# Pleasanton Weekly





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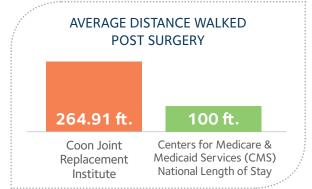
VOL. XVIII, NUMBER 36 · SEPTEMBER 29, 2017



- **5 NEWS** PUSD board OKs bond-funded laptops
- 5 NEWS Two Dems launch bids to unseat Baker
- **10 TRI VALLEY LIFE** Turning pennies into trees

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## AROUND PLEASANTON

## BY IEB BING Trader Joe's opens expanded store in Pleasanton



Trader Joe's employees greet customers at opening of new store in the Rose Pavilion. They placed leis on the scores of shoppers who filled the store at its 8 a.m. opening last Friday.

was one of the early-bird customers at 8 a.m. last Friday Las Trader Joe's opened its new 13,000-square-foot grocery store in the Rose Pavilion, joining scores of other shoppers dashing in after a festive ribbon-cutting.

Not only is the new location at 3903 Santa Rita Road significantly larger than its nearby older market on Pimlico Drive, now closed, but it comes with a much larger parking lot as well. Even so, the lot, which also serves next door service and retail businesses and is shared with a recently opened CVS Pharmacy, was filled to capacity not long after the grand opening and for much of the past weekend.

Trader Joe's Pleasanton manager Jay Jones, who goes by the grocer's title of Captain Jay, personally greeted customers as

they entered the

**Captain Jay** 

store under an arch of red and white balloons. Inside, "crew members" another Trader Joe's designation for store employees - placed leis over the heads of shoppers, including me, and then escorted us on tours of the spacious store, even giving each of us a reusable grocery bag to take home.

Many of us recognized Capt. Jay and his crew members because they came from the old store. They'd been there for several days to help stock shelves and hone their skills on new computerized registers and charge card processors at the checkout stands. During that time, crews from other Trader Joe's locations served customers at Pimlico right up to its final closing Sept. 21.

Jones managed that store and earlier worked at Trader Joe's locations in Brentwood and Fremont.

"Our new store has more than 3,000 square feet of additional space than at Pimlico, and a much-expanded wine section," Jones said. "Besides having more parking for our customers, we also now have electric-car charging stations and more handicapped parking in front of the store."

Jones said he and his crew members "consider themselves 'traders on the culinary seas." At last Friday's opening, they wore brightly colored Hawaiian-themed shirts, adding to the friendly and light-hearted air of the store.

Trader Joe's spokeswoman Kenya Friend-Daniel said local shoppers will soon receive a copy of Trader Joe's "Fearless Flyer" in their mailboxes.

"Called a cross between Consumer Reports and Mad Magazine, the publication is a somewhat irreverent description of timely product selections," she said. "Each edition highlights products that the company's buyers believe are worthy of customer interest, from comfort foods to items that are organic or that boast other special attributes."

Trader Joe's carries an extensive array of domestic and imported foods and beverages, including artisan breads, Arabica bean coffees, international frozen entrees, fresh crop nuts, deli items and even vitamins. It also offers the basics, such as milk and eggs.

What it doesn't have, according to Friend-Daniel, are "sales" found in most other markets that last for a few days only to have those product prices back up again.

Trader Joe's began in 1958 in the Los Angeles area. Since then, it has expanded to more than 465 stores in 41 states. More information about the grocer can be found at www.traderjoes.com. ■





Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at **PleasantonWeekly.com** 

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## **About the Cover**

Ready for adventure! The Swenson family, (from left) William, Theo, Ezra, Jess and Vesper, are preparing for a yearlong, worldwide backpacking journey, which they will share on YouTube along the way. Photo by Jess Swenson. Cover design by Kristin Brown. Vol. XVIII. Number 36

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## Streetwise

## ASKED AROUND DOWNTOWN

## If you suddenly found yourself with an unexpected hour of free time, how would you spend it?



#### **Evan McMasters** Engineering manager

I'd grab my mountain bike and head to the Pleasanton Ridge for a ride. The views from the top of The Ridge are breathtakingly beautiful. Being up there almost feels like going on vacation without ever leaving town.



#### **Brenna Costa** Registered nurse

I'm sure I would spend that time sitting down or reclining somewhere, in order to sleep, or to meditate or to even just daydream and let my mind wander. It is so rare to have the opportunity to slow down in order to do any of those things.



#### Tom Vierra Warehouse lead

I would definitely catch up on some much-needed sleep. I am long overdue for a very long nap.

#### **Brian Bentley** Self-employed

I think it would depend on my location. If I were away on vacation in the mountains, I would go hiking or fishing or even just sit down to read a few chapters of a good book.

-Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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#### **Conner McKinnon** Bartender/student/entrepreneur

I would play with my puppy Charlie and take him for a walk. He is a mixed breed rescue dog and I absolutely adore him. I try to spend as much time with him as I possibly can. He is so smart and so fun and just the best dog ever.

## Newsfront

## DIGEST

#### **Services review**

The Alameda Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo) is looking for public comment and review on its draft Cities Municipal Services Review report.

The report, part of LAFCo's review and update of Alameda County's 14 spheres of influence (SOI) including Pleasanton's, includes recommended service review determinations and recommended SOI updates.

The draft report can be viewed at the agency's website, www. acgov.org/lafco. Comments must be submitted by Oct. 20 to be considered for the final report.

LAFCo plans to hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the report and its recommendations in December or January.

#### **Retirement fair**

The Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, in partnership with the Pleasanton Senior Center, is holding a retirement fair next weekend on the subject, "Are you Ready to Retire? Ready, Set, Move! Pre-Planning for a Successful Retirement.'

The free educational seminar, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 7, focuses on helping people prepare to transition from work to retirement. There will also be break-out sessions on topics such as healthy living, fraud prevention, housing options

and Medicare basics. The keynote speaker will be certified financial planner Gary Alt of Monterey Private Wealth. Representatives of local senior sup-port agencies will also be on hand.

For more information, call Senior Support at 931-5379. The event will take place at the Se-nior Center at 5353 Sunol Blvd.

#### Your Muslim Neighbor

The Muslim Community Center of the East Bay in Pleasanton is hosting another of its Your Muslim Neighbor panel discussions this Saturday aimed at addressing misconceptions about Islam and generating discourse about finding common ground among faiths.

The free public event includes a lunch, open house and panel talk from 12-3 p.m. at the mosque, 5274 West Las Positas Blvd. In addition to the discussion, activities include tasting traditional foods, trying Arabic calligraphy, getting a temporary henna tattoo and touring the

mosque. RSVP is requested at www. mcceb.org/muslim-neighbors.

The next day from 4-5 p.m. the mosque will host the "This Is Us: An Interfaith Youth Panel" where teens of different faiths will talk about their personal experiences and work to promote inclusion and diversity among Pleasanton youth.

## New staff laptops mark PUSD's first Measure II capital project

School board also discusses dyslexia awareness, compares enrollment figures

#### **BY JULIA REIS**

he Pleasanton school board Tuesday night unanimously L approved the first contract for a capital project using Measure I1 bond funds, authorizing the purchase of 450 Macbooks and 132 external DVD drives for K-8 teachers and instructional staff.

Last month trustees authorized the first round of bond sales, a \$72 million issuance for a list of projects that includes staff and student technology; the Lydiksen Elementary School rebuild; certificates of participation debt payoff; modernizations qualifying for state funding; infrastructure, safety and security projects, and a new elementary school feasibility study.

On Tuesday, administrators came to the board with the recommendation that \$432,000 in bond revenue be spent on the external DVD drives and 13" Macbook Air laptops that cost roughly \$850 each.

With last year's adoption of new English language arts instructional materials that include online components, "staff needs perpetual access to high performance, Internet enabled devices," district staff wrote in the board packet.

PUSD director of technology Amy Nichols explained Tuesday that a district technology committee sought input from teachers on their computer preference and that the "overwhelming consensus was Macbooks would be the best choice."

Nichols said because of donations and grants, many classrooms are equipped with Apple technology like Apple TVs so by not utilizing that infrastructure "we'd be losing funding."

She added that 80% to 90% of teachers currently use Macbooks in the classroom.

"That's what our teachers are

used to using," Nichols said. While Nichols said she wanted to look at Chromebooks because they're what students use and would have cost less — \$350 to \$400 each — administrators recommended the Macbooks based on teacher feedback and existing infrastructure.

School board vice president Mark Miller called the purchase "absolutely the right thing."

'Community members were asking 'Why can't teachers use

See SCHOOL BOARD on Page 7

## Two Dems vying to unseat **Baker**

## Attorney, Army vet launch Assembly campaigns

#### **By Erika Alvero** AND JEREMY WALSH

An attorney from Orinda and an Army veteran from Walnut Creek have recently announced that they

plan to run against incumbent Catharine Baker to represent the Tri-Valley and the rest of District 16 in the State Assembly.

Catharine Baker

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and

Tom Tarantino, both Democrats, have launched their campaigns in advance of the June primary aiming to unseat Baker, a Republican who has held the position since 2014.

One of 25 Republicans in the 80-member Assembly, Baker has confirmed she will seek re-election to a third consecutive two-year term next year. The Dublin resident is eligible for eight more years of service in either house of the State Legislature under California's term limits.

"I am running for re-election because I see that putting rigid partisanship to the side and focusing on the important issues and results is working," Baker, 46, said this

## Pair close in on running every street in Pleasanton

Fellow residents invited on final leg through downtown Sunday

## **BY JULIA REIS**

There are just over 200 miles of roadway in the city of Pleasanton everything from quiet residential cul-de-sacs to busy boulevards.

By Sunday, residents Sarah Holtzclaw and Betty Taylor will have accomplished the feat of running every street in town, racking up 360 miles over 20 months in doing so.

Taylor and Holtzclaw, both 51, have been living in Pleasanton since 1998 and 2012, respectively. They met through a Fleet Feet running group shortly after Holtzclaw moved to town and have been running together ever since.

Holtzclaw has been a runner her whole life, while Taylor started at 40 years old.

'It's been a super not only fitness outlet but also a social outlet," Taylor said. "I've met so many wonderful people through running.'

They started adding to their running group and soon dubbed it the Tri-Valley Running Chicks.

At the end of January 2016, Holtzclaw and Taylor found themselves tired of their usual running routes.

"Somebody would organize a run and say, 'OK let's meet at suchand-such, and I'll make a route,' and we really kind of got tired of our routes," Holtzclaw said.

We would run the same routes over and over again (every weekend), and it got very monotonous," Taylor said.

Taking inspiration from friend Mike Beckwith, who decided to run every street in Dublin, the



Pleasanton residents Betty Taylor (left) and Sarah Holtzclaw will have run every street in town upon completing their final leg Sunday morning.

two set out to change up their running routine by doing the same in Pleasanton.

They bought a map at a gas station and segmented the city into chunks of four to eight miles each, leaving out unincorporated areas like Castlewood, and invited anyone who wanted to join in on the weekend morning runs.

We started at the mall on the west side upper corner and worked our way down the west side of the freeway and started back up again in the north and have just been doing it in quadrants," Taylor said.

They would print out route maps and add turn-by-turn directions. Cul-de-sacs and some streets were what they refer to as "tag and turn" roads, meaning they had to run them twice. Private roads were left out unless there was public access.

The women have run in the rain and in the heat, on flat streets and up hills — and even through the Widmer World Christmas display. Along the way they've admired

dogs, architecture and landscaping. "It's a very leisurely run because you have to stop and say hi to people and take pictures of the holiday decor," Holtzclaw said.

"We met so many nice people who wanted to know why we were in their cul-de-sac," Taylor added, laughing.

At 8 a.m. Sunday, the women will complete their Run Pleasanton challenge by running a 2.5-mile loop starting from Fleet Feet (234 Main St.) and continuing downtown under the Pleasanton Arch and by the Pleasanton Unified School District office on Bernal Avenue. They're inviting anyone who'd like to join them for the run - women, men, kids and dogs on leash.

After that final leg is complete Sunday, Holtzclaw and Taylor will have run 360 miles together over 60 different outings for the effort.

"The long conversations you have on a run are fantastic," Holtzclaw said. "Our friendship is stronger because of it." ■

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## Museum gearing up for Ghost Walk

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

As dark falls at the end of October, spooky spirits will emerge downtown as Museum on Main holds its Ghost Walks, two-hour guided tours that visit the most haunted sites on Main Street.

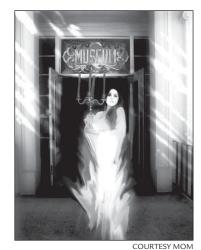
This family-friendly tour, held for more than 10 years, draws about 1,200 people each year, with all the tour times selling out in advance. Most of the attendees are adults from all around the Bay Area, but children also go and have a great time.

A volunteer team of ghost hosts leads the tour groups, and actors play the roles of the various ghosts around town.

"Ghost Walk is a unique experience and has successfully brought the haunted side of Pleasanton to 'life' through the stories and experiences collected from psychics, ghost hunters and shop workers over the years," museum executive director Jim DeMersman said. "Ghost Walk is more spooky than it is scary. It's not a haunted house type of program where people jump out to scare you." Pleasanton's teen improv troupe,

Creatures of Impulse, will also return. "The improv team is a great ad-

dition to Ghost Walk," DeMersman said. "They are so fun playing the



Advance tickets are highly recommended for Museum on Main's Ghost Walk.

many roles of the downtown ghosts and we are pleased they will be back again this year."

Tours depart the museum, rain or shine, every 30 minutes between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20; Saturday, Oct. 21; Friday, Oct. 27; and Saturday, Oct. 28. Costumes are encouraged.

Tickets are on sale now and advance purchase is recommended. Go to www.museumonmain.org; call 462-2766; or visit the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. ■

## 26th Ladies Day at the Races

More than five-dozen women took in Oak Tree at Pleasanton fall horse racing last week to mark Kay Huff's 26th annual Ladies Day at the Races. The ladies, most of whom are shown here reading the Pleasanton Weekly between races, usually gather for horse racing at the Alameda County Fair but they had to cancel this summer due



to extreme heat. The return of fall racing this month gave them a second chance to continue the annual tradition. The fall slate's final weekend runs with races today through Sunday at the Pleasanton fairgrounds, plus the Craftoberfest Craft Beer Festival on Sept. 30 and the New Mixology Craft-Cocktail Festival on closing day Oct. 1.

## Pleasanton marks Banned Books Week

Amador Valley students take part in video promoting annual event

#### **BY JULIA REIS**

Pleasanton schools this week commemorated Banned Books Week, an annual event launched nationally in 1982 in response to an increase in the number of challenges to books in schools and libraries.

Locally, Pleasanton resident Meg Fleming — who was recently appointed the city's first ever literary arts ambassador — is among those encouraging citizens to take part by reading banned books.

"Banned Books Week is an annual event that celebrates the freedom to seek and express ideas — even though they may be unpopular," Fleming stated.

With the help of Amador Valley High School director of bands Jonathan Grantham and a group of student musicians, Fleming created spread awareness of Banned Books Week, available at www.youtube. com/watch?v=4Jeo9szFAgM. Residents can find an assortment

a short video on YouTube to help

of banned books at the Pleasanton Library and post what they're reading on social media using the hashtag #bannedbooksweek.

Well-known kids' books once on banned lists include "Winnie the Pooh" stories by A.A. Milne, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl and "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll, Fleming noted.

To learn more about Banned Books Week, including annual lists of top 10 most challenged books, visit the American Library Association website. ■

## CANDIDATES

Continued from Page **5** 

week. "That is my focus, and will be my focus."

A civil attorney by trade, Baker was a political newcomer in 2014 when she defeated liberal Tim Sbranti, a former Dublin mayor, to win the open Assembly seat previously held by the Democrats. She won re-election comfortably over former Pleasanton City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio in 2016.

Though Bauer-Kahan and Tarantino have announced their bids to challenge Baker, prospective candidates can't officially enter the race until the nomination period opens in mid-February. The top two finishers in the June primary will face each other in a runoff election for the seat in November.

In addition to Pleasanton, the 16th Assembly District also includes Livermore, Dublin, the San Ramon Valley, Walnut Creek and Lamorinda.

## Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

A 38-year-old Bay Area native, Bauer-Kahan defines herself as an attorney, environmental advocate, community leader, law professor and mother. She's a lifelong Demo-



Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

crat, and her platform focuses on

school funding and guaranteeing universal preschool, protecting the environment and fighting climate change, and improving transportation options.

"Today, California is on the front lines in the battle against the Trump Administration and extremists in Washington," she said. "Our community deserves a representative who will stand up to those forces and truly fight for what's important. I hope the people of the 16th Assembly District will take a closer look at Republican Assemblywoman Catharine Baker — and once they do, they will find she is seriously out of step with the needs of this district."

This is the first time she has sought elected office.

Bauer-Kahan's specialties as an attorney have ranged from ensuring major corporations comply with environmental regulations, working with tech companies on intellectual property cases and expanding her office's pro bono program to include civil rights, immigration, homelessness and domestic violence cases, she said. Recently, she helped coordinate the legal services effort at San Francisco International Airport to aid refugees and immigrants affected by the Trump Administration's travel ban.

She has taught appellate law and legal research and writing at Santa Clara University and Golden Gate University for the past seven years, and holds degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University Law Center. She lives in Orinda with her hus-

band and three children, where she is a leader in local non-profits and organizations.

#### Tom Tarantino

Tarantino, 39, grew up in San Anselmo in Marin County and served in the Army for 10 years, after which time he worked in public policy in Washington

Tom

policy **Tarantino** Vashington

D.C., focusing on veteran affairs and advocacy.

Now he works on Twitter's public policy team and lives in Walnut Creek.

"My wife, Tara, and I are building our life in the 16th District," Tarantino said. "Like other families who are doing the same, I want our community to have better transportation options, the best schools, cleaner air and water, and affordable housing for all. We need leaders in California who can take on these fights and bravely defend our values."

This is his first time seeking an elected office.

Tarantino enlisted in the Army Reserves at the age of 19 in 1997, and served on active duty from 2003-07. During his service, he helped repatriate refugees in Bosnia, trained soldiers and lead two platoons through combat in Iraq.

After leaving the service with the rank of captain, he joined Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), leading the organization's D.C. office for almost two years. In this capacity, his work centered on upgrading the GI Bill, fighting to prevent for-profit schools from preying on veterans, advocating for mental health provisions in veterans benefits, and addressing sexual assault in the military and suicide rates among veterans, he said.

He attended the College of Marin and later University of California, Santa Barbara on an ROTC scholarship, and he holds a Bachelor of Arts in global studies and international relations. ■



## Streetside memorial honors late cyclist

The city recently installed a plaque in remembrance of the late Gail Turner at the intersection where the Pleasanton cyclist was killed after a vehicle struck her as she rode across the street on June 23, 2016. Located in a rock feature just off the sidewalk on the northwest corner of where Stanley Boulevard crosses Valley/Bernal avenues, the plaque comes amid a variety of new bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancements at the intersection inspired by Turner's death.

## DA's Office announces new justice restoration project

## Aims to give young adult offenders 'pathway to a better life,' O'Malley says

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley has announced that she is leading a partnership of county agencies, community groups and other resources to try to provide successful outcomes for young adults who are on felony probation or who've been charged with certain felonies.

O'Malley said the "Alameda County Justice Restoration Project" will focus on reducing and eliminating recidivism as well as on providing the resources and processes for individuals to build bright futures.

She said the project will focus on young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 and will be evaluated by WestEd Inc., an independent research and assessment organization.

O'Malley said the project enables Alameda County to create and implement a new model for addressing community safety by breaking the cycle of crime and incarceration with intensive services,

including individualized coaching and intensive case management.

The project is now serving 29 young adults in its pilot phase and starting in January it will serve an additional 150 young people.

"This project provides a pathway for a better life," O'Malley said in a statement

O'Malley said, "Under the leadership of the District Attorney's Office, we are changing the paradigm from simply supervision-based probation to building outcomes of success. We understand that recidivism is a problem that plagues communities throughout the county, the state, and the nation."

She said, "Repeatedly jailing lowlevel offenders without providing supportive services and opportunities for employment and education is not the answer. The criminal justice system and our citizens are best served when we embrace new ideas and approaches to addressing crime, punishment and rehabilitation."

O'Malley said the new program is a Pay For Success Project, with seed funding awarded by the Bureau of State and Community Corrections through a competitive grant program. She said Pay For Success is a fis-

cal partnership between a government agency, in this case Alameda County, under the leadership of the District Attorney's Office, and private or foundation funders. The non-government funds are invested in a project with specific contractual milestones and outcomes.

O'Malley said a key partner is La Familia Counseling Services, a community-based organization that will support young adults returning to their neighborhoods in the county through its individualized coaching model.

She said clients will be paired for 18 months with coaches with similar life experiences who will provide engagement and mentorship. The



## Dandiya and Bollywood Night Oct. 7

For the third consecutive year. Partners in Community Development and Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation are co-hosting Dandiya and Bollywood Night, taking place next Saturday (Oct. 7) from 5-10 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$25 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit http://bitly.com/PICDDANDIYA.

coaches will coordinate with probation officers and other professionals to streamline access to an array of services that can be challenging for clients to navigate without support.

The District Attorney's Office has developed and spearheaded the program in collaboration with the Probation Department, the County Administrator's Office and the Sheriff's

was projected at 14,910 and it

Office, among other county partners. The Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab has been working with the District Attorney's Office since 2015 to develop the project.

The project is funded by a mix of federal, state, county and philanthropic dollars.

—Jeff Shuttleworth, Bay City News

### SCHOOL BOARD Continued from Page **5**

Chromebooks,' and I can't say how much I disagree with that comment," he said. "Chromebooks (have) small keyboards, they don't type very well and there's all sorts of connectivity

Laptops that were bought in the 2013-14 school year or earlier will be replaced immediately, while ones purchased since 2014 that are still functional will not be replaced until fall 2018 or 2019. The district anticipates all APT and instructional staff will receive a new bond-funded laptop by fall 2019.

Staff who need a PC will receive a Surface Pro instead of a Macbook Air.

The only community member to comment on the proposal, resident John Bauer, voiced his opposition to the purchase.

"Laptops purchased at this time would not be the best use of the limited financial resources available to you," Bauer said. "This purchase should be delayed until the infrastructure is brought up to date."

#### In other business

Several parents spoke out on behalf of their children with dyslexia during public comment of an agenda item recognizing Dyslexia Awareness Month in October.

The board approved a resolution as part of the discussion Tuesday that stated in part that it "recognizes that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed," and "there is compelling scientific evidence that early identification and intervention improves literacy outcomes for most students with symptoms of dyslexia."

Trustees also heard from

administrators on an action plan for this school year that includes items they are currently working on or planning to undertake relating to students with dyslexia, like training teachers and creating a stakeholder group.

The board heard from six community members after the presentation, including four parents of dyslexic children who expressed frustration about the difficulties of obtaining resources for their kids.

Multiple parents spoke of spending thousands of dollars to get private tutoring. One mother of a dyslexic girl said she spent \$22,000 on tutoring before having to repurpose the money for counseling because her daughter was being bullied.

Trustee Valerie Arkin said hearing those stories was "so frustrating."

"(Parents) should not have to pay that kind of money so their kids can get the resources they need," she said. Board president Joan Laursen

urged administrators to do what they can to help parents. "I can't say it enough, this is a really important issue for all of the members of this board," Laursen said. "When the parents call you and ask for help, we just need to give it to them."

• Trustees heard and briefly discussed a comparison of enrollment projections to actual numbers.

During a workshop on current and future district facilities earlier this month, trustee Steve Maher and board vice president Mark Miller commented that it would be helpful for discussions moving forward to have a five-year comparison between the district demographer's 2011-12 report and actual enrollment figures.

Administrators found that the difference between what Davis Demographics projected in fall 2011 versus actual enrollment has steadily increased over the last several years, as the demographer estimated there would be more students in the district than there have been.

In the 2012-13 school year, the projection was off by only eight students — district-wide enrollment



turned out to be 14,918. But for the following year, the demographer estimated there would be 14,958 students and there were

actually 14,767 — 191 fewer than anticipated. That overestimation trend has

continued each year. For 2014-15 there were 210 fewer students than estimated; for 2015-16 it was 312; 2016-17 was 501, and this year the difference is 630.

Asked why this overestimating may have occurred, deputy superintendent of business services Micaela Ochoa said more developments were projected in fall 2011 and "these developments may not

have come to fruition." In February the board received the latest 10-year projections from Davis Demographics that showed an anticipated decline in enrollment following an expected increase through fall 2019.

That report had an enrollment projection of 14,842 students for this school year. While the student population did increase over last vear, the district reported enrollment at 14,827 as of Sept. 11. ■



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## Community Pulse

## **POLICE BULLETIN**

## Judge rules on key confession evidence in **Steinle killing**

A confession made to police by the defendant in the fatal shooting of Kathryn "Kate" Steinle will

be admitted into evidence, but jurors will not be allowed to hear another statement he made to a TV news station in which he describes the shooting as an accident, a San

Jose Ines Garcia-Zarate

Francisco judge ruled Monday.

Defense attorneys for Jose Ines Garcia-Zarate expressed disappointment in the ruling but said

senting evidence in court that the July 1, 2015 shooting occurred when the gun went off accidentally. Garcia-Zarate, 54, who is on trial

it will not prevent them from pre-

for murder in Steinle's death at Pier 14, admitted to shooting the 32-yearold Pleasanton native to police during an interview shortly after his arrest.

However, defense attorneys and prosecutors had wrangled over which parts of the statement should be admitted, with defense attorneys arguing that police failed to properly advise Garcia-Zarate of his rights by mistranslating the "Miranda" warning and it was not always clear in the police interview whether he understood the questions he was asked or whether he was able to respond clearly.

Police also ignored Garcia-Zarate's repeated attempts to invoke his right to silence and ultimately used aggressive interrogation tactics to coerce a 5 a.m. confession

from an exhausted defendant, defense attorneys argued.

However assistant district attornev Allison Macbeth said that while Garcia-Zarate repeatedly said he did not want to answer questions, he then demanded to be allowed to sign a confession, made other contradictory statements and continued talking to officers.

"The defendant's confession was voluntary," Macbeth said. "Loud and aggressive techniques in themselves were not sufficient to render it involuntary."

Judge Samuel Feng allowed the entire statement to police to be admitted but excluded a statement made by Garcia-Zarate to an ABC7 reporter in an on-camera interview just days after the shooting.

In that statement Garcia-Zarate also admits to shooting Steinle but describes the shooting as an accident, saying he found the gun and it went off when he picked it up.

"It ricocheted off the ground and hit her in the lower back. But for this freak accident that no firearms expert could repeat we wouldn't be here," public defender Matt Gonzalez said.

Steinle's shooting created a national controversy after it was revealed that Garcia-Zarate, an undocumented immigrant, had been released from San Francisco county jails months before the shooting under sanctuary city policies after a marijuana charge was dismissed despite a civil detainer request by immigration authorities.

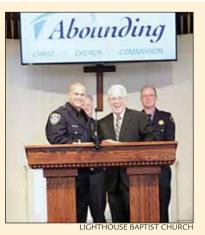
The gun in the shooting was also found to have been stolen from a Bureau of Land Management agent's car in San Francisco, prompting state legislation requiring law enforcement to secure weapons stored in vehicles. Garcia-Zarate has not been linked to the vehicle burglary by prosecutors or police.

#### In other news

· Alameda County court officials

## **Honoring first** responders

Lighthouse Baptist Church on Neal Street downtown recently held a service to honor all local first responders. "Their jobs are thankless and simple gestures of gratitude go farther than we may ever realize," Pastor Bill Bryson said in urging his congregation to always go out of their way to thank emergency personnel. Pleasanton police Officer Jason Hunter (left) was given special recognition, including a personalized Bible.



Shown from left: Hunter, Pleasanton police Capt. Craig Eicher, Bryson and Alameda County Sheriff's Cmdr. Garrett Holmes.

announced that starting Monday in-custody arraignments of inmates from the northern part of the county were again being held in Oakland instead of at the county's new courthouse in Dublin

Alameda County Court Executive Officer Chad Finke said in an email, "I can confirm that the North County felony arraignments will indeed move back to the Wiley Manuel Courthouse (in Oakland) effective Sept. 25."

Finke said, "As a part of this compromise, the court, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Sheriff and the Probation Department all plan to jointly request that the Board of Supervisors take the necessary steps to allow the sheriff to house North County detainees at the Glenn Dyer Jail in Oakland, rather than housing them at Santa Rita" in Dublin.

Court officials had North County in-custody defendant arraignments moved from Oakland to the new East County Hall of Justice in Dublin, which is across the street from the Santa Rita Jail, starting on July 17 — a new system they said was more efficient and less expensive.

The Alameda County Public Defender's Office contended arraignments should take place at a location that is readily accessible to defendants' families because they need to attend in person in order to provide essential information to the court, such as a defendant's community ties and employment. • An Alamo man died earlier this month from injuries sustained in a skydiving accident near the Lodi Airport the day before, officials confirmed.

Brett Hawton, 54, was skydiving from a plane out of the Lodi Parachute Center in Acampo. The Sacramento Bee reported his chute tangled as he descended and he landed atop a horse trailer across the street from the Lodi Airport.

Hawton was hospitalized in critical condition immediately after the accident Sept. 14, the Sacramento Bee reported. The Alamo man died the next day, according to the San Joaquin Sheriff's Office.

The Federal Aviation Administration is currently investigating the incident. "Our investigation focuses on whether the parachute was properly packed by the appropriate person," FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said.

-Bay City News Service and Pleasanton Weekly staff

## **POLICE REPORT**

Sept. 24

- Alcohol violation ■12:32 a.m. on the 1800 block of
- Santa Rita Road ■8:36 p.m. on the 5300 block of Case Avenue

#### Theft

- ■1:55 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- ■4:46 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- ■7:15 p.m., 5700 block of Gibraltar Drive; theft of bicycle

- ■12:54 a.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
- Sept. 23
- Burglary
- Auto Theft
- Page 8 September 29, 2017 Pleasanton Weekly

- - ■11:49 a.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop

Sept. 22

## Theft

- ■2:50 p.m., 3000 block of Boardwalk Street; theft from auto
- ■4:48 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting Drug violation
- ■4:33 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Graffiti offense
- ■11:40 a.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- Sept. 21
- Vandalism
- ■4:34 p.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road Graffiti offense
- ■4:51 p.m. on the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Shoplifting

■10:52 a.m. on the 4700 block of Hopyard Road

- ■4:51 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road Assault/battery
- ■3:19 p.m. on the 3100 block of Busch Road
- Fraud ■1:51 p.m. on the 1600 block of
- Stoneridge Mall Road Sept. 20

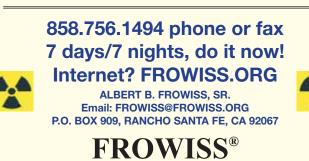
## Theft

- ■7:36 p.m., 4800 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto
- ■8:14 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall
- ■11:35 p.m., 4400 block of Willow Road; theft from auto
- Domestic battery
- ■9:32 p.m. on Goldcrest Circle Alcohol violation
- ■8:49 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa
- Rita Road Drug violation
- ■8:17 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

## **RAD LAB WORKERS** W/CANCER

## **16 MORE LLNL YEARS** LAWRENCE LIVERMORE, 1950-1989\* LAWRENCE BERKELEY, 1942-1961 **SANDIA LIVERMORE. 1956-1994**

Thank you, Americans. You worked a year, or maybe a career, providing for our national security at the AEC/DOE National Radiation Labs, or myriad other Manhattan atomic weapons civilian project sites. Then you got cancer or another toxicity caused illness. New claims or denied claims. I will help you, or your direct survivors. \$150,000 to \$400,000 lump sum, tax free awards are available for 23 common types of cancer. Similar survivor awards for deceased workers. Also, occup. asthma, COPD, chronic kidney/renal claims. Let me ask a few simple questions for five minutes. I'll give you a frank (and free) assessment as to whether I can help. I'm not a lawyer. This is no lawsuit. Through 2.500 of these claims over nine years. I've become a national expert on EEOICPA entitlement. You call and speak to me, one on one, the professional advocate, not a flunkie. I unravel the frustrating red tape so you don't have to. Nobody does it better. You get paid directly by the U.S. Treasury, tax free. Then you pay me just 2%, but only if you win. No appeal fees. No fine print.



Drug violation ■7:24 a.m. on the 5200 block of Johnson Drive

Assault/battery

- ■1:09 p.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop

## DINION

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## **EDITORIAL**

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

## **Process works — let's move** forward and move on

The process worked then and it works now.

In 1982, a lawsuit was filed by a group called Citizens for Balanced Growth, seeking to halt construction of what is now Hacienda Business Park on the grounds the park would create a jobs-housing imbalance that was inconsistent with the Pleasanton General Plan. The effort was led by then-Mayor Ben Tarver and a former Pleasanton mayor, Bob Pearson.

Ultimately the suit failed to prevent Hacienda from going forward, but it did delay the project, which was costly. In 1984, the same anti-Hacienda forces placed a referendum on the ballot in an attempt to overturn the City Council's approval of the project. Pleasanton voters overwhelmingly supported Hacienda and the project proceeded.

More than 30 years later, a group called Citizens for Planned Growth was successful last year in placing a measure on a ballot to limit the size of buildings on a site close to Hacienda Business Park — the proposed Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone

"Let the voters decide" if Pleasanton should have a "big box store" like Costco was the group's rallying cry. Just about everyone, including the Pleasanton Weekly editorial board, applauded the effort as democracy in its truest sense.

After an intense few years of public hearings, elections, studies and more studies, public comment and a lot of discussion - respectful, constructive conversation and otherwise - the JDEDZ debate took a key step forward when the City Council approved the infrastructure funding plan during a special meeting Sept. 18.

Given direction by the council on a few policy questions, city staff can move forward on a process that will take us through the end of the year and really get the project moving.

Still to come is review of the project by the Economic Vitality Committee (EVC) and the Planning Commission, and then back to the council with its final decision hopefully by year's end.

The JDEDZ was supposed to be the focus of the monthly EVC meeting last week, set just days after the council's special meeting. Several city staff members and Costco representatives were ready at 7:30 a.m. Sept. 20, but there wasn't a quorum of committee members.

With 18 voting members on the committee, it's not uncommon to have a few members absent from each meeting. It was disappointing, though, the committee couldn't gather a quorum for a JDEDZ discussion, especially considering that a canceled September meeting could have had a negative effect on the project by either eliminating the option for EVC members to review the plans and offer recommendations, or by delaying this until October.

Fortunately, Pleasanton's director of economic development, Pamela Ott told us after the cancellation that the city "will work to have the JDEDZ discussion at the EVC, likely at a special meeting in the next few weeks, as we do not want to delay the process.

That special meeting date has been confirmed, for next Thursday (Oct. 5) at 7:30 a.m. in the Pleasanton Public Library's community meeting room at 400 Old Bernal Ave. A Planning Commission meeting on the JDEDZ is scheduled to follow Oct. 11.

We appreciate the extra effort to get more input on this extremely important, controversial project, and in a timely manner.

The voters have decided and the City Council is listening to them, so let's get moving.

Visit Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com to comment on the editorial.

## LETTERS

#### Thank you for supporting youth cricket

Dear Editor,

Cricket for Cubs hosted its third annual community outreach event, Dandiya and Bollywood Night, promoting the youth cricket in Tri-Valley on Sept. 16 at Harvest Park Middle School.

The event was a grand success with more than 800 people in the community attending to support youth cricket and dancing to the live music by Sharda Music group.

Jerry Thorne, mayor, city of Pleasanton; Kathy Narum, council member, city of Pleasanton; David Haubert, mayor, city of Dublin; Phil O'Loane, council member, city of San Ramon; Sridhar Verose, commissioner, San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission; and Pavan Vedere, commissioner, Fremont Parks and Recreation Commission joined community members to show their support and celebrate.

Thorne also announced about the National Youth Cricket tournament to be held in Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon from Nov. 19-22 in U13 and U15 age groups.

USA Cricket Team members Gaurav Patankar, Sindhu Sriharsha and Sindhuja Reddy Salguti participated in the event, wishing all the best to the Tri-Valley youth. Crowd enjoyed the food catered by Lotus India Express, Fremont.

Cricket for Cubs would like to thank our sponsors Kaiser Permanente, Lotus India Express, Think Palm, My Tax Filer, JEI Pleasanton. Realtor Harmeet Singh Toor. Serra Theater and Cricket Gears for Everyone for their support to youth cricket.

Last but not least, thanks to all the community members for continued support to Cricket for Cubs and youth cricket. ■

—Ramesh Immadi, President, Cricket for Cubs

## What's your opinion?

Send a Letter to the Editor to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

## **City Council**

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017 at 7 p.m. Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• Introduction of proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Police Officers' Association for term of June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2020

• PUBLIC HEARING: P17-0372, 3552 Yellowstone Court - Consider the appeal filed by Ray and Sue Robles of a Planning Commission decision denying a Design Review to convert an existing unconditioned loft into an approximately 720-square-foot second-story addition and to increase the roof height of the existing residence from 20 feet to 25 feet

## Human Services Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

 Continued discussion of Human Services Needs Assessment: Strategic Plan Update

## Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

• Special Meeting: Update and discussion regarding Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone

> To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

## Tri Valley Life

What's happening around the Valley in music, theater, art, movies and more

## Garden club pennies grow into trees

Contributions go toward planting forests in California national parks

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI penny for your thoughts? How about a penny to plant a new tree?

One cent was the cost of a seedling in 1941 when garden clubs, service organizations and individuals began to collect pennies to make donations in increments of \$68 for 6,800 new trees to be planted at a time over 10 acres.

California Garden Clubs Inc. adopted Penny Pines as a state project in 1957.

Since then, garden clubs in the state have given more than \$1 million to the Penny Pines Reforestation Program, which has planted 27 million seedlings to renew 88,000 acres of national forest land in the state. Project in 1957. she also mentioned 'Our club has donated enough Penny Pines collections to re-forest over 100 acres.'

#### **Dolores Bengtson,**

Garden Club co-president

The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club continues the endeavor, which is especially meaningful this year as wildfires have devastated California and its northern neighbors. Members pass around a small green wooden box at each monthly meeting for donations of pennies — or larger denominations of cash.

The keeper of the Penny Pines box, Jeri Stark, reports that the club has donated \$8,568 to the fund during the past 18 years, and it has received certificates from the National Park Service for the resulting 126 "plantations" it has funded.

"We can designate not only which national park we'd like to help but also make the donation in honor or in memory of someone," Stark said.

The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club has made donations in honor of first responders after 9/11, and also after raging wildfires in the state.

Most recently, the club honored the memories of club members Margie O'Dell, Maureen O'Shaugnessy and Steven Chin.

"With Steven's plantation, we also

honored Steven's wife, Arlene, for her longtime service to the club with her husband," Stark said.

"One of our members made \$68 donations for each of her family members and presented them with the certificates as Christmas gifts," club co-president Dolores Bengtson said. "I think that's a great idea."

She noted this is a particularly timely gift after the recent wildfires. It takes up to six weeks for the certificates to arrive, she also mentioned, so anyone wishing to

donate for the holidays this year should probably do so soon.

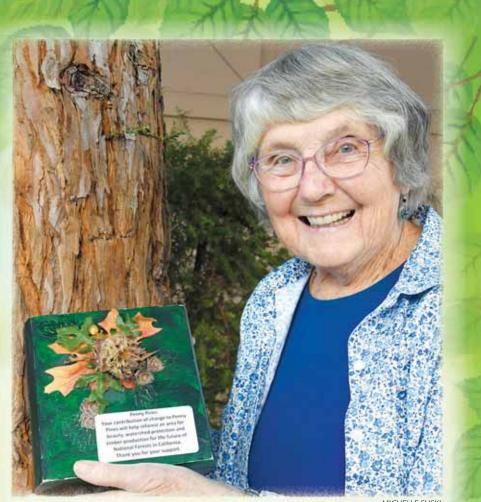
To become a Penny Pines donor, visit www. gardenclub.org. "Our club has donat-

ed enough Penny Pines collections to re-forest over 100 acres," Bengtson said.

Eight elementary schools have joined the local Penny Pines project after hearing about it at the Arbor Day assemblies provided by garden club members each spring. The plantations were donated in the schools' names from a partnership with the garden club, Alden Lane Nursery, Davies Trees and the California Association of Nurseries.

The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club was started in 1984 by Bernice Oakley, and it now has more than 200 members. They volunteer for many public beautification projects, including the Sensory Gardens at Pleasanton Senior Center, the Hansen Rose Gardens in Livermore, the Y Camp Arroyo Outdoor Education Site and the Eden Project Garden, a Livermore church garden whose produce is donated to neighbors in need.

The greater community benefits from the club's plant sale each April in the Amador Valley High parking lot, where members sell flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees that have been lovingly raised in their own gardens. Prices are reasonable plus



Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club co-president Dolores Bengtson displays the Penny Pines collection box at this month's meeting, where it is passed for donations to plant new trees in California's national forests.

come with free advice, and the fundraiser lets them carry out community service projects.

Club members also give out free seeds painstakingly collected from their plants and the public gardens they support. They package the seeds and give them to the Pleasanton and Livermore libraries, where they are available at the information desks. This SeedShare project was started in April 2015 — that first year more than 7,000 packets of flower, herb and vegetable seeds were distributed.

Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club holds meetings at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month, September through May, in the multipurpose room of Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road, and anyone interested is invited to attend. Guest speakers this fall include the following:

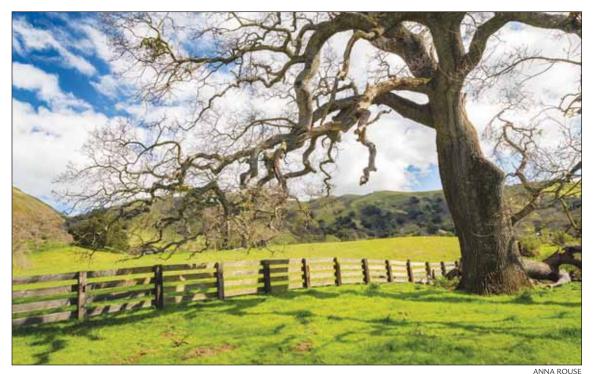
• Oct. 12 — Joan Morris, the pets and wildlife columnist for the East Bay News Group, who also writes about gardening. She is a founder of Our Garden in Walnut Creek, which each year produces more than 14,000 pounds of food to feed the hungry.

• Nov. 9 — Leslie Buck, a garden designer and aesthetic pruner who specializes in natural design. She has two decades of gardening experience, with fine arts degrees from UC Berkeley and the Bordeaux School of Fine Arts in France.

Visit the club's website at www.lavgc.org for more information. ■



The garden club's collection box has pulled in enough contributions over the years to help re-forest more than 100 acres.



"Tree" by Anna Rouse of Livermore won the Tri-Valley Conservancy's 2017 photo contest.

## Photos capture splendor of open space

Conservancy's annual contest opens everyone's eyes

#### By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

A lovely landscape simply titled "Tree" by Anna Rouse of Livermore captured first place at this year's Tri-Valley Conservancy Freeze Frame photography contest, which awards prizes to photographers who capture the area's open spaces with their unique perspectives.

"With more photo entries than ever before, the judges had a very tough job," Tri-Valley Conservancy executive director Laura Mercier said. "Enormous thanks to all the photographers who dedicated their time and talents to raising awareness about land preservation. They inspired all of us to open our eyes to the beauty right in our own backyard."

Second place went to Brad Rank of Pleasanton for his almost surreal black and white photo, "Flooded Creek." Third place in the adult category was "Spring Morning at Del Valle Park," a lush and slightly mysterious shot by Richard Finn of Livermore.

For the People's Choice award, the public voted for a photograph of an energetic calf in a modern-day ranch setting taken by Elizabeth Kingsbury, an entry she dubbed "American Cowboys.

In the Youth Category, judges gave both first and second places to detailed shots by student Kaitlyn Pang of Pleasanton, for her "Autumn" and "Serenity." Third place went to Jake Siders of Livermore for his photo of a hiker along a spring creek titled "Vibrant Grove." The People's Choice went to a photo featuring wildflowers in front of a cloud-ringed mountain peak named "Out of the Fog," by Allen Abbott of Livermore.

The Tri-Valley Conservancy holds the contest each year to publicize the variety of landscapes in the Tri-Valley. More than 100 photos, taken by sixth-graders to adults, were entered this year.

Winning photos will be featured in a traveling gallery exhibit and in the Tri-Valley Conservancy's 2018 calendar. View the top Freeze Frame photos, see the exhibit schedule, and learn more about land preservation work at TriValleyConservancy.org.

"As our communities grow, it becomes even more important that we protect land to produce local wine and food, enjoy the outdoors and keep our water cleaner and air fresher before it's too late," Tri-Valley Conservancy officials said in a statement.

For more information, visit the website or call 449-8706. ■

OURTESY MON Lincoln and Wilfred Ziegenfuss in their Army uniforms, 1918. (Museum on Main collection, gift of Philip Henry) 'Over There and Over Here'

## Exhibit explores Tri-Valley's part in World War I

The Museum on Main is marking the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I with its newest exhibit, "Over There and Over Here: The Valley and the First World War.'

The offering explores how the country was pulled into the global conflict and how Pleasanton and the Amador-Livermore Valley responded to the nation's call.

A variety of soldiers' gear from the period is on display, as well as trench art, sheet music, propaganda and recruiting posters. It includes uniforms, equipment and souvenirs from local men who served, such as John Schneider and the Ziegenfuss brothers.

For the exhibit, the Museum on Main has built an interactive section of trench wall, with a firing step, sandbag-covered parapet and a periscope for safely viewing the no-man's land.

"Knowing that the anniversary was coming up, we've had this show in the works for quite some time," museum director Jim De-Mersman said. "We're also lucky to have the cooperation of the local veterans' organizations, director Fred Rutledge of the California State Military Museum and some very cooperative collectors."

"Over There and Over Here" will run through Oct. 15, close for a brief hiatus for the museum's Ghost Walks, and be open again from Nov. 1 to Dec. 3.

Museum on Main, 603 Main St., is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; and from 1-4 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org. 🔳

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



Delgreta Brown's "Afrofuturism" works are on display at the Harrington Gallery.

## 'Afrofuturism' on display

Sacramento artist Delgreta Brown is featured in a series of vibrant acrylic works on the theme of "Afrofuturism," currently on display in the upstairs alcove gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery. The exhibit is being held in conjunction with the Taste of Africa

Festival on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Brown, a contemporary Afrofuturist artist, said that in her art she strives to "express universal themes of love, hope, music, prosperity, sensuality and spirituality. These themes are influenced by ... being a young woman of African

descent. As a result, my work reflects youthfulness, imagination, spirituality, femininity and cultural aesthetics.'

Brown has exhibited at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, and the African-American Museum and Library in Oakland. She is also a published poet and iournalist.

"I believe that art is just like poetry, but instead, color becomes the words ... and it is color that translates emotion," she said. "When I am painting, I feel a profound sense of harmony is achieved with bright, vibrant colors ... with every painting I try to convey that same poetic feeling.'

Brown has a degree from Xavier University in Louisiana. She has worked with children in the Sacramento and New Orleans on creative programs using poetry and the spoken word, journalism and fine art. 🔳

#### —Dolores Fox Ciardelli

## Livermore air show next weekend

The 21st annual Livermore Airport Open House and Air Show will offer a full day of fun next Saturday for the whole family with a display of aircraft, vintage cars, music, local vendors and an array of food options as well as

wine tasting. The air show will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Livermore Municipal Airport, with displays of military, classic, experimental/homebuilt and aerobatic aircraft plus vintage cars. Air show pilots include Vicky Benzing Aerosports, Wild Thing Air Shows, Rich Perkins' Marchetti and RedFox Airshows.

The event will also include a display of general aviation, military, classic and homebuilt aircraft, and parachute demonstration jumps.

There will also be kids crafts, face painting and magic tricks, and the Food Truck Mafia will offer gourmet food for sale.

Members of the Livermore Vallev Wine Growers Association are offering tastings at the show. A "Solo Flight" of \$20 includes tasting tickets and a commemorative wine glass. "My Co-pilot & I" costs \$40 for tasting tickets and two commemorative wine glasses. For advance wine tasting tickets, visit www.LVwine.org.

The air show is free, with plenty of free parking.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

# Backpacking the Jobe

## Family of five sets out for worldwide adventure

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

he Swenson family of five will soon don their backpacks and take off for Beijing, the first stop in a year-long quest to make the entire world their home, their classroom — their adventure.

William and Jess Swenson are 36 and 34, respectively, and their children are Ezra, 7; Theo, 6; and Vesper, 4. They caught the

travel bug as a family three years ago when they drove to Montana — 3,000 miles in 10 days, covering eight states.

"Not only did we survive, we really thrived," Jess said. "It felt like if we could do this, we really could do anything with our hooligans."

Last April the five of them visited England, where they were tourists for a week in London before traveling two hours away to be "locals" and housesit at an English farm.

"It was nice to have a house — we did school work, my husband worked a little bit," Jess said, noting with a laugh that it was a hobbyist farm so the upkeep was not too grueling.

They immediately began to plan another journey.

"We knew we wanted to take a longer trip within the next year," William said. "At first, we discussed a six-

IESS SWENSON

The Swenson family of five – parents William and Jess; children Ezra, 7; Theo, 6; and Vesper, 4 – prepare to travel around the world for the next year; each of them will tote their own backpack. week European trip by saving vacation time." Then his Pleasanton-based employer announced a Roseville relocation.

"At that point, we tossed every idea out on the table, including pausing life here and taking a trip around the world," he said.

Meanwhile, Jess had read a book about a family who had done something similar, which she shared with William.

"Then his mother was diagnosed with lung cancer and at the end of June, she passed away," Jess recalled. "This triggered it for my husband — he said, 'We are not promised tomorrow.""

The family sold most of their possessions, rented out their house and put their careers on hold to travel the globe westward. They will begin by visiting China, Thailand, Bali, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. From there, they will travel to South Africa, Morocco and western Europe.

Jess, an Amador Valley High grad and a former fifth-grade

teacher at Vintage Hills Elementary, was already homeschooling the children so she was used to constant togetherness. Now she is excited about the hands-on learning that will take place.

"We won't be homeschooling; we will be world schooling for a year," she said. "We will be learning by doing very hands-on experiences."

"Instead of reading about the Great Wall of China, we will hike it. We'll snorkel the Great Barrier Reef and take an African safari for our science lessons," she added.

They will all keep journals with mom supplying the photos. Over the past four years she has built up a business, J. Swenson Photography, after mentoring with top newborn photographers in the industry. She specializes in maternity through the first year.

"They each have a Kindle to download books. We will read about a place and then go visit it," Jess said.

"Thankfully they are not picky eaters — they will try anything once," she added.

The housesitting is an important part of their plan. They signed up to stay at homes locally to earn good reviews on a housesitting website, and so far they have four lined up in Australia and one in France.

"We hope to do more in Europe," Jess said. "We have everything pretty much planned out until March when we are in Europe, where it will be easier to get around and to book something at the last minute."

They are visiting friends in Spain, and they may volunteer some time at a summer camp in Croatia. They have a friend in South Africa with an orphanage, which they plan to visit.

They will celebrate Vesper's fifth birthday in March at Disneyland Paris, a family tradition since the boys celebrated their fifth birthdays at Disneyland in Anaheim. They hope other members of their family will join them.

For now they are staying with Jess's parents in Castlewood until they leave for China on Oct. 16. And they are packing their backpacks with precision, including a Scrubba, a ribbed bag to wash clothes while traveling.

"We are totally paring down — to two pairs of shoes, five tops and bottoms," Jess said.

She noted the children have a sense of responsibility about their own backpacks.

"They know that mom and dad are carrying their own things, they can't carry yours, too," she said.

They each included one favorite toy to bring on the trip. "It's all about attitude," Jess said. "Making it an adventure yourself helps them to have an adventure. And you have to really be flexible."

She said after the birth of her third child she learned to go with the flow, to be flexible and know you can still have adventures.

"What I really learned when packing up is that kids can do really well without a lot of stuff," she said. "And I have seen an increase in their outdoor play."

Although some people may point out that the children are too young to remember this adventure, Jess refers to the renowned British educator Charlotte Mason who said that educators and parents "spread an abundant and delicate feast in what we share and teach our children, and then each small guest assimilates what he or she can."

"So this year, we are spreading a feast of adventure, sociology, economics, mathematics, art, history, science and world geography," Jess said.

She also remarked that although children may not remember you reading to them every day, it is still important.

"One of our personal goals as parents is to instill a brave and adventuresome spirit, a thirst for learning, as well as a heart of compassion for others," she said. "Although they may not remember every aspect of this trip, it's definitely a stepping stone to develop and nurture these disciplines."

Their experiences in the coming year will change them, she said, and give them a greater appreciation for others, for themselves, and for the world.

"And we plan to be ready to pick up life in the Bay Area. But who can really say? We'll be open to any ideas we toss out on our table," she said.

"We will come back changed for sure with a different perspective."







#### IESS SWENSON

Clockwise from top: The Swenson children enjoy a visit to the seaside while visiting England in April, a trip that helped feed the family's travel bug. Vesper cares for a chicken at the farm they housesat at in England. Earlier that trip, the three kids enjoyed an English garden.



**By Dennis Miller** 

Sponsored by

**SPORTS** 



## Amador girls water polo starts off EBAL play with thrilling comeback

In thrilling fashion, the Amador Valley Dons girls water polo opened their East Bay Athletic League season with a come from behind, 12-10 overtime victory against Livermore two weeks ago.

Livermore came out quick and had a 5-0 lead at the half. With the Dons still down 7-3 in the fourth quarter, seniors Alyssa Bergmann, Rachel Baer and Julia Wood and sophomore Megan Reilly changed the pace of the game and led a sixgoal rally to push the game into overtime.

The Dons continued to gain momentum and pull away with senior Anna Bosse providing the go-ahead goal and Bergmann scoring another two goals to put the game out of reach.

Bergmann finished the game with five goals, Wood and Baer with two goals each and Bosse had one goal and three assists.

Sophomore goalie Whitney Dishman led the defensive charge with 10 saves and one assist.

#### Boys water polo

The Foothill boys team played eight games over nine days in recent action.

On Sept. 12, the Falcons beat non-league opponent Kimball High School of Tracy 18-6.

Top scorers were senior Matthew Dotson with seven goals (one assist) and junior Dylan Weiglein with four goals (one assist), but scoring was well spread out with goals from Drake Southern (two), Josh Nagra (two), Dylan Pottgieser (one), Nathan Williams (one) and Brendan Cassidy (one). Starting goalie Harrison Carter had 10 saves and two assists from the cage.

On Sept. 14, Foothill beat Dougherty Valley 12-6 in an EBAL game. Scoring came from junior Ryan Weiglein (four goals), Dotson (three), Williams (three goals, three assists, three steals), Dylan Weiglein (one goal, one assist) and Pottgieser (one goal, two assists).

On Sept. 15 and 16, Foothill participated in the Roddy Svendsen Shootout in Merced, completing the tournament with a 3-2 record. Foothill lost to Johansen 9-8 and Atwater 7-5, then beat Edison 18-2, Pioneer 7-6 and Ripon 10-9.

Top Foothill scorers for the tournament were Dotson with 11 goals, Williams with nine, and Pottgieser, Ryan Weiglein and Dylan Weiglein with five each. Also adding the attack was Kyle Walsh (three), Nagra (three), Camden McFarlane (two), Blake Bettencourt (two) and Cassidy (one).

Carter had 47 saves in the tournament in goal, and junior Jacob Hvidt, playing one full game in goal, had nine saves.

To complete their eighth game in nine days, Foothill hosted league rival Monte Vista, losing 21-12.

Getting the scoring started for Foothill was Dylan Weiglein with the first two goals. Dotson finished well



CRICKET FOR CUBS

#### **Cricket continues popularity push**

As participation in cricket continues to grow in the Tri-Valley, the cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon are set to host the National Youth Cricket tournaments for the U13 and U15 age groups Nov. 19-22. Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne announced that news during the third annual Dandiya and Bollywood Night event benefiting the nonprofit Cricket for Cubs earlier this month at Harvest Park Middle School.

and led the scoring with six goals. Williams was the foundation of the defense in the field, while also scoring two goals with one assist and four steals.

Carter made some nice saves in goal, finishing with 10 overall and adding a pair of steals. Also scoring were Southern and Ryan Weiglein with one goal apiece.

Dotson has also been honored with the All-American Water Polo designation for the 2016-17 school year. Dotson made the honorable mention team in his junior year at Foothill. Thirteen field players and one goalie for each team are awarded this honor on a nationwide basis.

#### Football

Both local teams came away with wins last Friday, with Foothill beating Dublin 40-14 and Amador getting by Granada 22-19.

This week, the Falcons travel to San Ramon to face Cal High while the Dons host Monte Vista. ■



R0068 GM TR 9/17

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## <u>Calendar</u>

## Arts

CIVIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

Promotes the acquisition, construction and installment of works of public art in Pleasanton. The Commission also makes recommendations to the City Council regarding the City's Civic Arts programs. Monday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m., 200 Old Bernal Ave. www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

## Talks & Lectures

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS Virtually Speaking Toastmasters club meets from noon to 1:00 p.m. every Thursday at Electrical Reliability Services, 6900 Koll Center Pkwy., Suite 415. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

## Fundraisers

FALL BOOK AND MEDIA SALE Book sale opens to the public Saturday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop for bargain treasures. Sale includes gently used hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, media such as DVDs, books on CD, music CDs. All proceeds benefit the Dublin Library. Also check out the Friends' online bookstore. Contact Dublin Library, 803-7252. 200 Civic Plaza.



**TEE IT UP FOR TEENS GOLF TOURNAMENT** The Young Life 20th annual Tee It Up for Teens Golf Tournament Monday, Oct. 2 at 10 a.m., Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Cir. Includes lunch, dinner and tickets to the post-tournament live and silent auctions. Sponsorship packages and individual golf entries are available. For more information about the tournament or to sign up, visit our website. Sponsorship packages and individual golf entries. https://younglifetrivalley **"Swing For Cancer Therapies" GOLF TOURNAMENT** Join Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation on the links at Castlewood Country Club for a fun-filled day. Bring your friends and support a great cause. The event will run rain or shine. There will be fun activities and prizes. Thursday, Oct. 5, 10:30 a.m. 707 Country Club Cir. Event ticket (no golf), single golfer and group prices available. http://www. healingtherapiesfoundation.org

## Country great

Lacy J. Dalton, one of the great all-time country performers, will give a special matinee concert at 2 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Her signature song, '16th Avenue," was voted one of "Country's Top 100 Songs Ever" by Billboard Magazine. In March, she was inducted into the North American Country Music Association's International Hall of Fame. Tickets are \$17-\$27. Go to www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848 or purchase at the theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

## Food & Drink

DREAMMAKERS & RISKTAKERS AWARD LUNCHEON Thursday, Oct. 5, 11:30 a.m. Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Don't miss this thrilling salute to students who represent every school system in the Tri-Valley and Las Positas College who are innovating the future as they fearlessly pursue their dreams. \$48 for Innovation Tri-Valley Members, \$58 for Non-Members. Tickets, Call 818.395.0742

## Religion & Spirituality

**TRI-VALLEY CULTURAL JEWS KOL NIDRE OBSERVANCE** Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Kol Nidre Observance. Join us for a onehour program of readings in English with music. We will also be collecting donations for hurricane relief. Friday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th St. Livermore. \$10 per non-member adult. https://www.eventbrite.com

## TRI- VALLEY CULTURAL JEWS YOM

**KIPPUR OBSERVANCE** Saturday, Sept. 30, 2 p.m., \$20 per nonmember adult, Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St, Livermore. https://www.eventbrite.com

**EAST BAY MCC** Sunday, Oct 1, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., MCC East Bay, 5724 W. Las Posits Blvd. Youth of different faiths will voice concerns and experiences about the current national climate, discrimination, and talk about their work to promote inclusion and acceptance for the diverse youth in the East Bay. Guests of all faiths and nonfaiths welcome. RSVP requested at mcceb.org/youth-panel.

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has not yet begun to transact business

under the fictitious business name listed

herein. This statement was filed with the

VAANHU FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No: 534273 The following person doing business as: VAANHU, 4847 Hopyard Road, Suite 4143, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner: Ethel Matshiya-Law, 2 Benmore Drive, Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by Ethel Matshiya-Law, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein August 14,

fictitious business name listed herein August 14, 2017, under the fictitious business name listed herein VAANHU. Signature of Registrant: Ethel Matshiya-Law, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2017. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 5, 22, 29 and October 6, 2017)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person doing business as: QUALITY CUSTOM BUTTONS, 4181

AMBERWOOD CIRCLE, PLEASANTON

CA, 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY, is hereby

CA, 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY, is hered registered by the following owner: SHERRY SORMAN, 4181 AMBERWOOD CIRCLE, PLEASANTON, CA 94588. This business is conducted by SHERRY SORMAN, an Individual. Registrant has out with boung to transact business.

not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on SEPTEMBER

REGISTRANT: SHERRY SORMAN, OWNER.

(Pleasanton Weekly, SEPTEMBER 15, 22, 29 AND OCTOBER 6)

JULIA HILL CONSULTING SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 335406 The following person doing business as: Julia Hill Consulting Services, 1440 Wilton Road, Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner: Unlia M Hill 1440

the following owner: Julia M. Hill, 1440 Wilton Road, Livermore, CA 94551. This

business is conducted by Julia M. Hill, an

Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business

business under the fictitious business name listed herein September 14,2017. Signature of Registrant: Julia M. Hill, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 14, 2017. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 22, 29 and October 6 and 13, 2017.)

Jeannette's Consignment Consulting FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINĚSS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 535460 The following person doing business as: Jeannette's Consignment Consulting, 110 Mission Drive, Pleasanton, CA, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner: Jeannette Osorio, 110 Mission Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual, Jeannette Osorio. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein September 15,

September 15, 2017. Signature of Registrant, Jeannette

filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2017. (Pleasanton

Osorio, Owner. This statement was

ILILIA HILL CONSULTING SERVICES

11, 2017, SIGNATURE OF THE

15, 22, 29 and October 6, 2017.)

QUALITY CUSTOM BUTTONS

File No.: 535194

County Clerk of Alameda on AUGUST 29, 2017. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT:

CARLY BUNTIN, OWNER. (Pleasantor

Weekly, SEPTEMBER 15, 22, 29 AND

OCTOBER 6)

VAANHU

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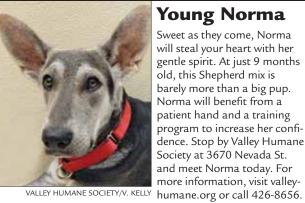
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## 995 Fictitious Name **Statement**

COLOR THEORY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No: 534822 The following person(s) doing busines as: COLOR THEORY, 4667 3RD STREET, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, ALAMEDA

Weekly, Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 2017.) PET OF THE WEEK



## **Real Estate**

## Local Realtor named national **Good Neighbor Award finalist**

Mony Nop Foundation lauded for helping kids achieve their goals

#### **BY JEREMY WALSH**

Livermore-based Realtor Mony Nop has been selected among 10 real estate professionals across the United States as a final-

ist for Realtor Magazine's 2017 Good Neighbor Awards in recognition of their positive impacts and volunteer work in their communities.

Nop, of Mony Nop Real Estate with Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty, has worked through his Mony Nop Foundation to "encourage kids to set

goals and achieve them by providing leadership training and scholarships," according to the National Association of Realtors.

A Cambodia native whose family fled the Khmer Rouge when he was a child, Nop overcame cultural and linguistic challenges as a young immigrant in America to excel through his education and become a police officer, including in Livermore, for 17 years before moving into real estate



Mony Nop

full time in 2012, according to Realtor Magazine.

His foundation aims to give back to middle and high school students in the area to help them overcome their own challenges, NAR officials said in a statement.

Nop is one of 10 finalists from nine states in the running to become among the five winners of the national trade organization's Good Neighbor Awards. Voting is open through Monday, and the winners will be announced Tuesday.

"The Good Neighbor Award represents a thriving culture of giving back, and each of our finalists have made a tremendous difference in their communities," NAR president William E. Brown said. "We congratulate this year's 10 finalists for their outstanding efforts to help make the world a better place."

Winners will receive a \$10,000 grant and national media exposure for their community charity, including a feature in the November/December issue Realtor Magazine. The five honorable mentions will each receive a \$2,500 grant.

## **OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND** For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to:

Dublin		4142 Peregrine Way \$838,000 Sat/Sun 1-4 Jennifer Swalve/Liza Kasenchal		
3 BEDROOMS			209-552	-9806/999-5885
11445 Winding Trail Lane	\$665,000	3 BEDROOM	15	
Sat/Sun 1-4 Suzanne Bieser	699-3884	1 Brozosky H	<b>till Lane</b> abulous Properties 980	\$3,999,000
4 BEDROOMS		3508 Kamp I	1	Call for price
8712 Augusta Court Sat/Sun 1-4 Al Zielske	<b>\$999,999</b> 998-2201	Sat/Sun 1-4	Daisy Ng	872-6888
Fremont	990-2201	<b>4622 Mason</b> Fri 10:30-1:30 S	Street un 1-3 The Flashberger	<b>\$900,000</b> Group 463-0436
		789 View Dr		\$1,649,000
5 BEDROOMS		Sun 1-4	Tim McGuire	462-7653
<b>2382 Castillejo Way</b> Sat 1-4 Blaise Lofland	<b>\$1,799,000</b> 846-6500	4 BEDROOM	15	
•	840-0300	<b>3687 Ashwo</b> Sat/Sun 1-4	<b>od Drive</b> Karen Kohne	Call for price 980-1012
Livermore		,		\$1,649,000
3 BEDROOMS		<b>927 Happy \</b> Sat/Sun 1-4	Tim McGuire	462-7953
1259 Shelburne Road Sat/Sun 1-4 Sean Leggat	Call for price 899-6087	<b>3822 Muirw</b> Sat/Sun 1-4	ood Drive Julia Murtagh	<b>\$1,069,000</b> 997-2411
4 BEDROOMS		2070 Raven		\$1,279,000
	ć200 000	Sat/Sun 1-4	Tim McGuire	462-7653
2632 Gelding Lane Sun 1-4 Miranda Mattos	<b>\$829,000</b> 336-7653	5 BEDROON	15	
5 BEDROOMS		<b>4021 Alta Co</b> Sat 1-4	Julie Hansen-Orvis	<b>\$899,962</b> 980-4925
2998 Bresso Drive	\$1,248,000	6212 Detjen		\$1,998,000
Sun 1-4 Linda Futral	<b>980-3561</b>	Sun 1-4	Jo Ann Luisi	321-6104
Pleasanton		3720 Raboli Street \$2,549,000   Sat/Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273/519-8226		
2 BEDROOMS		6 BEDROOM	IS	
4408 Comanche Drive	\$489,000	4129 Grant (		\$2,299,888
Sat/Sun 1-4 Katie Moe	216-9083	Sat 1-4	Bimla Sabhlok	408-448-4488



## 8712 Augusta Ct Dublin

Completely remodeled from top to bottom New: kitchen, bathrooms, floors, recessed lighting, A/C, heater, electrical updated, front steps and railing, new front door, garage door, popcorn ceilings gone. All work done with city of Dublin 2017 permits End of court location with 1/4 acre lot containing vineyard (Cabernet & Merlot). New redwood deck with views of Mt Diablo. Price is \$999,999



## **HOME SALES**

This week's data represents homes sold during Aug. 4-10

## Pleasanton

1632 Calle Santiago Foss Trust to Clapp Trust for \$660,000

4669 Del Valle Parkway Hillegas Trust to J. Ato for \$1,000,000

4100 Foothill Road GMWJ Limited to M. Yerram for \$650.000

**2818 Garden Creek Circle** Vanmanthai Trust to S. Anand for \$985,000

**630 Happy Valley Road** Allen Trust to B. Berlogar for \$900,000

5160 Independence Drive Ratajczak Trust to J. & R. Paro for \$1,650,000

7111 Johnston Road Mccann Trust to D. Chiu for \$1,200,000

2806 Maria Street V. & S. Jammalamadaka to R Radhakrishnan for \$960,000

2769 Milani Avenue Scogin Trust to X. Tian for \$1,003,000 5353 Old School Road Rosenberg Trust to S. Marlais for \$1,600,000

5745 Old School Road T. Fadda to R. & K. Rodriguez for \$1,675,000

4559 Shawnee Way F. Elizondo to S. Ni for \$563,000

5321 Sonoma Drive J. & K. Johal to J. Mancebo for \$1,900,000

1357 Whispering Oaks Way G. & A. Gambhir to V. & P. Griddalur for \$1,490,000

2347 Willet Way W. & I. McCarty to R. Thakur for \$1,200,000

2767 Willowren Way R. & M. Brophy to J. & C. Mitooka for \$1,185,000

**3426 Zion Canyon Court** Q. Le to R. Chandrasekar for \$970,000

Source: California REsource



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Pleasanton Weekly • September 29, 2017 • Page 17

## Helping Sellers and Buyers in the Tri-Valley

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Julia has sold over \$150 million of real estate in the Tri-Valley area



Additional reviews available on: yelp Linked in 🖉 Zillow'





## 3822 Muirwood Drive, Pleasanton

This beautifully remodeled 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bathroom home offers 1809 sq. ft. of living space situated on a 10,162 sq. ft. lot. Among the many upgrades in the open floor plan you will find new wood floors, windows, doors and molding. The gorgeous kitchen is a chef's dream with features like a pot filler over a dual fuel Samsung chef collection range and a large island with ample storage. All Bathrooms have been remodeled including the Master which offers a walk - in closet and custom hand laid tile design flooring. The landscaped backyard has side yard access for RV parking.



WEST PLEASANTON 7932 Doral Court, Pleasanton This elegant home is located in the desirable Golden Eagle neighborhood in west Pleasanton. Situated on a ½ acre, court location with enchanting landscaping and views of the Pleasanton Ridge. There are 6 Bedrooms and 4 ½ Bathrooms included in over 4000 sq. ft. of custom upgraded living space. SOLD FOR \$1,865,000



WEST PLEASANTON 7983 Applewood Court, Pleasanton Stunning Craftsman style remodel in West Pleasanton with over 440K spent over the last 5 years. This single story home, has over 2000 sq.ft., 4 bedrooms and 2 baths in the main home. Enjoy a flat lot just under ½ acre, with a large custom detached 3 car garage, and separate office space (225 sq.ft).

SOLD FOR \$1,300,000



SAN MARCO 4424 Newman Place, Pleasanton Gorgeous townhouse located 1 mile to downtown, across the way from Stanford Hospital and quick access to the Freeway. This stunning 2 story home was built in 1998 by Braddock & Logan. Enjoy beautiful upgrades in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1640 . sq.ft. home

SOLD FOR \$845,000

# JUST SOLD — 123K OVER ASKING

WEST PLEASANTON 4949 Hillcrest Way, Pleasanton Located in one of Pleasanton's highly sought after Westside Neighborhoods, this home has been updated inside and out. There are 4 Bedrooms and 2 1/2 Bathrooms plus an office in 2460 sq ft of living space SOLD FOR \$1,318,000

# **JUST SOLD — 31K OVER ASKING**

## LAGUNA OAKS 2556 Arlotta Place, Pleasanton .37 flat acres with a beautiful view of the Pleasanton Ridge, situated on the end of a quiet cul-de-sac. 3853 sq.ft. of living space with four bedrooms, a bonus room, $3 \frac{1}{2}$ baths and an extra large master suite with valuted ceilings. SOLD FOR \$1.900.000



IRONWOOD 1364 Briones Court, Pleasanton Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with 3182 sqft of living space on ¼ acre lot . Located on a court, this home has beautiful upgrades, and a Solar System on the home. Home was built in 2005. **SOLD FOR FOR \$1,650,000 REPRESENTED BUYERS** 

## LISTED AT \$1,069,000

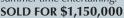


**VINTAGE HILLS** 3742 Pinot Court, Pleasanton Charming Home in Vintage Hills Neighborhood with 4 Bedrooms and 3 Bathrooms There is 2104 sq. ft. of living space on a large lot just

under 10,000 sq. ft. LISTED & SOLD BY JULIA FOR \$1,130,000



## **DUBLIN HILLS** 3508 Cydonia Court, Dublin This "Bella Monte" home was built in 2011. This upgraded 4 bedroom 2.5 bathroom home , has 2353 sq.ft of living space, with beautiful views and no rear neighbors. Enjoy a professionally landscaped back yard with redwood deck for summer time entertaining.





**STONERIDGE** 7550 Flagstone Drive, Pleasanton

Beautiful single story home, highly upgraded, 1877 sq.ft. home, 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Backyard has a nice size pool with full Solar System, great entertaining area. Walk to Schools, Parks, Bart and the Mall, with great Freeway Access. **SOLD FOR \$1,101,000 REPRESENTED BUYERS** 

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235 CROYDEN DRIVE, PLEASANT HILL Location, Location, Location! Don't Miss This Three Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Home with approximately 1302 Square Feet. Located in Quiet Mature neighborhood that's Close to Everything! Premium Nearly One Quarter Acre Lot (10,005 Square Feet). New Paint & Carpets, Updated Kitchen, Large Rear Yard & Covered Patio Central Heat & Air Conditioning. For a Private Showing, Contact-The Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group. For More Information and Photos, go to www.235croyden.com

**OFFERED AT \$759.500** 



LAIN PINEL

REALTORS

## **5682 SUNSET CREEK CT., PLEASANTON DOBZ** SUINSEL CKEER C1., PLEASANTUON Beautiful Custom Home Built in 2008 with Quiet Court Location! Located Adjacent to Desirable Bridle Creek and Sycamore Heights Neighborhoods. This 5-Bedroom, 5-Bathroom Home Includes a Private Office and Game Room Area and is Approximately 5147 Square Feet. This Half-acre (.46) Lot Includes a Newer In-ground Pool and Spa, Large Covered Patio, Outdoor Kitchen Entertainment Area/ Fire Pit and Beautiful Landscaping. Enjoy Views of The Surrounding Hills and Pleasanton Ridge from the Front and Rear Grounds, as Well as From Inside the House and Multiple Balconies. Upstairs and Downstairs Master Suites. This Desirable Location is Sought-after Because It's Quiet, Located Away from Freeways and Trains, Near an Awesome Neighborhood Park (Mission Hills Park), and Within Walking Distance to Downtown Pleasanton. For More Information and Photos, go to 5682sunsetcreek.com. For a Private Showing Call, the Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group. **OFFERED AT \$2,270,000**

LIVERMORE CHARMER SOLD

2382 CASTILLEJO WAY, FREMONT

Desirable Mission San Jose Home with Five Bedrooms and 2 ½ Bathrooms and approximately 3160 Square Feet. Large

Great Room with window Wall. Large Downstairs Bonus Room. Premium .39 Lot (17,120) at End of Court Location. Private Rear Grounds with Views of San Francisco Bay and Natural Parkland. New Paint and Carpeting. Three Car Garage. In-Ground Swimming Pool, Patio & Decking. Preferred Schools Attendance Areas. Convenient access

to Downtown & Commute Access. For a Private Showing, Contact-The Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group. For More

Information and Photos, go to www.2382castillejo.com **OFFERED AT \$1,799,000** 

## **3160 CABRILLO AVENUE, LIVERMORE**

Location, Location, Location! This Charming 3 Bedroom 2 Bath, Oversized Two Car Garage, Single Story Home is 2 Bath, Oversized Two Car Garage, Single Story Home is Walking Distance to Downtown Livermore! Hardwood Floors Throughout, Dual Pane Windows, Granite Countertops with New Gas Stove and Microwave in Upgraded Kitchen. Updated Bathrooms. Wood Burning Fireplace with Gas Option and Central Air Conditioning. Family Friendly Backyard Has Stamped Concrete Patio Also Plenty of Room to Play (Lawn Area), Garden, or Just Relax! Custom Front Pavers Provides Extra Parking and Walkway with Lights. Expanded Front Porch for Morning Coffee or Afternoon Wine

#### SOLD FOR \$675,000



#### 8335 REGENCY DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Rare Opportunity to Purchase a Fixer Upper in Laguna Oaks Estates on one of Laguna Oaks Estates Premium +/- One Half Acre Lots. Needs TLC, but Tremendous Opportunity & Potential. Purchase Under market (Keeping Property Taxes Lower) Improved value est. at \$2,150 Mil, Private Grounds, Swimming Pool, Views of Pleasanton Ridge. Great Location! Upgrade it to Your Specific Taste! Five Bedrooms, Three & One Half Bathrooms, Office/Den, Bonus/Game Room, Approximately 4106 Square Feet. 3- Car Garage (4th Car Option) For more information go to: 8335ragonov com For Option). For more information go to: 8335regency.com. For a private showing, contact The Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group.

SOLD AT \$1,899,950



#### **6900 RIDDELL STREET**

6900 RIDDELL STREET Upgraded Single Level in Castlewood Heights by Pulte Homes in 2002 Five Bedrooms, Four Bathrooms, Approximately 3249 Square Feet, Finished Four Car Garage\* Large Open Family Room (with Fire Place)/Kitchen Great Room Concept. Gourmet Kitchen with Granite Countertops and Stainless Steel Appliances, Large Master Suite with Recently Remodeled Master Bathroom, Newer Wood Style Tile Flooring and Extensive Woodwork Throughout. Guest Suite with Private Bathroom, Updated Secondary Bathrooms, Large Laundry/Mud Room, Beautifully Upgraded Landscaped Side and Private Back Yard, Backs to Natural Community Open Space, Large Side Yard Lawn Area and Play Structure, Occupied But Immediate Possession Available. For More Information and Photos, go to 6900riddell.com. For a Private Showing Call, the Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group. SOLD FOR \$1 725 000

SOLD FOR \$1,725,000



## **1234 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

**1234 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON** Expanded & Remodeled Kottinger Ranch Single Level, Plus. "Deer Grove" Model in Premium Location! Solar Powered Home with Five Bedrooms, 3 ½ Remodeled Bathrooms and 3481 Square Feet. Master Suite, Three Secondary Bedrooms, 2 ½ Bathrooms, and Expanded Remodeled Kitchen-Downstairs. Upstairs- Large Bonus Room (5th Bedroom), Full Bathroom, Exercise Room & Separate Workstation Area. New Paint (Interior & Exterior), New Carpeting, Panoramic Views, Private Rear Grounds with In-Ground Pool/Spa. Greenbelt Across the Street, and Very Near to Community Amenities Include Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts, Picnic/BBQ Area, Open Space and Walking Trails. A Very Short Walk to Award Winning Vintage Hills Elementary School. Good Access to Downtown and I-680 Commute! For a Private Showing Contact the Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group. For More Information or Photos go to 1234hearst.com.

SOLD AT \$1,800,000



## **5786 SHADOW RIDGE CT., PLEASANTON**

Remodeled and Highly Upgraded Popular Hillstar Model on Quiet Court in Bridle Creek. Five Bedrooms, Workout Room (6th), 4.5 Bathrooms Plus Home Theater/ Bonus Room. No Expense Spared in Making This Home Very Desirable. Plantation Shutters and Beautiful Wood Flooring. Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen. Premium Lot is Beautifully Landscaped with In-Ground Pool/Spa, Outdoor Kitchen, Fire Pit, and Sports Court. Perfect Location - Walk to Main Street, Attendance Area for Great Schools, Located Near Awesome Park, Convenient Access to 680 and Ace Commuter Train. The Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group Represented Buyer on All Cash, Two-Week Close Full Price Offer At \$2,450,000.

SOLD FOR FULL PRICE: \$2,450,000



### **1980 PALMER DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

Desirable Largest Gibson Model in "The Estates of Mohr Park" Upgrades Throughout, Five Bedroom, Three Bathroom (One Bed & Bath Down) with Approximately 3369 Square Feet. Premium Corner Lot Location, Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen, Remodeled Bathrooms, Craft/Storage (6th Room), Crown Molding, Custom Trimmed & Cased Windows, New Furnaces & Air Conditioners (2016), Upgraded Lighting & Electrical, Concrete Tile Roof, Three Car Garage, Professionally Landscaped, Private Rear Yard, Preferred Schools Attendance Area. Offered at \$1,569,500. Go to 1980Palmer.com for more information & photos. For a Private Showing Contact-The Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group.

SOLD AT \$1,569,500



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BERKELEY Sat/Sun 1 - 4 1830 Woolsey Street SINGLE FAMILY HOME IN BERKELEY! 2 BD/1 BA 2 bedroom 1 bath seconds to BART. Dual paned. Hrdwd flrs. Remodeled bath and kitchen!

Laurie Pfohl, CalBRE #00866660 510-851-3551



\$729,000 DUBLIN Sat/Sun 1 - 4

\$599,900 PLEASANTON

🥏 Sat 1 - 4

4129 Grant Court

BBQ, Deck & Grass

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Very Sausan 1 - 2 11445 Winding Trail Lane West Dublin Townhome with Potential 3 BD/2.5 BA High clngs, flwng firpln, the Drivets potio grap with no new carpet, Private patio area with no immediate rear neighbors!

Suzanne Bieser, CalBRE #01355940 925-699-3884



2 Level Condo w/tons of upgrades! 2 BD/2 BA 2 Level Condo w/tons of upgrades! Available for viewing early Öctober

Romar De Claro, CalBRE #01341138 925-784-3068

925.963.0887

NEW

\$2,299,888 PLEASANTON CALL FOR PRICE PLEASANTON Dis Sat/Sun 1 - 4

3508 Kamp Drive Gorgeous Mohr Park Beauty! 3 BD/2.5 BA New exterior paint and professionally landscaped yards! Coming soon! Daisy Ng, CalBRE #01311067 925-872-6888



1755 Creek Road Gorgeous Tudor Forest Glade Estates 5 BD/3.5 BA Charming, Classic Tutor Style Home in Forest Glade Estates, backs to Arroyo Mocho. Mary Anne Rozsa, CalBRE #00783003

4145 Crisfield Lane Desirable Heritage Valley Home 4 BD/2 BA Great court location, single story, spacious private lot, newer roof, needs updating. Mary Anne Rozsa, CalBRE #00783003 925.963.0887



ESIDENTIAL BROKER

\$1,150,000 LIVERMORE CALL FOR PRICE Sat/Sun 1 - 4 1259 Shelburne Road Single story home in Somerset 3 BD/2 BA Wonderful Home Features Updated Kit, Updated BA, DPW's, Panel doors, Wd firs & Much More! Sean Leggat, CalBRE #01280186 925.899.6087



\$858,800 SAN LEANDRO

ntial Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. This information was supplied by

\$688.000

147 Best Avenue Charming Duplex in North Side! 2 BD/2 BA Features Hardwood Floors, DPW, Each Unit-1 BD/BA, Extra Storage, Laundry & Close to BART. Laurie Pfohl, CalBRE #00866660 510.851.3551

ColdwellBankerHomes.com

PLEASANTON

925.918.0374

MOUNTAIN HOUSE

624 N Oliveto Drive

Sat 1-4/Sun 2-5

Gorgeous home in great neighborhood

4 BD/2.5 BA Stunning move-in ready home! Open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, spacious master BR/Bath!

Maureen Aquino, CalBRE #01464440

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is Entertainers Delight w/Pool, Built in

6 BD/4 BA Custom Built Home, Backvard

Bimla Sabhlok, CalBRE #00939221

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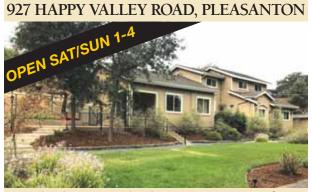


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Karen Carmichael **Client Services** 

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4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms; 3,350 sqft, 1.94 acre lot. Offered at \$1,649,000



4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,186 +/- sq.ft., 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 3,000 +/- sq.ft. 11,799 +/- sq.ft. lot. Offered at \$1,279,000 .39 +/- acre lot. Offered at \$1,649,000



3940 INVERNESS COMMON, LIVERMORE 2886 CALLE REYNOSO, PLEASANTON 4696 SHASTA COURT, PLEASANTON



3,114 +/- sq.ft. lot. Call for details



3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 1,536 +/- sq.ft. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 1,636 +/- sq.ft. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1,909 +/- sq.ft. 6,974 +/- sq.ft. lot. Call for details





9,887 +/- sq.ft. lot. Call for details



5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3,184 +/- sq.ft., 6,623 +/- sq.ft. lot. Call for details

4875 CANARY DRIVE, PLEASANTON



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1,702 +/- sq.ft., 7,269 +/- sq.ft. lot. Represented Buyer/Seller 10,446 +/- sq.ft. lot. Represented Buyer/Seller

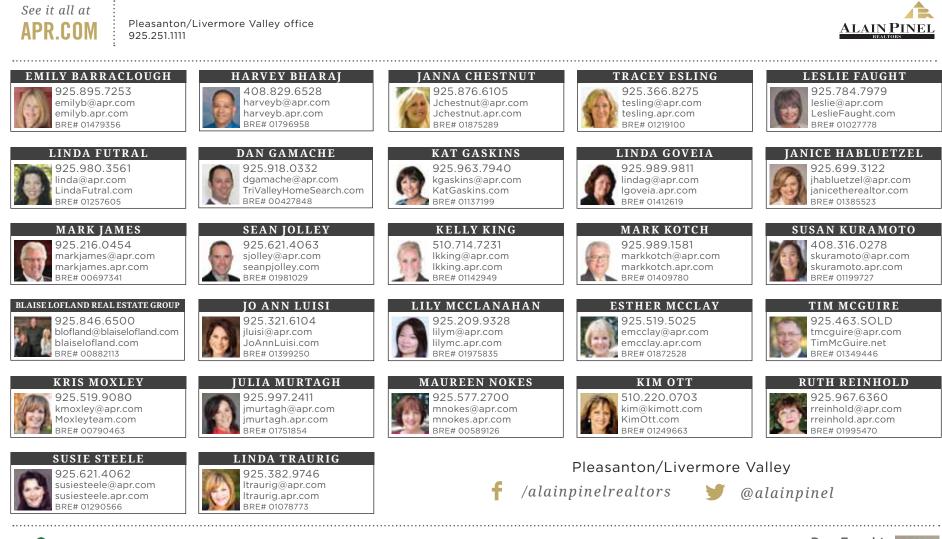


5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3,259 +/- sq.ft.



"There's a reason why Tim McGuire is the face of Pleasanton real estate - his knowledge of the area is superb. Almost all of the houses we saw had not been listed yet; when we finally put our first offer in, it was accepted. No bidding wars, no stress, no hassle. Thanks Tim, we love our house!"

- Kenny & Erika Hoxworth, Pleasanton





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COMING SOON IN NILES! 23 BLAISDELL WAY, FREMONT BUILT IN 1984, this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with 1706 sf has newly remodeled kitchen w/granite & new cabinetry. All baths are remodeled too! Also has freshly painted interior & brand new carpeting. Call Bob for more details.

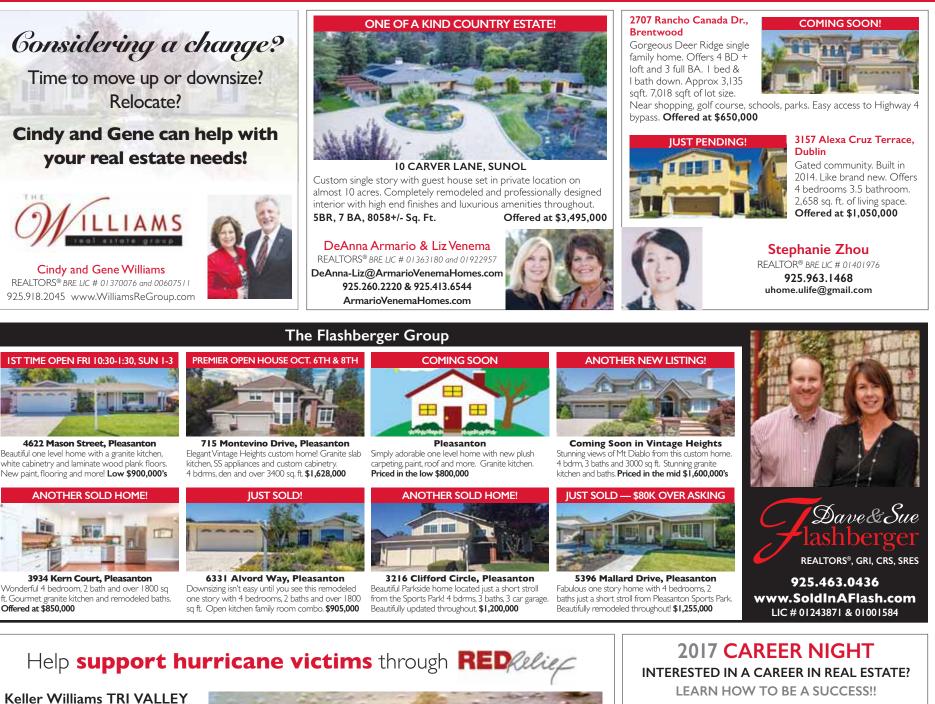


3190 MONTPELIER COURT, PLEASANTON OFFERED FOR \$1,149,950. Just a stone's throw from Fairlands Elementary School, this 5-bdrm, 3-bath tri-level is situated in a court location (6th bdrm conversion possible on lowest level near full bath.) Features include upgraded kitchen, newly refinished hardwood floors, spacious fam rm with fireplace, freshly painted interior, new carpeting & more. Also has private yard w/fresh sod & new sprinklers. Call Bob for a private showing today!



5221 NORTHWAY, PLEASANTON | OFFERED FOR \$1,195,000 | OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00 TO 4:00 This exceptional 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath Monterey model is beautifully appointed with attention to every detail! Features include remodeled kitchen with granite counters & cozy breakfast nook with bay window; updated baths, hardwood flooring, skylights, recessed lighting, French doors & park-like back yard. Walking distance to all 3 levels of schools & sports park. Stop by the open house this weekend & see for yourself!

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\$10,000 to help the families affected and Keller Williams International's goal is to raise \$20 million

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## THE ADDRESS IS PLEASANTON THE EXPERIENCE IS ALAIN PINEL



230 Lark Lane | 6bd/5ba Janna Chestnut | 925.876.6105 BY APPOINTMENT



2382 Castillejo Way | 5bd/2.5ba Blaise Lofland | 925.846.6500 OPEN SATURDAY 1:00-4:00



12 Boca Raton | 3bd/2ba Kim Richards | 510.816.6031 BY APPOINTMENT



191 Alamo Ranch Road | 5bd/5ba D.Teigland/C. Doyle | 925.201.8316 BY APPOINTMENT



927 Happy Valley Road | 4bd/3ba Tim McGuire | 925.462.7953 OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00



4021 Alta Court | 5bd/3ba Julie Hansen-Orvis | 925.980.4925 OPEN SATURDAY 1:00-4:00



6212 Detjen Court | 5bd/4.5ba Jo Ann Luisi | 925.321.6104 OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



2998 Bresso Drive | 5bd/3ba Linda Futral | 925.980.3561 OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



2632 Gelding Lane | 4bd/2.5ba Miranda Mattos | 925.336.7653 OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



18106 Vineyard Road | 4bd/2.5ba Leslie Faught | 925.784.7979 BY APPOINTMENT



1396 Springdale Court | 4bd/3.5ba Linda Futral | 925.980.3561 BY APPOINTMENT





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> Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors\*. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.