleasanton Weekly and SAVE \$8!

# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## Is there anything you obsess over and are a bit compulsive about?



### Carol Riendeau

*Product demonstrator*

I used to be compulsive over things when I was younger, but now I'm old enough to realize that there's really very little that is worth obsessing over. And I gotta tell you, it feels really great to not obsess over and worry about things anymore.



### Kevin Albers

*Graduate student*

Not really. I just don't have the time to obsess over things. I am so busy studying and preparing for exams and looking for a job once I graduate, that there is no time in my day to be compulsive. And besides, obsessing over stuff is usually a big waste of time, anyway.



### Neela Yar

*High school student*

I am a bit compulsive about making sure that the door to the closet in my bedroom is closed when I go to sleep every night. It started when I was little and was afraid of monsters in there. Now that I'm older, I still do it. I will even get up out of bed to make sure that that door is closed, even though of course I don't believe in monsters anymore.



### Naseem Yar

*Engineer*

I am totally compulsive about not wasting water, and about recycling water that my family uses, because we are in a drought. For example, if my beautiful wife wakes up before I do and leaves the water running while she is brushing her teeth, it will wake me up and I will jump out of bed to tell her to turn it off.



### Sanjay Gondrej

*Teacher*

I am compulsive about my car. It is so important to me that it always be clean and well-maintained on the inside and on the outside as it is often people's first impression of me, and I want it to be a good, positive one.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

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

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For more information about these camps, see our online camp directory at [tinyurl.com/PW2015camps](http://tinyurl.com/PW2015camps).

## DIGEST

### Bras for the Cause

The 10th annual Bras for the Cause breast cancer walk returns to downtown Pleasanton this weekend.

Participants wear decorated bras and walk six miles through town to raise money and awareness for the fight against breast cancer. Some of the colorful outfits also feature flashing lights, beads and features.

Costumes are judged in categories such as most creative bra and best guy in a bra.

Proceeds benefit local organizations that serve medically underserved women in our community and further breast cancer research.

The event, promoted by Tri-Valley SOCKs, begins and ends at Amador Valley High School. Check-in and bra judging begins at 5:30 p.m. Saturday with the walk to follow at 7 p.m. To register or learn more information, visit [www.trivalleysocks.org](http://www.trivalleysocks.org).

### TEDx speakers

The TEDxAmadorValleyHigh committee is now looking for individuals to speak or perform at its TEDx event on Sept. 17.

TEDx — the 'x' meaning an independently organized TED event — is a local, self-organized event that brings people together to share technology, entertainment and design (TED)-like experiences.

TEDxAmadorValleyHigh's event theme will be "Embracing Obstacles"

The committee is looking for speakers of all ages who will be selected based on the merit of their experiences, presentation abilities and passion to educate the audience about prevalent modern issues.

Speakers are scheduled to audition May 27, from 3-9 p.m. Interested applicants can apply by emailing [tedxamadorvalleyhigh@gmail.com](mailto:tedxamadorvalleyhigh@gmail.com) by May 15.

### Swalwell bill

Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin) joined three colleagues across party lines last week to introduce the "Consumer Review Freedom Act," which would make it illegal for businesses to penalize customers who write negative reviews on Yelp or other online review sites.

The bill was motivated by several examples of companies attempting to dissuade people from writing honest reviews by slipping non-disparagement clauses in their consumer contracts, according to Swalwell, who introduced a similar bill last year.

"Consumers shouldn't have to worry about being punished for posting an honest review," Swalwell, whose district includes Pleasanton, said in a statement. ■

# Vranesh: PUSD retaliated after he filed complaint

Final week of hearing underway on Walnut Grove principal's termination

By AMANDA AGUILAR

Former Walnut Grove Elementary School principal Jon Vranesh alleged during his testimony last week that he was put on administrative leave in October 2013 from the Pleasanton Unified School District in retaliation for raising health and safety concerns at the school site.

Vranesh testified in the hearing appealing his termination that the district failed to act on his complaints of health and safety issues he raised at the end of the previous school year and again in September and October 2013.

PUSD attorney Kim Kingsley Borgan asked Vranesh, "Do you believe the district's motive for your termination is due to their failure to investigate your complaints?"

"I think I'm a principal that asks a lot of questions. I think it was pushing the limits whether a union president's daughter superseded my staff's working conditions at my school," Vranesh said. "I think they wanted me to be silenced."

Vranesh's reference was to Valexis Sutton, daughter of classified employees union president Alex Sutton and a custodian at the time at

Walnut Grove, whom Vranesh said was not performing adequately in her job and as a result created unsanitary conditions at the school.

Vranesh also recalled his interview with Sacramento-based private investigator Sue Ann Van Dermyden, who was hired by the district to look into the complaint. He said the entire interview lasted 15 to 20 minutes.

"She had very little to go on," he said. "The district was refusing her documents. She was forbidden to do anything about my concerns."

Pleasanton schools superintendent Parvin Ahmadi testified after Vranesh

April 29 and said, "the district took action to address these complaints." She added she purposely stayed "completely clear" of the investigation because the complaints were against the school district.

Administrative Law Judge Diane Schneider has not allowed testimony or evidence during the hearing about Vranesh's concerns about the custodial issues at the school because she does not believe they are relevant to the district's allegations against Vranesh.

Vranesh was placed on adminis-

See **Vranesh** on Page 6

## Looking for ValleyCare Medical Center? Look up the address first

Hospital's familiar signs go down as Stanford prepares to take over

By JEB BING

If you know someone searching for ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton, make sure you give them the street address. They'll need it.

All of ValleyCare's signs have been removed — from the hospital's buildings, from the Santa Rita/Las Positas corner, even from the pedestal at the emergency room entrance on Santa Rita Road.

While the merger of ValleyCare into the much larger Stanford Health Care organization nears completion, a new name for the Pleasanton-based ValleyCare has yet to be announced.

When Johns Hopkins Health Care Corp. of Baltimore acquired Sibley Memorial Hospital in northwest Washington, D.C. in 2010, Sibley kept its name. Since then, according to Becker's Hospital Review, there have been at least 150 hospital transactions and partnerships, some keeping their familiar community names with the larger acquiring medical group staying in the background



JEB BING  
Top: This familiar pedestal sign at ValleyCare Medical Center's Emergency Services entrance is now gone. Bottom: Just the pedestal remains with no identifying name.



or adding its name to the identifying nameplates.

It's expected here that Stanford Health Care, which is acquiring ValleyCare's outstanding long-term debt obligation of \$80.2 million, will want good visibility in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley communities ValleyCare serves.

"No announcement has been made yet," said John Sensiba, chairman of the ValleyCare Health System's board of directors. "It will likely come after the closing date, which we hope will be this month."

Meanwhile, keep your GPS set for 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd. to find ValleyCare. ■

## Mannion drafted by St. Louis Rams

Foothill grad goes in 3rd round, 89th overall in NFL draft

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton native Sean Mannion, a star quarterback at Foothill High and Oregon State University, was drafted in the third round of the NFL draft by the St. Louis Rams last week.

The 23-year-old Mannion finished his collegiate career in December as the Pac-12's all-time leader in passing yards (13,600), completions (1,187) and attempts (1,838). He also threw for 83 touchdowns for the Beavers. ■

The Rams selected Mannion with the 89th overall pick of the draft last Friday.

The 2010 Foothill High grad is set to join St. Louis' corps of quarterbacks behind starter Nick Foles, who the Rams acquired in a trade this off-season with the Philadelphia Eagles. The other backup QBs currently on the St. Louis roster are Case Keenum and Austin Davis, each of whom have NFL starting experience. ■



SCOBEL WIGGINS/OSU  
Sean Mannion drops back for a pass his senior year at Oregon State.

## Educators receive Crystal Apple Awards

12th annual program held at LDS church in Pleasanton

The 12th annual Crystal Apple Awards were presented to six high school teachers and a longtime coach last Sunday in a program recognizing them for making a significant impact on their students' lives.

The award winners from Dublin, Foothill and Amador Valley high schools were nominated by students attending those schools and selected by a committee of high school students from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The event was held in the Pleasanton church at 7800 Paseo Santa Cruz.

Teachers honored were Theresa Ochoa-Lionetti and Donna DeGiobbi from Foothill High School, Katina Lewis and Jeanne Morgan from Dublin High School and Brett Bower, Clif Simms and football coach Rick Sira from Amador Valley High School.

LDS spokesman Ken Mano said the selections were based on teachers who sacrifice their time in serving and making a significant impact on their students' lives, those who take the extra time and care to look after each of their students and help them in their school career, while also giving guidance and fostering character values they deem important to living a good life.

Each of the recipients was intro-

See **Awards** on Page 6

## 2 reported sexual assaults in Livermore deemed hoaxes

Women recant charges they were attacked separately on Arroyo Trail

Two reported sexual assaults on the Arroyo Trail in Livermore last week were hoaxes, Livermore police said.

The first assault was reported on April 28, when a 29-year-old woman claimed an assault occurring around 6 p.m. on the trail near Arroyo Road. The woman, who was reportedly treated for injuries after the incident, recanted her story on April 30 after investigators reviewed the evidence they had with her, police said.

Then last Friday morning, a 23-year-old woman recanted her story of a sexual assault that took place the previous day at about 7:50 p.m. Again, the victim recanted her story after police reviewed the evidence they had with her.

Police would not disclose what evidence they obtained in the cases.

Livermore police said officers patrol the Arroyo Trail and spend time contacting suspicious people, arranging for the removal of excessive vegetation and graffiti and

helping residents who live adjacent to the trail improve or maintain their quality of life.

Livermore police Lt. John Hurd said there have been no sexual assaults along Arroyo Trail in recent history, but there have been three reported incidents of sexual battering on or near the trail in the last three years.

Sexual battery refers to the grabbing of a victim whereas sexual assault refers to crimes such as rape, Hurd said.

In discussing the incidents, Hurd said that Livermore police encourage anyone needing mental health services to ask for help.

Alameda County has a variety of mental health providers available at low cost and no cost. Anyone seeking mental health help is encouraged to call 2-1-1, which is a free, non-emergency, confidential, 3-digit phone number and service that provides easy access to housing information, and critical health and human services. The service oper-

ates 24 hours a day, seven days a week with multilingual capabilities.

While the two reported sexual assault cases were hoaxes, the Livermore Police Department reminded the public to be aware of their surroundings and proactive in reporting suspicious behavior or occurrences.

The police department also offered safety tips for those walking in Livermore:

- Be alert and aware of what is occurring around you.
- Don't wear headphones covering both ears making it so you cannot hear what is occurring around you.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid unlit locations and areas secluded from public view.
- Walk with another person whenever possible.
- Carry a cellular telephone. Program the direct phone number to Livermore police dispatch at 371-4987.
- Report suspicious persons and behavior to the police. ■

—Jeb Bing

## AWARDS

Continued from Page 5

duced by the student who nominated the teacher, and principals of the high schools also honored the recipients with their remarks. Assemblywoman Catharine Baker (R-Pleasanton) presented the teachers with commendations from the California State Assembly.

### Foothill High School:

- Theresa Ochoa-Lionetti has been teaching for 21 years, 17 of those years at Foothill where she teaches math. Her passion for teaching started at a very young age, when she used to line up her stuffed animals in front of her and take roll, and make up math problems for each of them to solve.

- Donna DeGiobbi has been at Foothill High for 15 years, teaching freshman English, and literature and social justice. Her nominating students said, "she's a great teacher, friend, and truly cares for her students."

### Dublin High School:

- Katina Lewis has been at Dublin High School for 3 years, where she teaches physics, engineering, and AP physics. When asked what her favorite physics lab was, she said: "Newton's law, when I throw sand bags at people." Needless to say, they have fun in physics at Dublin High.

- Jeanne Morgan, who holds a degree in chemistry from San Jose State University, has been teaching the subject for five years at Dublin, and is currently enrolled at Chapman University to earn her master's degree in education. She said one of her many hobbies is going to NASCAR races, which makes sense since her husband is a race car driver.

### Amador Valley High School:

- Brett Bower is in his first year of full-time teaching at Amador Valley High, where he teaches honors



JAMES MOREHEAD

Foothill High School Principal Jason Krolikowski (left) joins Crystal Apple Award teachers and the students who nominated them: Theresa Ochoa-Lionetti, Sabrina Stermer, Marcus Larsen and Donna DeGiobbi.

global studies and U.S. History. His nominating students said, "He is always so enthusiastic about teaching and gets to know all of his students individually and cares about each of them."

- Clif Simms has been teaching biology for 25 years, including the last 22 years at Amador. His nominating students said, "He is a great teacher who loves what he teaches, makes learning fun, and genuinely cares about his students and wants the best for them."

- Rick Sira, who holds degrees in kinesiology and biology, began teaching at Kennedy High School in 1976 and became head football coach at Irvington High School in 1983. He was hired as the head football coach at Amador in 1986, where he taught anatomy and physiology, and physical education. He later became the school's vice principal, retiring last year after 38 years as a teacher and athletic director, although he is continuing this year as Amador's football coach.

—Jeb Bing

## Council honors Rotary's 50 years of service in Pleasanton

Declares this as 'Rotary Week' with proclamation

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council on Tuesday night commended the city's three Rotary clubs for their service to the community and named this as "Rotary Week" in honor of Rotary's 50th anniversary in the city.

With representatives of the three clubs at the council chamber podium, Councilwoman Kathy Narum read a proclamation citing some of the organization's contributions to Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley over the years.

"I want to thank Rotary for its service to our community, from providing funds for health care for the poor, construction of low income housing, to its work on behalf of the environment, contributions of art works, building a retaining wall on Valley Avenue

and arranging for the donation of one of our 'retired' fire engines and delivering it to our sister city of Tulancingo, Mexico," she said.

Most recently, she added, was the generous donation by all three Rotary clubs of the free-standing clock next to the Main Street bridge at the new Rotary Park.

Councilman Jerry Pentin added, "I've been a Rotarian for 30 years, including the last 24 years as a member of Pleasanton North Rotary. As chair of the club's community service program, my eyes were really opened to all of the great work that Rotary does."

He said the three Pleasanton clubs — Rotary Club of Pleasanton

See ROTARY on Page 7

## VRANESH

Continued from Page 5

trative leave Oct. 24, 2013, for allegedly creating a "hostile work environment" at Walnut Grove through the use of vulgar/derogatory terms to describe female employees of the district and making statements to subordinates that were "threatening and intimidating in nature."

Vranesh filed a complaint Oct. 30, 2013, against PUSD alleging, among other things, that the district failed to conduct an investigation or act on his complaints to district administrators, including Ahmadi, about unsanitary conditions at Walnut Grove and his concerns about the custodian's behavior.



Jon Vranesh

Walnut Grove teacher Katherine Peters testified on April 29, focusing on the chronology of events that led up to Vranesh's removal from his post in October 2013.

Peters, Walnut Grove's Association of Pleasanton Teachers (APT) union representative in the 2013-14 school year, testified she was made aware of Vranesh's use of "sexually inappropriate, violent language" during a meeting with teachers Oct. 24, 2013. It was at this meeting, Peters said, teachers disclosed Vranesh's use of "the 'C' and 'B' words" in reference to female employees.

Peters also testified that she did not trust Vranesh and thought he was not truthful.

On April 29, Vranesh addressed recent charges filed by the district alleging he removed all the data from his work laptop and had downloaded confidential documents from the district's server.

Peters also testified that she did not trust Vranesh and thought he was not truthful.

On April 29, Vranesh addressed recent charges filed by the district alleging he removed all the data from his work laptop and had downloaded confidential documents from the district's server.

Vranesh testified he deleted data from his laptop because he had communication from his attorney, personal information, resumes and "things of that nature" on his laptop.

"I didn't want to leave that information on there," he said.

In addition, Vranesh testified that the emails he printed from his work laptop were not for personal use but a way for him "to keep a record" of what he did at the site.

He also denied allegations made in earlier testimonies from Walnut Grove employees including allegations that he mimicked an employee's scoliosis, told a female employee "I wanna (f\*\*\*) you," and use of derogatory words in reference to female employees.

Katheryn Greth, a Walnut Grove first-grade teacher, testified April 29 that she felt "uncomfortable" around Vranesh.

"He's very much a principal that met one-on-one," she said. "He wanted you in his room, wanted you alone. I always felt anxious, on-guard."

In addition to Greth, five other Walnut Grove employees testified April 23 that they felt uncomfortable or knew of colleagues who felt uncomfortable around Vranesh.

Greth said, "He actually called me out at staff meetings, told me I could not speak, locked me out, stopped meetings to tell me I could not put my hair up ... publicly made it clear he didn't like me."

"I already said this earlier. I don't dislike any of my staff," Vranesh responded.

Greth also recalled a time Vranesh called her into his office where he said, "You're one of the most negative people I've seen in a staff meeting."

"At that point I was really scared," she said.

The three-week hearing is scheduled to end this week, with a session scheduled for today from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of Administrative Hearing in Oakland. ■

## AC Transit wins national honors for safety

Group cites service as 'industry-leading, innovative'

By JEB BING

AC Transit, which serves passengers at the two Pleasanton BART stations, has been honored as exemplary by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

AC Transit was cited for "industry-leading, innovative (and) exceptional achievement" in dramatically improving passenger safety and reducing operator mishaps.

APTA's Bus Safety & Security Excellence Awards program recognizes bus and paratransit systems that have implemented programs and achieved documented success in addressing specific safety or security issues.

"From a safety standpoint, we have accomplished a great deal and

we are thrilled that APTA is recognizing our efforts," said AC Transit's chief operations officer Jim Pachan. "Safety is our number one priority and we are working very hard to ensure it."

Over the past three years, AC Transit's vehicle collision rate dropped by 25% — from 5.25 to 3.94 per 100,000 miles of bus travel.

For starters, AC Transit formed an Accident Reduction Committee (ARC) to create a multifaceted approach with better training, awareness programs for employee and passengers, and emphasizing strict adherence to rules and regulations. The committee fostered:

- Monthly displays of a series of

safety posters for transportation and maintenance employees.

- LED safety signs and huge, glowing reminders installed at the exit gates at each bus yard.

- Daily rule reinforcement as operators begin their shifts.

- Safety-themed text messages via the bus radio system, offering safety information and reminders based upon hot topics identified by the ARC.

- On-board passenger awareness and safety communications, including rider safety information on overhead cards, audio announcements and posting of passenger safety tips.

- Safety posters at each bus yard.
- Operator training videos in break rooms.

- Safe driver awards and one-on-one driver re-training.

Clarence Johnson, AC Transit's media affairs manager, said that AC Transit also reviews and incorporates the best practices of other transit agencies to improve overall safety. ■

## Dime for every reused grocery bag at New Leaf

Last year, program donated \$9,455 to Pleasanton nonprofits

A Pleasanton grocery store is asking its customers to vote online this month to determine the six local nonprofits that will be beneficiaries of campaign that contributes 10 cents for every reused grocery bag.

New Leaf Community Market is working with Envirotoken to conduct the program in May.

Each time New Leaf Community Market customers reuse a grocery bag, they receive a token worth 10 cents that they can direct to the beneficiary of their choice.

In its 2014 program, New Leaf donated \$9,455 to Pleasanton nonprofits, and a total of \$100,119 to

organizations based in the communities that New Leaf serves.

The candidates on the online Envirotoken ballot are California Native Plant Society, California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), Coastside Land Trust, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), Fish Wise: Sustainable Fishery Advocates, Go Green Initiative Association, Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), Regional Parks Foundation, The Ruth Bancroft Garden, Save Mount Diablo and Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation.

Throughout May, these organizations will be hosting tables at New

Leaf to tell the public about their mission and work.

New Leaf Community Markets launched the Envirotoken program in 1993 to encourage the use of reusable bags and support local environmental nonprofits.

Since then, New Leaf shoppers have reused bags over 5 million times, which generated donations of well over half a million dollars to local nonprofits.

For more information about the Envirotoken program and other community giving programs, visit [www.newleaf.com/community](http://www.newleaf.com/community). ■

—Jeb Bing

## Stoneridge hosting moms with special event today

Called 'At Indulge,' program includes day of fun with evening focused on fashions

Stoneridge Shopping Center will hold special events from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today in celebration of Mother's Day on Sunday.

Called "At Indulge," Stoneridge is inviting moms and their friends to enjoy a variety of specialties including snapshots in a photo booth, live music, a painting class, fortune telling, appetizer samples from the shopping center's eateries, and more.

The first 200 guests to check in at the mall's Guest Services booth will receive a luxury cosmetics bag, and any shopper who presents same-

day receipts totaling \$125 or more between 10 a.m. today and 7 p.m. Sunday will receive a \$10 gift card to P.F. Chang's (while supplies last).

At Indulge also will focus on fashion and fun from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. with stores providing moms with a fashionable shopping experience.

Guests at Stoneridge Shopping Center's Indulge event will also have the opportunity to enter to win one of five spa packages, valued at \$500.

"Simon (Stoneridge's owner) has had a longstanding tradition of celebrating moms and the important

roles they play in our lives," said Holly Vander Wall, director of marketing and business development at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

"Held right before Mother's Day, Indulge events create a perfect opportunity for moms — who always think of others first — to focus on themselves and enjoy a social evening of fashion, food and fun," she added.

Simon's Indulge events are free and open to women of all ages. For more information, visit [www.simon.com/stoneridge-shopping-center](http://www.simon.com/stoneridge-shopping-center). ■

—Jeb Bing

## ROTARY

Continued from Page 6

ton (also known as the downtown Rotary Club), Pleasanton North Rotary and Tri-Valley Rotary — have donated more than 12,000

wheelchairs to those needing them in the Tulancingo area and other cities and countries.

Scott Raty, president of the downtown Rotary Club as well as president of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, thanked the council for its commendation.

"We recognize the great cooperation Rotary has enjoyed over the past 50 years from the leaders of the city of Pleasanton," he said.

Rotarians and others will also honor the 50th anniversary of Rotary in Pleasanton tonight at a dinner at Castlewood Country Club. ■

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## POLICE BULLETIN

### 'All clear' given after bomb threat at AVHS

Pleasanton police are currently investigating the origin of a bomb threat against Amador Valley High School that was sent by email to school principal Thomas Drescher on Sunday.

"The IP address has been sending us on a wild goose chase," Lt. Jeff Bretzing said.

Nicole Steward, the school district's communications coordinator, sent a notice of the threat in an auto-dialer to all Amador High parents Monday morning.

"We want you to be aware of the situation," Steward said to parents.

Once the email was read, Pleasanton police were immediately called to campus along with school

administrative and custodial staff, Steward said.

"They conducted a comprehensive, hours-long search of the internal and external facilities," she said in her auto-dialed message. "Following the search, police declared the campus 'clear.'"

Steward added that police and school district staff are confident that the Amador campus was safe. The school opened Monday morning on schedule with AP exams administered as planned.

Security was increased overnight Sunday and will remain at increased levels throughout the week.

In other police reports:

- A Bay Point man and Richmond woman were arrested Saturday after Pleasanton police received a report about two suspicious people in the parking lot of 99 Ranch Market on Rosewood Drive.

According to police, the caller reported that the two people looked like they were "preparing to break into vehicles" parked in the lot and then got into a waiting van.

An officer in the area saw the

van and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, police said.

The two vehicle occupants — later identified as William Addam Dunn, Jr. and Taylor Kaitlyn Bess — matched the caller's suspect descriptions, police said.

Dunn, 33, had a search clause, according to police reports. The officer conducted a search of the van and allegedly found a black bag with a laptop and iPad inside.

Dunn was arrested on suspicion of violating probation and receiving stolen property. The driver, Bess, 18, was arrested on suspicion of receiving stolen property and driving without a license.

- A Livermore woman and Brentwood man were arrested April 29 after a citizen reported to police about two people prowling near a storage shed on the 3800 block of Vine Street.

The citizen told police an unidentified red Ford Mustang was parked outside a residence and two people got out of the vehicle and walked to a storage shed.

When officers were dispatched to the area, they reportedly found

two bicycles next to the Ford Mustang and bolt cutters next to the shed.

Officers conducted a search of the area and found 24-year-old Ramona Marie Galindo and 41-year-old Alejandro Salazar hiding in the bushes, police said.

According to police reports, the duo told officers they were hiding in the bushes because they got scared when they saw all the police cars.

Galindo was discovered to be on probation for petty theft, and she showed objective symptoms of stimulant use, according to police. Officers also allegedly found methamphetamine during their search.

Galindo was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance and prowling. Salazar was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance, prowling and possessing methamphetamine.

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

—Amanda Aguilar



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The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### April 25

#### Alcohol violation

- 3:03 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
- 11:51 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 7:57 p.m.; intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Stoneridge Drive

#### Assault/battery

- 6:42 p.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive

#### Fraud

- 11:38 a.m. in the 6800 block of Via Quito
- 4:51 p.m. in the 7000 block of Via Quito

### April 26

#### Criminal threats

- 12:49 a.m. in the 500 block of Tawny Drive

#### Theft

- 6:58 p.m. in the 900 block of Kolln Street; theft from auto
- 8:07 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting



### April 27

#### Fraud

- 12:39 p.m. in the 4800 block of Cobbler Court
- 1:19 p.m. in the 5100 block of Northway Road

- 7:15 p.m. in the 3700 block of Kamp Drive

#### Missing person report

- 3:51 p.m.; street information not disclosed

#### Theft

- 10:04 a.m. in the 5900 block of Gibraltar Drive
- 4:40 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 8:26 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto
- 10:02 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

### April 28

#### Vandalism

- 8:28 a.m. in the 8000 block of Mountain View Drive
- 11:08 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Drug violation

- 7:51 a.m.; intersection of First Street and Arendt Way
- 2:43 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

### April 29

#### Weapons violation

- 3:18 a.m. in the 4600 block of Cochise Court

#### Theft

- 6:43 a.m. in the 6300 block of Hansen Drive; auto theft
- 6:52 a.m. in the 3000 block of Calle De La Mesa; theft from auto
- 12:03 p.m. in the 3500 block of Dickens Court; theft from auto
- 2:20 p.m. in the 5300 block of

Hopyard Road; theft from auto

- 3:08 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 3:20 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

### April 30

#### Residential burglary

- 5:39 p.m. in the 7400 block of Palm Court

#### Theft from auto

- 8:13 a.m. in the 6700 block of Arlington Drive
- 2:36 p.m. in the 5100 block of Franklin Drive
- 5:03 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

### May 1

#### Domestic battery

- 1:51 a.m.; street information not disclosed

#### Fraud

- 7:53 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

### May 2

#### Robbery

- 7:20 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Missing person report

- 12:33 a.m.; street information not disclosed

#### Residential burglary

- 9:02 a.m. in the 7400 block of Stonedale Drive
- 10:28 p.m. in the 3800 block of Keneland Way

### May 3

#### Drug violation

- 12:32 a.m. in the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Vandalism

- 4:40 p.m. in the 600 block of Rose Avenue

## Pleasanton Weekly

### PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

### EDITORIAL

#### Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

#### Tri Valley Life Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

#### Associate Editor

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 111

#### Staff Reporters

Amanda Aguilar, Ext. 121

Cierra Bailey, Ext. 229

#### Contributors

Jay Flachsbarth, Cathy Jetter,  
Jerri Pantages Long, Mike Sedlak,  
Kate Lyness, Nancy Lyness

#### ART & PRODUCTION

##### Marketing and Creative Director

Shannon Corey

##### Design and Production Manager

Lili Cao

#### Designers

Linda Atilano, Kristin Brown,  
Diane Haas, Rosanna Leung,  
Paul Llewellyn, Douglas Young

#### ADVERTISING

##### Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 122

##### Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 226

##### Ad Services Manager

Jennifer Lindberg, 650-223-6595

#### BUSINESS

##### Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

##### Circulation Director

Zachary Allen, Ext. 141

##### Front Office Coordinator

Sierra Rhodes, Ext. 124

#### HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

#### Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Circulation email:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### School district helps meet city's booming tennis demands

At long last, an agreement between the city of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton school district will allow the unlocking of tennis courts at Amador Valley High School to help meet surging demand by avid players for more courts.

The high school courts were moved three years ago from just off the school's Santa Rita Road parking lot to the back of a new baseball field where they are largely hidden from public view. At the time, they were also padlocked to restrict uses by those other than tennis aficionados.

The courts were open to students during regular school hours, but were locked at other times, although the school willingly issued keys to anyone who asked. Although residents would submit an application and fees in order to receive a key to the courts, the keys would often not be returned. After several years, there were numerous keys that were missing, which prompted the district to review its process.

As a result, the policies and procedures were revised, which required residents to submit rental forms and applicable custodial fees in order to use the tennis courts. Although this new procedure increased accountability, it also made it more difficult and costly for the public to access the tennis courts.

Last year, the issue was raised at a liaison committee meeting of the city and school district staff. Together, this group worked to find a solution that would increase the public's access to the tennis courts while balancing the concerns and needs of the school district.

The result is a "shared use" arrangement on a six-month trial basis starting this month and through October to make the tennis courts available for community use as follows:

Today through June 12:  
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to noon  
Sundays: 1-4 p.m.

June 13 to Aug. 24:  
Mondays to Fridays: 6-8 p.m.  
Saturdays and Sundays: 9 a.m. to noon

Aug. 25 to Oct. 31:  
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to noon  
Sundays: 1-4 p.m.

At the end of the six-month trial, the agencies will evaluate the program and make further recommendations.

Susan Andrade-Wax, the city's director of Community Services who helped re-open the Amador courts for public use, said she hopes the proposed shared use of the courts will be successful and that the plan can be continued not just at Amador but also expanded to include the tennis courts at Foothill High School.

So do we, along with the hundreds of tennis players in Pleasanton who have long campaigned for more free and public courts. ■



JEB BING

## LETTERS

### Building moratorium

Dear Editor,

At the last council meeting, I spoke about the effect of the drought on Pleasanton, and for that matter, the entire state. In the last 30 years California's population has grown by over 10 million, with no new water storage facilities being built to accommodate that growth.

The 25% required reduction in water usage by Pleasanton residents and businesses means another year of dried up lawns and landscaping. And yet our city continues to issue new building permits for users yet to come. On the way to being granted are a known 981 apartment units, unknown in the process are others not revealed by the city at this point.

The residents of the city have sacrificed enough lawns, etc, and are now being asked to cut back further to accommodate those not yet here. It's time for a moratorium on the issuing of building permits, except on a priority basis.

The failure of state leaders to properly act in building more water storage is toying with California's economy. Gov. Brown in his "we must sacrifice" speech did not speak to fixing the problem by building new reservoirs. In summary, our City Council, as a matter of transparency, should with each council meeting, tell the residents

how many permits are being granted, and in addition, start a public discussion about the need for a permit moratorium.

**J. Jack Bras**

### Opposed to East Side plan

Dear Editor,

On top of the massive housing already being built on Las Positas and another housing development on Stanley/Valley, my neighbors and I are very concerned about the East Pleasanton Specific Plan (EPSP). There is no doubt 1,300 more houses on El Charro will create even more traffic and overcrowded schools in Pleasanton.

Our family moved here five years ago. My husband and I saved for many years to afford the prices of homes in Pleasanton. Our desire was to find a good family community with great schools and a "small town feeling."

I volunteer at our local Fairlands Elementary School and the classrooms are bursting at the seams with too many students. Traffic for my family to drive through town has doubled. Our water supply is limited. EPSP is not a good idea! To learn more, sign on to [www.pleasantonvoters.com](http://www.pleasantonvoters.com).

City Council members are voting on May 19. Please voice your opinion!

**Kelly and Tim Enright**

### Code of ethics

The Pleasanton Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our website at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com).



### CIVIC CENTER/LIBRARY MASTER PLAN TASK FORCE

The City Council is accepting applications for Three (3) Community Members for the Civic Center/Library Master Plan Task Force

The City of Pleasanton is beginning the process of evaluating options for development of a new civic center, library and police station on the existing Civic Center site and other locations, including the Bernal Property. As a result the City Council approved the formation of an 11-member task force to include (3) three at-large community members. The task force will spearhead this process and provide guidance and recommendations to the City regarding this effort. Interested persons will need to complete and submit a Committee/Commission Application as well as a supplemental questionnaire by the deadline. For more information email Brian Dolan, Assistant City Manager at [bdolan@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:bdolan@cityofpleasantonca.gov).

**Apply by Friday, May 22, 2015**

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# Looking like Mom is pretty cool



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Jennifer Lillard and Kendall Harris, 12, are the winners in the 2015 Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest.

*Families get involved as mothers and daughters enter contest*

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Looking like your mom is pretty cool. Just ask 12-year-old Kendall Harris. She and her mom Jennifer Lillard are winners of this year's Pleasanton Weekly Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest, chosen from among eight finalists by popular vote at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com).

"I think that it's pretty fun knowing that I look like my mom, and it's pretty cool that we won," Kendall said.

She said she told her friends at Pleasanton Middle School that they had entered the contest, and they thought it

was pretty funny because everyone always tells her that she looks just like her mom.

Mom Jennifer said people often tell her that she and Kendall look alike, especially now that Kendall is older.

"Even strangers come up to us and say, 'You look exactly alike,'" Jennifer said. "People who know us say we look alike because we have the same mannerisms and personality. We look more alike in person."

Jennifer also said that her daughter actually resembles her mother, Cindy Puppione, more than herself, which is confirmed by old

photos. Although several people told Jennifer and Kendall that they should enter the Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest, it was grandma who actually spurred them into action.

"My mom actually sent me the link to enter," Jennifer said with a laugh. "She said, 'Here it is, and here is the picture you should submit.'"

Jennifer said her son Austin, who is 9 and attends Valley View Elementary, resembles her husband Matt, as does their 4-month-old daughter Katelyn.

"With my youngest daughter, I can claim her blue eyes, but that's



## Happy Mother's Day 2015

Prices Effective: 05/08 - 05/14/2015

With the purchase of \$20 or more on Mother's Day at stores in Northern California and Washington State, you will receive a Free carnation. Offer good while supplies last.

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[muhth-er] -noun

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(See also, 'saint')

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The eyes are the first thing people notice about Irina and Christina Mitine, the second-place finishers, but then it becomes obvious that they resemble each other in many ways.

about it," Jennifer said.

But with Kendall, people will see them at parties and mention the resemblance, Jennifer said.

"We can spot you in a crowd, they tell Kendall," she said. "You can never get away from your mom."

Jennifer grew up in Castro Valley but when it was time to buy a house and raise a family, she and her husband chose Pleasanton, in 2002.

"We moved here for the schools," she said.

Her father, Rich Puppione, worked for the Pleasanton Unified School District for many years and retired in 2007 as senior director of pupil services.

The second-place finishers in the contest are Irina and Christina Mitine. Christina, 19, a 2014 graduate of Foothill High, is a freshman at UC Santa Barbara

so texts flew back and forth as mom and daughter decided which photo to use.

"It was my daughter's idea to enter the contest — she's been asking to do it for as long as I can remember," Irina said. "This year, when she is away from home, we decided to allocate some time and choose the photo."

They share photos on iCloud and had a lot to choose from, Irina said. The one they finally decided on was taken Nov. 11 when the family went to visit Christina in Santa Barbara to celebrate dad Oleg's birthday.

"We had lots of pictures where we look alike but they were taken from further away," Irina said. "That was the only one where you could see our faces."

Oleg and son Anthony, 11, a fifth-grader at Donlon Elementary, were also in on the decision. They

all agreed that the mother-daughter eyes were the most obvious feature to distinguish them.

Christina's resemblance to Irina, who grew up in Ukraine, became more pronounced as she grew older.

"When we would go back to Kiev, those neighbors of mine that remembered me when I was little would say there was a definite resemblance," Irina recalled.

The Mitines moved from the USSR to Detroit in 1990, then to California in 1997 when Oleg got a position with NASA.

They looked "high and low" for a home in a community they could identify with, Irina said.

"When we came to downtown Pleasanton, I said, 'This is so homey, this is where I would love to have a home,' she recalled. "We truly love it."

By the time Christina was a teenager, her resemblance to Irina became more pronounced, Irina said.

"Then when she was a freshman at Foothill High, I would pick her up after tennis practice and her teammates would say, 'Oh, my gosh, you look so much alike.'"

Christina is an inch shorter than Irina, but Irina figures that with age she will shrink at least an inch.

"She got the green eyes, that's a noticeable resemblance," Irina said. "And she fits into my shoes."

Not only do they resemble each other, but Irina noted, "We are the same in terms of our personalities. We are both caring and treasure family and value honesty."

"I will always be her mom, and she'll always be my little girl," she said. ■



Colleen Becker and daughter Jessica Chatto.



Chris Lewis (right) and daughter Meghan, an Amador Valley grad.



Lori Wolfe and daughter Morgan.



Robin Reynolds and daughter Emmalee Lancaster, 18, a senior at Amador Valley.

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JOHN LOLL

Last year, TrueValue Hardware on Main Street hosted a piano decorated by art students at Hart Middle School as well as specially painted chairs to kick off the Big Draw.



JOHN LOLL

Reya Shah and Medha Prakash perform a Bollywood dance at the 2014 Big Draw. They also had a henna booth, which will return this year.



JOHN LOLL

The art work "Breakfast" and the flower arrangement it inspired at last year's Artful Bouquets in the Harrington Art Gallery.

## Big Draw Contest

Cash prizes will be awarded for the best street chalk art by non-professional artists in the following categories:

- Best of Show Adult (21 or older): \$200
- Phyllis Wentworth Award for Young Artist (13-20): \$150
- Best of Show for a Team of Artists: \$75
- Most Creative Concept: \$50
- Best Use of Color: \$50
- Best of Art Gallery Row (2-foot-by-2-foot squares): \$25

Downtown is center stage tomorrow as arts in every form converge for Pleasanton's third annual Big Draw arts festival from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From the chalk artists on Division Street to the skillfully decorated pianos at different locations on Main Street, the Big Draw celebrates art in all its forms while raising money for Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council's Arts in the Schools Grants Program.

"This year I'm really excited because we have six amazing professional chalk artists so we can really get to see what professional artists can do," said Jill Vellinger, who is event chairwoman for the third year.

The artists begin to sketch out their colorful chalk art drawings on the street the night before; three of them will create images that are 20 feet long while the other three will work in spaces that are 8 feet by 10 feet. Cecelia Linayao will return for the third year.

"She is just a great ambassador for the arts, and really engaging with people who come by," Vellinger said. "We place her at the corner of Main and Division Street. She has invited small children into her square while she's painting and explains what she's doing. How she creates is magical, and how she creates and shares is magical."

Local businesses and artists have been purchasing smaller squares for chalk art, and the day of the event 2-foot-by-2-foot spaces will be available.

"It's a great way to do something fun with your family," Vellinger said, noting that sometimes a family will create a Mother's Day message and

## Big Draw returns for third year

Artists of every kind share their magic at popular downtown festival

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

bring mom by the next day to present it to her.

Also returning this year is Artful Bouquets, floral art created to coordinate with a piece of art from the Fresh Works exhibit that is currently on display in the Harrington Gallery in the Firehouse Arts Center.

"They had 12 choices from which to pick," Vellinger explained. "They picked a piece of artwork to create a floral work that would embody that piece, in color or structure. It's really fun."

The five pianos that are part of the Big Draw went onto Main Street last Friday.

"A newly painted one was done by middle school art students from Hart. The teacher is Jane Maker," Vellinger said. "What's so cool about this — another thing wonderful about art in general — is that it hits on so many different levels, which is why it's so important to have art at the elementary school level."

"First they had to brainstorm about what they wanted to do," she continued. "They decided to do a world of dreams. So there's the creative aspect and giving voice to

yourself. They also wanted to add words from different languages to show that we all dream; it's a common theme among humanity.

Then the young art students had to collaborate to figure out how to translate their small design onto the large piano "canvas."

"There is math involved and creativity," Vellinger said. "When people see a work of art, they don't really understand all the things that go into it, all the skills and thought processes that are developed when young children are challenged to do art. This is a perfect example of what this event is

all about, really, it goes to support art in the schools."

The Big Draw will also have dance performances.

"Last year two Girl Scouts did an Indian cultural booth, and the henna was such a big hit that we're having another henna booth this year," Vellinger said. "We are celebrating a variety of art forms. And celebrating in a multicultural way."

Art teacher Rekha Joshi will be on hand to create rangoli sand art.

"This is an Indian art form where you have colored sand and make amazing designs through layering," Vellinger said. "This is on Division Street, and groups of her students will be creating chalk squares as well."

On Artisans Row, vendors will offer their handmade arts and crafts, a great chance to buy something for Mother's Day, Vellinger noted.

She encourages everyone to come downtown tomorrow to celebrate art and the community endeavor — and to support art in the schools.

For more information on tomorrow's Big Draw, visit [www.the-big-draw.com](http://www.the-big-draw.com). ■

# Ireland's foremost tenor coming to Pleasanton

Mother's Day concert taking place at Firehouse Arts Center

In a rare California appearance, Anthony Kearns, founding member of the Irish Tenors, will perform at the Firehouse Arts Center at 3 p.m. this Sunday in a special Mother's Day concert.

There is something for every musical taste in the afternoon's program, including songs of Ireland, Broadway and favorite classics. Kearns, who has been dubbed the "Best Irish Tenor" by the Irish Music Association among other honors, noted that it will be a perfect Mother's Day event for everyone.

Kearns will be joined at the piano by fellow Irishman Patrick Healy, who is known as "the Irish Victor Borge."

"Patrick is the real deal," Kearns said. "He's not only a brilliant pianist, he's the comedy relief of the show. When he takes the mic and regales the audience with tales of his 50 years in the business, it leaves folks laughing till the tears come."

"We're traveling troubadours, Paddy and I," Kearns noted. "Our programs are a roller coaster of emotions, from laughter to tears

and back again, guaranteed to please."

"I love opera," he said. "Performing with like voices is a challenge and very satisfying. But I love getting back on the road to new locations singing my solo repertoire."

Kearns began his career in 1993 after winning a national competition in Dublin, similar to "America's Got Talent." His Irish Tenors burst upon the international music scene in 1998. They have 10 CDs — many with gold, platinum and double platinum status — and

they frequently perform in the nation's most prestigious venues from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl.

Kearns is increasingly in demand on international opera stages, and he released his long-awaited debut solo album last year, "With a Song in My Heart."

Reserved seating tickets for the Mother's Day performance are \$27-\$40. Visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), call 931-4848 or go to the box office at 4444 Railroad Ave. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Irish tenor Anthony Kearns

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## Clubs

**GARDEN CLUB MEETING** The Livemore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at Alisal School, 1454 Santa Rita Road. Novella Carpenter, author of the 2009 memoir "Farm City," will speak on the history and current state of the urban farm movement. Visitors welcome. Go to [www.lavgc.org](http://www.lavgc.org).

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION** Federal employees and retirees are invited to attend a lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by a business meeting at 1 p.m., on Thursday, May 14 at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. For information, transportation or directions, call Gary at 373-6758. Go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

**TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED PRESENTS JIM PATTERSON** TVRWF invites you to join for a special guest speaker, Jim Patterson, 23rd Assembly District

member, who has supported ensuring the counting of military ballots, fast tracking of licenses for vocational nurses, and is Vice-Chair of the Assembly Utilities and Commerce committee. The event will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at Cattlemens Restaurant in Livermore. Cost is \$30 for members, \$34 for non-members. RSVP by May 11. Contact Linda at 426-1474 or [krikorianpublishing@yahoo.com](mailto:krikorianpublishing@yahoo.com).

**TRI-VALLEY WRITERS MAY 16 MEETING** Andy Weir, author of "The Martian," will share his journey from self-published author to a print deal, from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 16 at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road. Originally self-published in 2011, Crown Publishing purchased the rights and re-released it in 2014. A sci-fi novel, the story follows astronaut, Mark Watney, stranded alone on Mars. Call 828-7687 or go to [www.trivalleywriters.org](http://www.trivalleywriters.org).

## PET OF THE WEEK



MADDIE'S FUND

### Gorgeous Norah

This 7-month-old gray and white tabby always has a smile on my face and a purr on her lips. Norah is looking for a home where she can stay indoors; Maddie's Fund rescued her after an unfortunate encounter with a car, and she had major surgery to remove a back leg. Her sunny demeanor played a huge factor in how quickly she was back up and on her remaining three paws. For more info, contact Terri at [terriduncan@yahoo.com](mailto:terriduncan@yahoo.com) or 487-7279.

## Concerts

**'MUSIC FROM THE SILVER SCREEN' AND OSCAR-STYLE AFTER PARTY** Valley Concert Chorale will perform and host a "Music from the Silver Screen and After Party" as a fundraiser for the Chorale at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 17 at First Presbyterian Church. Guests are invited to dress like a red carpet celebrity and enjoy Academy-award winning songs from the silver screen. Tickets are \$40, advanced purchase only. Call 866-4003 or go to [www.valleyconcert-chorale.org](http://www.valleyconcert-chorale.org).

**LOUIS A. BOTTO CHOIR** The LAB Choir is a small, mixed ensemble made up of young singers trained and mentored by Chanticleer, the world-famous, award-winning San Francisco choral group. Come and enjoy this free a cappella concert from 7:30-9 p.m. on Saturday, May 16 at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave. Go to [www.catholicsof-pleasanton.org](http://www.catholicsof-pleasanton.org).

**STRINGS IN EVERY WHICH WAY: PLEASANTON CHAMBER PLAYERS** The Pleasanton Chamber Players will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 17 at the Firehouse Arts Center. On the program are Mendelssohn's Octet in E flat major, op. 20; Tchaikovsky's Adagio Molto for String Quartet and Harp, and more. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

dance to the Mellotones and sup on pub food at the Beer Tasting and Sudsy Supper from 5:30-9 p.m. on Sunday, May 17 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Livermore. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$30, \$15 for youth 7-20, and \$8 for children 2-6. Go to [sudsupper.brownpapertickets.com](http://sudsupper.brownpapertickets.com).

**MUSEUM ON MAIN READING TIME** Preschoolers (ages 2-5) and their families are invited to meet at the Museum on Main for books and crafts at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13. The theme is "Pirate Party." Admission is free. No reservations required. Call 462-2766 or go to <http://www.museumonmain.org/moms-reading-time.html>.

**PLEASANTON'S PUBLIC ART WALK** Nancy and Gary Harrington will lead a Northern Art Walk at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, leaving from the Pleasanton Civic Offices, 200 Old Bernal Ave. Walkers will receive a brochure with a map of the Art Walk, locations of the art, its name and artist. In partnership with World Walk to Wellness.

**SPRING FAIRE** The City of Dublin presents the annual Spring Faire, a French-Parisian style festival in celebration of Mother's Day and the arrival of spring, from noon-5 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. Contact the Program Specialist City of Dublin at [margeaux.fuhrman@dublin.ca.gov](mailto:margeaux.fuhrman@dublin.ca.gov).

## Events

**BEER TASTING AND SUDSY SUPPER** Sample beers from local breweries,

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special 10k/5k event that honors those who've lost their lives in the line of duty on Saturday, May 9, at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. Proceeds go to Concerns for Police Survivors, which supports families and coworkers left behind to deal with tragic loss. Cost is \$40 for preregistration, \$45 on race day. Entry fee includes t-shirt, beverages, barbecue lunch, and raffle. Contact (209) 795-7832 or [info@onyour-markevents.com](mailto:info@onyour-markevents.com). Go to [www.onyour-markevents.com](http://www.onyour-markevents.com).

**ROCK FOR RELAY** Some of the best musicians and recording artists of the Bay Area will perform live at the Rock For Relay, from noon-6 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 at Mountain House Bar, 16784 Grantline Road, Livermore. Silent auction, food and drink available for purchase. Benefits Mountain House American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Tickets are \$15, 17 and under free.

**TAILS AT TWILIGHT GALA** Celebrate the lives that touch our hearts at the Tails at Twilight Gala, from 6-11 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at Bella Rosa at Garre Winery in Livermore. Hors d'oeuvres, sit-down dinner, dancing, no-host bar, live and silent auctions. Benefits Valley Humane Society. Tickets are \$100 April 15; \$125 after. Call 426-8656 or go to [valleyhumane.org/events2/tails-at-twilight/](http://valleyhumane.org/events2/tails-at-twilight/).

## Lectures/ Workshops

**AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS** Amador Valley Quilters will feature speakers from local quilt stores, including The Cotton Patch, Lafayette; In Between Stitches, Livermore; Ladybug Quilts, Manteca; and Wooden Gate Quilts, Danville. The meeting will be from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Go to [Amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://Amadorvalleyquilters.org).

## Seniors

**FALL PREVENTION AND BONE HEALTH** Fall prevention is a very important topic as people age. Physical changes, health conditions and sometimes medication used to treat conditions can make falls more likely. This free presentation will cover the importance of weight bearing exercise, nutrition and practices to prevent falls, at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Call 931-5365.

## Volunteering

**GIVE NATURE A HELPING HAND** The Cattail Pond at Sycamore Grove Park needs a little "spring cleaning." Tri-Valley Conservancy volunteers will be removing cattails and invasive plants. This is an opportunity to restore the natural environment, make friends, get exercise and have fun, from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 16 at Sycamore Grove in Livermore. Go to [www.trivalleyconservancy.org/](http://www.trivalleyconservancy.org/).



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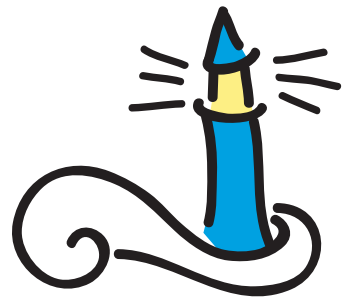
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## INDEX

- BULLETIN BOARD 100-155
- FOR SALE 200-270
- KIDS STUFF 330-355
- MIND & BODY 400-499
- JOBS 500-585
- BUSINESS SERVICES 600-690
- HOME SERVICES 700-799
- FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE 801-899
- PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICES 995-997

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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**I Buy Old Porsches**  
911, 356, 1948-1973 only. Any condition. Top \$\$ paid. Finders Fee. Call 707-965-9546 or email porscheclassics@yahoo.com (Cal-SCAN)

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

**PA: City Wide Garage Sale Saturday, June 6, 8-2**  
Helping the environment and making money has never been so easy. Reusing - whether you donate, buy, or sell - is one of the best ways to reduce waste and keep usable stuff out of the landfill.

**Join us for the Palo Alto Citywide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 6.** Last day to sign up is May 8.

Details will be posted on <http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/yardsale/>

The map and listings will be uploaded to this page and be printed in the **June 5** edition of the Palo Alto Weekly.

### 235 Wanted to Buy

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

### 245 Miscellaneous

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**Job Qualifications:**  
Minimum 3 years print and/or media sales experience. National sales experience a MUST. Successful new business development track record and established portfolio of potential clients. Dynamic, flexible, hard-working and highly organized with excellent communication skills. Bachelor's Degree preferred from an accredited university. Send resume to Wolf Rosenberg: wolf@cnpa.com

### 550 Business Opportunities

**Computer Work**  
Work from anywhere 24/7. Up to \$1,500 Part Time to \$7,500/mo. Full Time. Training provided. www.WorkServices24.com (Cal-SCAN)

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

### 636 Insurance

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### 751 General Contracting

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## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

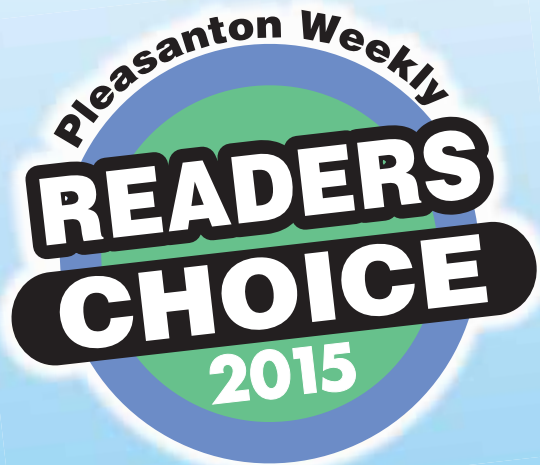
THE VOCAL SYMPHONY PROJECT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No: 502894  
The following person(s) doing business as: THE VOCAL SYMPHONY PROJECT, 3495 ISLE ROYAL COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kelly D Burge, 3495 Isle Royal Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Kelly Burge. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/23/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 24, May 1, 8, 15; 2015)

LIBERTY CAB; TRI-VALLEY TAXI SERVICE; TRI-VALLEY TAXI FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No: 504668-70  
The following person(s) doing business as: LIBERTY CAB; TRI-VALLEY TAXI SERVICE; TRI-VALLEY TAXI, 7063 COMMERCE CIRCLE SUITE C, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ali Naqi Akbari, 7063 Commerce Circle #C, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 05/05/2015. Signature of Registrant: Ali Akbari. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 05/05/2015. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 8, 15, 22, 29; 2015)

**About those ads without phone numbers...** Ads in the paper without phone numbers are free ads posted through our fogster.com classified web site. Complete information appears on the web site. The person placing the ad always has the option of buying lines for print in the newspaper. Many do, some do not - it is their choice. These free lines in print are meant to share with you a little of a lot that is available online. We offer it as an added bonus. Hopefully, you will be encouraged to check out fogster.com

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 Best Domestic Car Repair  
 Best Florist  
 Best Foreign Car Repair  
 Best Hardware Store  
 Best Heating & Air Conditioning Service  
 Best Home Decor & Furnishings  
 Best Landscaping Service  
 Best Nursery / Garden Center  
 Best Plumber  
 Best Roofer  
 Best Senior Living Community  
 Best Tire Store
- Epicure**  
 Best American Food  
 Best Bakery / Desserts  
 Best Barbecue  
 Best Burger  
 Best Chinese Restaurant  
 Best Independent Coffeehouse  
 Best Deli / Sandwich Shop  
 Best French Fries  
 Best Grocery Store  
 Best Health Food Store  
 Best Ice Cream / Frozen Yogurt  
 Best Italian Restaurant  
 Best Family-Friendly Restaurant  
 Best Mediterranean Food  
 Best Mexican Food  
 Best New Restaurant  
 Best Pizza  
 Best Seafood  
 Best Sunday Brunch  
 Best Sushi / Japanese Food  
 Best Take-out Restaurant  
 Best Thai Food  
 Best Vegetarian Cuisine
- Health & Fitness**  
 Best Acupuncture  
 Best Chiropractic Office  
 Best Dental Office  
 Best Health Club  
 Best Home Healthcare Service  
 Best Massage  
 Best Martial Arts Studio  
 Best Optometrist  
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 Best Car Wash  
 Best Carpet Cleaning Service
- Kids & Pets**  
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 Best Place for a Kids' Playdate  
 Best Toy Store  
 Best Tutoring School  
 Best Veterinarian
- Rest & Recreation**  
 Best Bookstore  
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 Best Hotel  
 Best Kept Secret Treasure of Pleasanton  
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