

Pleasanton Weekly

**Camp
Connection**

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Every 15 minutes

Every 15 minutes someone in the country dies from an alcohol-related traffic accident, and Foothill High School students Olivia Hartjen and Marissa Khoury deserve our thanks for the work they've done over the past year or so to stop these tragedies, at least locally. Both seniors, they managed last week's "Every 15 Minutes" program at the school, a yearlong task that involved hundreds of hours of planning, fundraising and then actually staging the two-day event.

The program was started in 1995 by the Chico Police Department and is now an event staged at high schools throughout California, including Foothill and Amador Valley high schools, which alternate each year in hosting the program. Realism is what "Every 15 Minutes" is about.

Last week's event incorporated two crashed cars placed on Foothill Road, role-playing by more than 30 students, including a driver of the crashed car and two others "killed" in the accident, and a student assembly and retreat held for students and parents who were part of the effort. Pleasanton police, firefighters from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, the Alameda County Coroner's Office, ambulance drivers and many others joined in the program, contributing their services and equipment. The California Highway Patrol contributed \$20,000 to the program, which involved 1,100 students from the junior and senior classes.

At the crash site, police arrested the driver while others treated the "injured" and the coroner placed the body of a "dead" passenger in a bodybag and drove away. To add to the impact, students who agreed to serve as "the living dead" were called out of their classrooms by police, with the officer reading their obituary as each student leaves. A loud, ominous heartbeat is broadcast across the campus before each of the "living dead" is pulled out of class, signifying that someone is dying every 15 minutes in an alcohol-related traffic accident somewhere in country. All of this happened in perfect synchronization and timing, thanks to Olivia and Marissa's good work.

The two seniors, with the help of their Leadership class teachers Mary Zahuta and Joseph Friesen, handled all of this. They were the head coordinators, but also had a committee of students helping plan the event. They met with the program's sponsors, recruited the 33 students who agreed to be among "the living dead," and arranged for a casket to be displayed at an assembly in memory of the three students who role-played the dead,

seniors Greg Hadley, Daniel Rodriguez and Kelsie Natsch.

To add to the realism, parents and students wrote letters about their experience, including emotion-packed final messages by two parents to their "dead" children and another to his parents from one of the students who "died" in the crash. These letters, prepared at a retreat following last Thursday's event, were read aloud in the Friday morning assembly, that included a video showing the teens pretending to drink liquor at a house party when police arrived and everyone ran, with some driving off onto Foothill Road.

At the assembly, you could hear a pin drop as guest speaker Andrew Pryfogle recalled the accident 21 years ago when a drunk driver careened into the path of his brother Mark's car, killing him instantly. Mark Pryfogle's daughter, Sara, now 26, traveled from her home in Texas to join her uncle at the Foothill assembly, where she talked publicly for the first time about the tragedy that killed her father when she was only 5.

Another speaker, Ken Williams, talked about the loss he still endures after the death of his daughter Laurel, who was killed in an accident on Foothill Road in 2007 while a passenger in a car driven by her best friend, who had a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit of .08, according to a toxicology report.

"In talking to students who participated in this program, I know it had a positive impact on them and their behavior," Olivia Hartjen said. "Some students who were known to drink alcohol and then possibly drive were obviously shaken by the events of the two days and told me they would never drink and drive again."

Although the program was focused on drinking and driving, the messages by speakers also dealt with the equally dangerous risks of mixing drugs with driving and also texting while behind the wheel.

According to a recent report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 7,000 drivers ages 15 to 20 are involved in fatal traffic crashes across the nation each year. The report showed that 18% of the drivers had a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher, despite it being illegal for teens to drink. The NHTSA also said 64% of those drivers died as a result of the crash.

"I just hope that the 'Every 15 Minutes' program at Foothill had an impact that will make all of our students aware of the risks and change the behavior of anyone who drinks and drives," Olivia said. ■

About the Cover

Pleasanton's \$1 million-plus housing market performed strongly in 2013. Photo courtesy Doug Buenz. Cover design by Shannon Corey.

Vol. XV, Number 12

DINING
ON THE TOWN

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Rotary Clubs, Meetings & Annual Youth Programs

Pleasanton, Bob Brown, Pres.

Hap's Original, Thursday, 12:15 p.m. - www.pleasantonrotary.org
Sponsors: 75 Interact students at Amador Valley High School
• Camp RYLA • Cub Scout Packs 944 & 911 • Boy Scout Troop 911 • Village High School's Culinary Program • Honors: Student of the Month • Host: Richard King Speech Contest for high school students • Awarded over \$320K to high school students for college scholarships since inception — \$25K in 2013

Pleasanton North, Frank Hanna, Pres.

Hilton Hotel, Fri. 12:15 p.m. - www.pnr-rotary.org
Supports nearly 400 students with financial aid, leadership, and mentoring. Activities include participation of 120 students in Rotary Interact Clubs that serve as their gateway to community service, college and RYLA leadership camp scholarships, international youth exchanges, high school mock trial competitions, and 4H community farming.

Tri-Valley Evening, Carol Vander Meulen, Pres.

Castlewood Ctry. Club, Thurs. 6 p.m. - www.trivalleyrotary.org
Supports hundreds of local youth through our coat drive and distribution each December, speech contest, and Interact club at LVCP High School. We also support international projects serving children and their mothers in India. Join us Thursday evenings to learn more.

Rotary youth leadership programs for ages 12 to 17 and 18 to 35 are essential aspects of Rotary. At the heart of the programs is Rotary's motto Service Above Self. Since 2007, more than 8,000 South and East Bay young leaders raised and donated over \$500,000 and 120,000 volunteer hours for vital local and global service projects.



Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

If you had the power to make yourself invisible, where would you go and what would you do?



Mark Quinn

Managing director, tutoring center

Oh, the cloak of invisibility. For sure I'd sit in my kid's classroom for a day. It'd be very interesting to be there, and see just what goes on, without in any way interfering with or affecting the normal dynamics of the class.



Viviana Leon

Interior designer/artist

I would go to Argentina, where my parents live. I would give them each a comforting and loving hug and tell them "everything will be OK." They would feel it but not see it, and therefore think it was a wonderful dream.



Jade Wang

Elementary school student

I would go into outer space and look for aliens and other non-human life forms. If I were invisible, I'd be able to get a really good look at them because they wouldn't run away, since they wouldn't be able to see me.



Lou Turchino

Retired

I would go to Rome and visit the Vatican without anyone knowing I was there. I'd look for the Pope, too, while I was at it.



Carlos Avalle

Electronics engineer

My invisible self would sneak aboard a round-the-world cruise ship and enjoy the free ride. I would see the world, help myself to the food and entertainment, and one way or another, I'd find a comfortable place to sleep every night.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

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DIGEST

Lookalike contest

With Mother's Day right around the corner, the Pleasanton Weekly is holding its annual Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest. First-place prizes are four tickets to the Alameda County Fair and \$50 cash, and second-place prizes are two fair tickets and \$25 cash.

Send digital photos only to contest@pleasantonweekly.com by 6 a.m. April 24. The photo must be attached to an email in JPG format, at least 300 dpi. Include the names of the mother and daughter(s) and the ages of children. Photos entered in previous contests are not eligible.

Weekly staff will choose the finalists, which will be posted at www.PleasantonWeekly.com for readers to vote online for which mother and daughter in Pleasanton look most alike.

Photos of the winners will be published in the May 9 print edition of the Pleasanton Weekly.

PTSCA open house

The Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association is hosting a Cinco de Mayo open house at the Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Ave. in Pleasanton, on May 4 from 2-3:30 p.m.

How do you make "friends for life" with people who live 2,300 miles away? How do you discover the rich culture, traditions and foods of our neighbors in Mexico? And how do Pleasanton high school students get an experience of a lifetime in just two months?

The PTSCA has been answering those questions and more for over 30 years. Learn how the organization does it during the May 4 open house, which is open to the public and will feature music, presentations, art and refreshments.

For more information about the PTSCA, visit its website at www.ptscsca.org.

Pet fundraiser

The nonprofit Paws in Need is organizing a yard sale fundraiser in Pleasanton next month to benefit its spay/neuter program and Jackie Barnett's Just Like New Fund, which provides financial assistance to Tri-Valley pet owners who can't afford urgent veterinary care.

The yard sale is to run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 3 in the side yard of Millflour, located in the historic Kottinger Barn at 200 Ray St.

To make a donation for the yard sale or for more information, contact Ellen Magnie at ellenmagnie@gmail.com or (510) 305-2553.

Commission OKs CarMax superstore

Country's largest used-car retailer would open in Staples Ranch

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton Planning Commission has voted unanimously to approve plans by CarMax, Inc., the country's largest retailer of used cars, to build a regional auto "Superstore" on a 20-acre site at I-580 and El Charro Road on Pleasanton's far northeast side.

The pre-owned car dealership will include three main single-story buildings with heights of up to 24 feet, including a main 13,064-square-foot "sales and presentation" building facing the 580 freeway.

A larger 45,000-square-foot service building will be located farther south, with other buildings, including a non-public car wash, to be built between the freeway and Stoneridge Drive, where the main entry to CarMax will be located.

Keith Henderson, the company's real estate representative from its headquarters in Rich-

mond, Va., told members of the city's Planning Commission that CarMax will occupy 20 of the 37-acre corner of Staples Ranch, already zoned for auto dealerships, leaving two other parcels available for new car dealerships in the future.

At one time, the Hendrick Automotive Group had planned to develop the entire auto mall site, but backed off as the recession hit and chose instead to expand its existing facilities in Pleasanton just off Santa Rita Road.

Henderson said CarMax has grown to over 100 locations since opening its first outlet in 1993 and has sold more than 4 million cars since then.

"Last year we sold 450,000 vehicles at our 130 stores in 55 markets across the country," Henderson said. "Pleasanton will be one of our first stores in the Bay Area."

CarMax also plans to erect a 45-foot-tall pylon sign at the edge of I-580 with a 20-foot-wide illuminated sign in the company's gold, white and blue colors. Ground-level monument signs will

be located at other parts of the site.

Henderson said the Pleasanton site will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday with limited hours on Sunday. The service areas will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CarMax operates differently from traditional car dealerships in that it separates its inventory area from customer and employee parking areas. This is both for loss prevention control as well as operational efficiency and safety, Henderson explained.

Also, CarMax does not use outdoor loudspeakers as sales associates carry pagers and cell phones for communications. In addition, the company does not use flags, balloons, inflatable gorillas or any other animal, placards in open car hoods, painted window lettering or other similar marketing techniques.

CarMax's planned unit development proposal now goes to the City Council, probably in May, for final consideration. ■



JEREMY WALSH

Heads up for eggs!

Above: Vintage Hills Elementary School kindergartners, joined by dozens of their parents and supporters, take part in a class-wide egg drop assignment April 9. Students spent their spring break building 'contraptions' designed to protect a raw egg during a one-story fall from the school roof. Protective devices included bubble wrap, boxes with foam peanuts, parachutes and even a bag filled with blue Jell-O. Thirty-seven of the 46 eggs survived the descent intact.

Right: Teacher Jim McCarthy prepares to drop one student's contraption — fittingly a basket, as the event occurred days before Easter.



JEREMY WALSH

School board reviews ethics, finances

Trustees also hear from union leader, frustrated employees

By JERRI PANTAGES LONG

Trustees became students at the April 8 meeting of the Pleasanton Unified School District board, with back-to-back workshops on ethics and finances.

"We believe in ongoing professional learning as a school district, and this is modeled by our Trustees, who are always willing and interested in learning together as a team," Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi said.

Representatives of the Kingsley Bogard Law Firm led the five elected school board members through a detailed review of laws governing ethics and conflicts of interest. Attorney Mary Bogard cited a 1985 court case, in which it was established that conflict-of-interest laws are designed to halt not only impropriety, but also "the appearance of impropriety."

Attorney Paul Gant reviewed specifics of the Political Reform Act, noting that the underlying principle is to ensure that "public officials are here to serve the public interest."

Each year, school board members, district administrators, school principals and other designated staff members are required to file a form listing their income and assets, including gifts.

Gant said trustees are prohibited from accepting payments for giving a speech or writing an article.

There are exceptions, including returning the unused gift within 30 days; donating it to a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization or paying fair market value for the item. The intent is to prevent decision-makers from being swayed by personal financial gain, either for themselves, their family members or their businesses.

The Board Handbook outlines the "Three D's" for a public official who may be in a conflict of interest prior to a decision: Disclose by publicly announcing the specific financial interest that is the source of the disqualification; do not participate in the discussion or vote upon the issue; and depart, not only from the dais, but also the room during the discussion and vote.

See **ETHICS** on Page 7

Woman arrested after Jack in the Box stabbing

Surveillance video, witnesses lead police to suspect's whereabouts

An employee at a Jack in the Box fast food restaurant in Pleasanton was stabbed multiple times by a female customer early Sunday, according to police.

The suspect, later identified as Jazmine Vasquez, was arrested Sunday afternoon at a family member's home in Dublin.

Police watch commander Lt. Scott Rohovit reported that Pleasanton police, responding to a panic alarm, rushed to the restaurant at 4295 Valley Ave. near Santa Rita Road, and found a male worker with multiple stab wounds at about 4:30 a.m.. The injured man was taken to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, where he was treated and released.

Prior to employees setting off

the panic alarm, Vasquez was last seen fleeing on foot eastbound on Valley Avenue by Jack in the Box workers, according to police, who said multiple eyewitnesses identified Vasquez as the attacker.

Police detectives viewed surveillance video showing a woman retrieving an object from her purse and moments later stabbing the victim in the back and neck area. She was last seen on the video leaving the restaurant and walking east.

Detectives later identified Vasquez as the suspect and connected her to the Dublin address, where she was arrested and taken to the Alameda County Jail in Dublin. ■

—Jeb Bing

A night of teen improv

Creatures of Impulse to create musical onstage

Creatures of Impulse, the Bay Area's award-winning, nationally recognized teen improv troupe based in Pleasanton, is gearing up for its annual spring classic. "TriValley High: The Musical" begins at 7:30 p.m. over three consecutive nights, April 24-26, on the Firehouse Arts Center main stage.

With audience suggestions and participation, the troupe creates a live, full-blown, improvised musical theater production, complete with fresh new characters, stories and songs each night. The troupe members will not know what character they will play until the show starts, and they won't know what songs they will sing until they start singing them.

"I have had audience members come to a show not knowing what to expect, only to have them audition for Creatures and flourish with the genre of improv. Improv is an exciting theatrical medium," said Creatures of Impulse founder and director Mark Duncanson.

He is a seasoned graduate of the Bay Area Theater Sports improv program and continues to perform professionally.

"As a youth worker and teaching artist, I aim to push boundaries and give people what they don't expect," Duncanson said. "I have had COI members try to talk themselves out of being in an improvised musical because they didn't think they could do it, only to discover they have a hidden talent for improvised rap, or that they actually have a great singing voice."

This year's rehearsal coach is improv music veteran David Norfleet. He is an award-winning composer and sound engineer as well as classical musician. He has worked extensively in theater, film and television as well as training and accompanying several generations of improvisers in the art of composing and sing-

'As a youth worker and teaching artist, I aim to push boundaries and give people what they don't expect.'

Mark Duncanson,
Impulse founder and director



COURTESY COI

Victoria Naylor, Morgan Werder and Maddie Peterson practice the art of improv as part of the Creatures of Impulse troupe.

ing songs "on the fly."

"TriValley High: The Musical" features 14 members of the 28-person elite troupe, with ages for this production ranging from 14-18. Troupe members are from Amador, Foothill and Granada high schools.

Graduating seniors Lucy Brillhart, Rita Zwiefel and Noah Rotter each described invaluable life lessons they unexpectedly gained through the improv training and experiences: the importance of making others feel comfortable and safe; how to work as a team; always remember to build up others; the more you give, the more you get; criticism gets you nowhere; don't be afraid of others' judgments; and just do it.

Tickets for "TriValley High: The Musical" are \$2 for students, \$5, adults if purchased by April 19; after that, admission is \$5 students, \$10 adults. Buy online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 931-4848 or in person at the box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

'Discrete' trial planned for State Sen. Leland Yee

21 lawyers for 29 defendants gather in Federal Building courtroom

The trial judge presiding over the criminal case of suspended state Sen. Leland Yee and 28 other defendants said at the first full-scale hearing on the case in federal court in San Francisco last Friday that he expects it to be broken into several smaller trials.

"Whatever takes place will be smaller and more discrete," U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer told a crowd of 21 lawyers and 21 of the 29 defendants gathered in the front of his Federal Building courtroom.

Breyer, referring to a future trial or trials, made the comment after James Brosnahan, a lawyer for former San Francisco school board president Keith Jackson, suggested the case should be divided into at least three different trials because many of the charges are unrelated.

Brosnahan noted that prosecutors had agreed that there should



Leland Yee

be several trials.

"If that's the case, what are we doing with this indictment?" Brosnahan asked.

Various defendants, who also include Raymond "Shrimp Boy" Chow, previously convicted of racketeering, are accused of a wide array of charges, including public corruption, arms trafficking, drug conspiracy, conspiracy to sell stolen cigarettes and a never-completed murder for hire plot. But none are accused of all of the counts.

Also at last Friday's hearing, prosecutors reiterated their statement that they expect a revised grand jury indictment, known as a superseding indictment, within the next three months.

The prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's office said in the filing that they expect additional charges,

possibly including racketeering charges, and possibly additional defendants. They did not say which of the defendants might be charged with racketeering.

Breyer did not set a trial date or decide how to divide the case, but scheduled a July 24 hearing for a status conference on the case. If there has been a superseding indictment, the defendants will be arraigned before a magistrate on the same date.

A hearing was to be held yesterday to finalize a protective order that will provide procedures for releasing of prosecution evidence to defense lawyers and protecting the confidentiality of some of it.

Yee (D-San Francisco/San Mateo) is accused of six counts of defrauding citizens of his honest services by allegedly soliciting and taking campaign contributions in exchange for political favors for donors and one



FREE COMMUNITY E-WASTE RECYCLING

Friday-Saturday, April 18 & 19

Friday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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ValleyCare Auxiliary exceeds 1.6 million volunteer hours

Organization has helped raise over \$6 million for expanded facilities, services, programs

By JEB BING

Since their origination in 1958, even before Valley Memorial Hospital opened, the ValleyCare Auxiliary has given 1.6 million hours of volunteer time and has been responsible for raising more than \$6 million to expand facilities, programs and services.

In addition, according to a report issued this week by Denise Bouillere, the marketing and public relations representative for ValleyCare Health System, the auxiliary has also provided 192 scholarships

to local high school students who were entering college with plans for a medical career.

ValleyCare CEO Scott Gregerson said ValleyCare has been providing not-for-profit, high-quality medical care in the Tri-Valley for more than 53 years.

"The ValleyCare Auxiliary has been there every step of the way making a difference for patients, families, visitors and staff," he said.

"Simply put, our volunteers are an invaluable resource," Gregerson added. "The level of service we are able to provide is enhanced through

'Simply put, our volunteers are an invaluable resource'

Scott Gregerson, ValleyCare CEO

their efforts and we are very grateful for their support."

The ValleyCare Auxiliary is in-

involved in a variety of activities throughout the health system, including escorting wheelchair patients, delivering flowers, staffing the Gift Shop and Thrift Shop, directing visitors at the hospital's information desks, working in the outpatient surgery center and helping staff members in different departments throughout the hospital, Bouillere's report stated.

"You will also find them assisting patrons at the ValleyCare

Health Library, or visiting with a patient in our Cancer Center," she added.

Still, more adult volunteers are needed in the Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin facilities with many positions available. Training is provided and hours and days of service are flexible.

Those interested in becoming part of the ValleyCare Auxiliary should sign on to the group's website at www.valleycare.com/auxiliary, or call 734-3368 for more information. ■

ETHICS

Continued from Page 5

The focus of the next workshop will be on the long-term debt of the district and how it is being managed.

Luz Cazares, deputy superintendent of business services, described the four kinds of long-term debt the school district currently has: general obligation bonds, certificates of participation, capital leases and other post-employment benefits.

As of the June 30, 2013 audit, the school district owed \$65 million for general obligation bonds approved by voters in Measures A and B for school facility renovations and expansions. This year's payment was \$13 million.

Cazares explained that the county determines the tax rate based on assessed valuation and the debt payments due. Currently the district's tax rate is \$92 per \$100,000 assessed valuation, placing it in the middle of the K-12 districts in the county.

The tax rate for the district is expected to drop to \$69 next fiscal year, then to zero in 10 years, when the bonds are paid off, providing that the projection of 2-4% growth per year in assessed valuation holds true. According to Cazares, the district's assessed valuation increased by 4% this year.

Certificates of participation were issued to finance additional high school classrooms, build a child care facility, acquire land for Thom-

as Hart Middle School and pay for the infrastructure for the Neal site. The district currently owes \$17.5 million in this category.

Developer fees were used to pay for certificates of participation, with a special reserve set up for economic times when developer fees might not be available.

The smallest amount of long-term debt is in the capital lease category. The district owes \$215,750 for lighting retrofits and heating/ventilation/air-conditioning at school sites.

This year's payment was \$143,908. The final payment will be made in the 2015-16 fiscal year, and then the money formerly budgeted for this purpose will be added to the fund for technology.

Cazares noted that because the district has been able to reduce the amount it pays for annual debt service, the savings have been set aside in a separate fund for technology. Trustee Chris Grant suggested that the board begin planning a long-term financial strategy not only for school facilities, but also for technology.

The final type of long-term debt is "other post-employment benefits," meaning other than pensions.

The present value of future benefits is \$41 million, with \$17 million accrued actuarial liability. Government Accounting Standard Board Statement No. 45 now requires school districts to demonstrate how they will pay the accrued actuarial liability.

Pleasanton has set aside \$2.4 million in a special reserve fund.

The deputy superintendent said that she may bring a proposal to the board next fall to establish a trust fund to fulfill the obligations for other post-retirement benefits. That looks more feasible now that the economy is improving, she said, since trust funds cannot be tapped for other purposes. No action would be likely before 2015.

The school board has asked staff members to draft a request for proposal to accomplish two tasks: Identify, evaluate and acquire land for an additional elementary school, and explore the possibility of a sale or exchange of real property.

During the brief public comment section that preceded the workshops, two staff members repeated concerns they expressed at the March 11 board meeting.

Mary Snell, health clerk at Walnut Grove Elementary, and Linda Pipe, registrar at Amador Valley High, claimed their reputations have been damaged because they were inaccurately portrayed in an investigative report centered around allegations that then-Walnut Grove principal Jon Vranesh used derogatory language against female teachers and created a hostile work environment.

Vranesh denies allegations of wrongdoing.

Pipe and Snell acknowledged that the superintendent responded to them in writing by March 13, but the pair were not satisfied by Ahmadi's invitation to review their personnel files and add any comments they wished to write out. Both sought apologies.

said after last Friday's hearing, "There is no logical connection between many of the parties in this indictment."

The charges were combined in one document "to make the indictment seem stronger," Briggs alleged.

In a news conference on April 10, Briggs said that Chow had committed no new crimes since his release from prison a decade ago and accused the FBI of fabricating the charges against his client.

He said that the Chee Kung Tong is not a criminal organization and was instead a group of citizens that had banded together to do "beautiful things."

—Julia Cheever, Bay City News

He is accused of selling guns and ballistic vests to an undercover FBI agent, conspiring to distribute drugs and participating in an alleged murder-for-hire plot in addition to taking part in the alleged campaign contribution fraud and international arms trafficking conspiracy.

Chow, who is being held without bail, is the leader of the Chee Kung Tong, a Chinatown-based civic group that is alleged by prosecutors to have a criminal faction. He is accused of money laundering, conspiring to receive stolen property, and conspiring to traffic in contraband cigarettes. Chow pleaded not guilty on Tuesday.

One of his lawyers, Curtis Briggs,

Walnut Grove parent Paige Wright-Henry also spoke to board members, asking them to consider a second investigation into the allegations at her children's school, claiming that the last one was based on "unsubstantiated hearsay."

Another speaker was Alex Sutton, president of the California School Employees Association, who invited board members to "sit down at the table to hear issues," to make sure they were fully informed of what was happening in the school district. ■

YEE

Continued from Page 6

count of conspiring with Jackson to do so. The purported donors were undercover FBI agents.

The senator is also accused of conspiring with Jackson and Daly City dentist Wilson Lim to engage in gun trafficking without a license in connection with an alleged plan to have an undercover agent posing as a Mafia member buy \$2 million in weapons from an arms dealer in the Philippines.

Jackson, a political consultant who was president of the San Francisco Unified School District's Board of Education in 1997, has been released on a \$250,000 bond.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **P14-0011 and PUD-101, MidPen Housing**

Applications for General Plan Amendment and Planned Unit Development (PUD) Rezoning and Development Plan approval to demolish the 90 existing senior apartments at Pleasanton Gardens and Kottinger Place and to construct a 185-unit senior apartment project (Kottinger Gardens) on an approximately 6.43-acre site located at 240 and 251 Kottinger Drive, 4138 Vineyard Avenue, and 4133 Regalia Court. Zoning for the properties are RM-2,500 and RM-4,000 (Multi-Family Residential) Districts and R-1-6,500 (One-Family Residential District). Also consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project.

- **PUD-1040/PUD-81-22-14M/P14-0590, Workday, Inc.**

Applications for: (1) Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning and development plan to construct a six-story, approximately 430,000 square foot office building, parking garage, and related site improvements at 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road (adjacent to the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station); (2) PUD Major Modification to the PUD governing Stoneridge Corporate Plaza (6120-6160 Stoneridge Mall Road); to construct a parking garage, surface parking modifications, and related site improvements and to eliminate the public's use of the private landscaped area between the existing office buildings; and (d) approve Development Agreement to vest the entitlements for the project. Zoning for 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road is PUD-HDR/C (Planned Unit Development-High Density Residential/Commercial) District and zoning for 6120-6160 Stoneridge Mall Road is PUD-C-O (Planned Unit Development-Commercial-Office) District. Also consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project.

- **PUD-85-02-02D-06M, Hendrick Automotive Group**

Application for PUD Major Modification to the existing PUD Development Plan (PUD-85-02-02D) for: (1) the demolition of all existing buildings; and (2) the construction and operation of an approximately 83,300-square-foot automobile showroom and service facility for Lexus of Pleasanton located at 4335-4345 Rosewood Drive. Zoning for the property is PUD-C-C (Planned Unit Development Central Commercial) District.

- **P14-0440, 2015-2023 Housing Element Update**

Status report on the 2015-2023 Housing Element Update and discussion regarding the draft housing site inventory, including the CM Capital site (5758 and 5794 West Las Positas Blvd.) the Irby-Kaplan-Zia site (3760, 3780, 3878 and 3988 Stanley Blvd.) the Pleasant View Church of Christ site (11300 Dublin Canyon Rd.), the Lester site (11033 Dublin Canyon Road), the Shriners Hospital site (10807 Dublin Canyon Road), the Centerpointe Presbyterian site (3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, and 3450 Cornerstone Court), and the Merritt site (4141 Foothill Road).

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

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New state assessments underway in Pleasanton schools

Purpose is to 'test the test,' superintendent says

The Pleasanton Unified School District, along with other districts throughout the state, is participating in a field test of the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) program that will replace the Standardized Testing and Reporting System, also known as the STAR program.

The new test is called the Smarter Balanced Assessment and is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English and math, which California adopted in 2010. The CCSS are a group of nationally recognized standards that

describe what knowledge and skills students need to be well-prepared for college and careers, no matter where they come from or where they live.

"Because we are in a transition year, we will have some paper-based tests along with a field test of the new computer-based tests," Pleasanton Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi said.

In a letter sent to parents of students currently enrolled in PUSD schools, Ahmadi said California school districts are administering two types of tests this year: paper and online.

The purpose, she explained, is to test the test, evaluating testing software and technology, the effectiveness of test administration and training materials, to establish scoring and reporting levels, and to familiarize students, educators and administrators with online testing.

A practice test is available online at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>.

More information is available at the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced web page: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterfieldtest.asp>. ■

— Pleasanton Weekly staff

Business News

Reining in prom expenses

Finance expert gives tips for cutting costs

By JASON ALDERMAN

If you've got teenagers, you already know how expensive high school can be.

Besides food, clothing and school supplies, a whole host of extracurricular activities are competing for a share of your wallet, even as you frantically try to save for college and your own retirement.

One of the biggest expenses you'll encounter is prom. Gone are the days of borrowing dad's suit and crepe paper streamers in the school gym. Today's proms are often more like a Hollywood premiere with limousines, designer gowns and swanky after-parties.

I'm not kidding. According to a recent nationwide survey conducted by Visa Inc., the average U.S. family with a high school student attending the prom expects to spend \$978 this year. Surprisingly, that's down 14% from last year's survey average of \$1,139 per family.

A few other interesting statistics the survey uncovered:

- On average, parents plan to pay for about 56% of prom costs, with their kids picking up the remaining 44%.
- Parents in lower income brackets (less than \$50,000 a year) plan to spend an average of \$733, a considerable share of the family budget. Thankfully, that's down significantly from last year's \$1,245 estimate.
- Those earning over \$50,000 will spend an average of \$1,151.

Here's a breakdown of how those prom dollars typically get spent:

- New prom dresses often cost \$100 to \$500 or more.
- Plan on spending another couple hundred for shoes, accessories, flowers and professionally styled hair, nails and make-up.
- New tuxedos cost several hundred dollars, not to mention the formal shirt, tie, studs and shoes you'll need. Even renting all this will likely run over \$150.



Jason Alderman

- Figure at least \$80 an hour plus tip to rent a limousine for a minimum of four to six hours.
- Prom tickets typically cost \$50 to \$150 per person, depending on venue, entertainment, meals, etc. And don't forget about commemorative photos.
- The couple will probably need at least \$50 for a nice pre-prom meal.
- After-prom parties can run anywhere from a few bucks at the bowling alley to hundreds of dollars for group hotel suites.

As with weddings and vacations, spending on a prom can easily spiral out of control, especially if your teenager isn't used to sticking to a budget. Use this as a learning experience by getting your student involved making tough decisions, helping to prioritize expenses from vital to non-essential.

To help with the prom budgeting process, Visa launched a free smartphone app last year called Plan'it Prom. You simply enter your budgeted amounts for each item and then track actual spending on your phone or tablet as you shop. The app also includes budgeting tips, a photo gallery and a timeline for tracking pre-prom deadlines.

Plan'it Prom is available at the iTunes store, the Google Play store and from www.practicalmoney-skills.com/prom.

Here are a few prom cost-saving ideas:

- Shop for formal wear at consignment stores or online. As with tuxedos, many outlets rent formal dresses and accessories for one-time use.
- Have make-up done at a department store's cosmetics department or find a talented friend to help out.
- Split the cost of a limo with other couples, or drive yourselves.
- Team up with other parents to host a pre-prom dinner buffet or after-prom party.
- Take pre-prom photos yourself and have the kids use their cellphones or digital cameras for candid shots at various events.

Bottom line: You want to ensure your child has a memorable high school experience, but not at the expense of your overall budget.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. Follow him on Twitter, www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

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Hart Middle School plans launch of engineering academy

April 29 open house to offer students, parents previews of programs

By JEB BING

Hart Middle School will host an open house April 29 in preparation for its launch of an engineering academy in the 2014-15 school year.

The program is a national non-profit called Project Lead the Way (PLTW), which will include a project-based engineering/STEM curriculum. Students will learn how to use professional-grade design tools for real-life applications, including design, modeling, automation and robotics.

Students also will make use of AutoDesk Inventor software to sketch, design and solid-model

parts and assemblies, as well as animate and test them using the software. They will create professional design drawings and print parts using a 3D printer.

"Students will then have the opportunity to actually build and test their designs," said Hart teacher Cheri Weinhagen, who planned and will direct the new program.

"Students will learn how to document the design process from conceptual idea to a fully functioning and tested product," she said.

Weinhagen explained that through topics like robotics,

flight and space, and DNA and crime scene analysis, "students will find their natural curiosity and imagination engaged in creative problem-solving."

The PLTW Gateway program will provide a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond, challenging students to solve real-world problems like cleaning oil spills and designing sustainable housing solutions, Weinhagen said.

"Using the same advanced software and tools as the world's leading companies, students will see how the application of math, science, technology and engineering

will affect their everyday lives," she said.

The PLTW engineering program is designed to prepare students to continue with the engineering programs already established at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools.

Current and future Hart students can learn more about the program, as well as other Hart STEM programs, by attending the April 29 open house.

The event will be held from 6-8

p.m. in the school's multipurpose room, located at 4433 Willow Rd. in Pleasanton's Hacienda business park.

Weinhagen said the open house will include exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on activities, including robotics teams. Hart Middle School's jazz band and choir will perform during the event.

For more information, call Weinhagen at the school at 426-3102. ■

State revenue at \$6.4 billion in March

But cash deficit rises to \$16.7 billion

State Controller John Chiang said this week that revenues for March totaled \$6.4 billion, surpassing estimates in the 2014-15 governor's budget by \$470.9 million, or 7.9%.

In his monthly report covering California's cash balance, receipts and disbursements, Chiang said income taxes, corporate taxes and sales taxes received by the state last month were all above estimates.

"As employment in California

nears its pre-recession peak, the state is seeing positive gains in many of its primary revenue sources," he said. "As we enter the important month of April, all eyes will be on the state's income tax receipts and whether they size up against budget estimates."

Last week, the controller launched a new tax tracker site, logging deposits from the state's major taxes through the end of April. The site is updated multiple times a day, using the latest figures available from tax collection agencies.

March income tax receipts ex-

ceeded the latest expectations by \$231.6 million, or 8.6%. Corporate tax receipts came in ahead of estimates by \$130.6 million, or 9.5%. Sales and use taxes were \$22.4 million, or 1.4%, above expectations in the governor's 2014-15 proposed budget.

The state ended the month of March with a General Fund cash deficit of \$16.7 billion, which was covered with internal and external borrowing. That figure was up from last year, when the state faced a cash deficit of \$15.2 billion at the end of March 2013. ■

—Jeb Bing

TAKE US ALONG



At the castle: Kevin and Ruth Young enjoyed the Pleasanton Weekly in Marksburg, Germany along with their longtime friends and former Pleasanton residents Al and Marie Levasseur after touring the Marksburg Castle.

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

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DESSERT
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Easter Services

St. Clare's Episcopal Church

3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton

Holy Week and Easter

Good Friday, April 18

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Noon Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy and Choral Holy Eucharist

Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday April 19

8:00 p.m. with parish choir

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Festive Choral Eucharist with brass and timpani

925-462-4802 • www.stclarespleasanton.org

Holy Week

Lynnwood United Methodist Church

Good Friday with Chancel Choir

Scripture reading of the passion

April 18, 7:30 pm

Easter Celebrations

April 20 at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Choir and Brass

Children's activities and hot-cross buns



Lynnwood

United Methodist Church

4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton

925 846-0221 • www.lynnwood.org



Community Pulse

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made this information available.

April 5

Vandalism

- 3:36 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Burglary

- 3:46 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Battery

- 6:52 p.m. in the 3600 block of Annis Circle

DUI

- 9:10 p.m. at the intersection of Francisco Street and Santa Rita Road

April 6

Theft

- 8:10 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; auto theft
- 9:49 a.m. in the 3700 block of Rocky Mountain Court; theft from structure
- 6:43 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

Vandalism

- 3:02 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive
- 9:52 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Burglary

- 6:50 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Alcohol violation

- 7:49 p.m. in the 600 block of Main Street

April 7

Theft

- 7:20 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; theft from structure

Commercial burglary

- 9:25 a.m. in the 7200 block of Johnson Drive

Battery

- 10:49 a.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Graffiti

- 11:47 p.m. at the intersection of Rocky Creek Place and Sterling Greens Circle

April 8

Theft

- 3:20 a.m. in the 9600 block of Crosby Drive
- 11:29 a.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; shoplifting
- 1:48 p.m. in the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 3:39 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:16 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Drug violation

- 1:57 a.m. at the intersection of Heath Court and Holland Drive

Vandalism

- 2:33 p.m. in the 2000 block of Calle Ricardo
- 4:14 p.m. in the 4100 block of W. Ruby Hill Drive

Residential burglary

- 7:01 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

Alcohol violation

- 9:49 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue

April 9

Theft

- 3:54 a.m. at Bernal Avenue; auto theft
- 9:17 a.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road; theft from structure
- 12:09 p.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; theft from structure
- 4:09 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; bicycle theft
- 8:47 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley

Avenue; theft from structure

Drug violation

- 1:03 p.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

Residential burglary

- 3:39 p.m. in the 8100 block of Canyon Creek Circle

Fraud

- 3:57 p.m. in the 3900 block of Payne Road

April 10

Fraud

- 7:45 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 2:22 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6 p.m. in the 100 block of Peters Avenue

Theft

- 9:04 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; auto theft
- 9:13 a.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

- 10:29 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug violation

- 4:39 p.m. in the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Battery

- 7:46 p.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Alcohol violation

- 11:52 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

April 11

Fraud

- 12:38 p.m. in the 3100 block of Montpelier Court
- 7:07 p.m. in the 5000 block of Owens Drive

Drug violation

- 10:53 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Residential burglary

- 11:38 a.m. in the 4300 block of Payne Road
- 5:30 p.m. in 5700 block of Owens Dr.

Wayne Allan Singleton

February 10, 1959-March 31, 2014

A longtime resident of Pleasanton, Wayne passed away peacefully surrounded by his family.



Family and friends are invited to attend his memorial service to be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 12, 2014, at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin.

Lunch will be served after the service. Donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

PAID OBITUARY

"Support" the fight against breast cancer!

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Breast Cancer Walk

THE SAFEWAY FOUNDATION

107KkIQ

Sat. May 10 7 PM

Downtown Pleasanton

Dessert Buffet
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Benefiting:
Alta Community Health
HERS Breast Cancer Foundation
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
Breast Oncology Program
ValleyCare Charitable Foundation-Breast Cancer Program



www.trivalleysocks.org

GOT GARDEN?

Or maybe you're thinking about planting one this year. There's nothing quite like a rich and fully organic fertilizer that comes from **making your own compost**. Nearly 20% of the materials that you put in the trash are compostable, making it a cost efficient and environmentally-friendly option to consider. Check out the tips here and visit stopwaste.org to learn more about the benefits of composting. Your garden will love it!

Compost Now for a Summer Garden

With spring right around the corner and a summer garden on your mind, here are some tips for composting like a pro!

1. Save your kitchen scraps and add them to the compost pile, they are typically high in nitrogen. Egg shells, coffee grounds, fruits and vegetable peels and scraps are all outstanding materials to add to your bin.
2. Keep your compost aerated! If you are composting with a tumbling composter, make sure you turn it whenever you add new materials. If you use a non-tumbling compost bin, be sure to mix up the contents so that the pile gets oxygen and can break down effectively.
3. If you are composting with a compost pile, bigger is often better because heat builds up with a big pile. You don't want to exceed more than about 3 feet by 3 feet though.
4. Don't let the compost completely dry out. A compost pile needs moisture to keep the composting process active.
5. Don't let compost get too wet so that it gets soggy and smelly. Just as too dry is bad, too wet is also something to avoid.
6. Too much of any one material will slow down the composting process. In general, it's good to keep a mix of green and brown material when composting.

—Compostguide.com



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Zone 7 candidates face tough times

With the statewide primary just a little over six weeks away, voters need to focus attention on the four at-large positions to be decided for the Zone 7 Water Agency board of directors. It's not an agency that normally attracts much interest from voters, but this year is different.

With the area-wide drought at its worst since the mid-1980s, and without more rain possibly at its worst ever level, Zone 7 will be the driving force to force water rationing on the Valley and those elected in the June 3 primary will need the backbone to carry out those decisions.

Zone 7 is one of the smaller water agencies, whose customers are the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, the Dublin San Ramon Services District and Cal Water — with a Zone 7 service population of about 200,000.

Compared to the Easy Bay Municipal Utility District (East Bay MUD), which has 4 million customers, Zone 7 lacks the influence in Sacramento and the infrastructure to obtain and store water from afar as local reservoirs run dry. That's why East Bay MUD has been able to negotiate contracts with the city and county of Sacramento for water from the Sacramento River, while similar bids by the smaller, less influential Zone 7 fall on deaf ears. When East Bay MUD speaks in Sacramento, legislators and regulators listen.

Unlike Zone 7, East Bay MUD — with its large service area and strong financial base — has long had the organization in place, with technical expertise and management professionals, to develop and enact long-term strategic positions. Zone 7 tries, but it lacks the

funds to achieve those same goals. Further, its board and bureaucratic structure have not always been forthright when it comes to stating the realities of the water supply in the Valley.

Those four candidates who will be chosen during the primary election on June 3 will need vision, backbone and transparency in making decisions that will affect the public in the coming months.

This means that mandatory rationing is no longer a concept, it's a reality and one that the new Zone 7 board will have to sell to the customers it serves.

Already, the state has said it will turn off access to the aqueduct that provides our water as it flows to the South Bay through Livermore and along Highway 84. When it's turned off, all that's left for us in the Tri-Valley are Lake Del Valle, which is less than 55% full, and, for Pleasanton, underground aquifers that are less than 50% full because we've been drawing down supply over the last couple of years because of continued dry weather.

This means that mandatory rationing is no longer a concept, it's a reality and one that the new Zone 7 board will have to sell to the customers it serves. Come summer, it's likely we will face a mandatory reduction of 20%, and that could go as high as 35% for busi-

nesses and residential users. Zone 7 will need to take charge of these mandates, a tough job for board members who are little known and whose expertise in handling their job under stress is even less known. Their decisions, once elected, will need to be much more transparent than we've seen in the past.

Zone 7 will also need to work with its customers to find funding for infrastructure needed to accelerate the use of recycled water. Livermore is ahead of other water users in developing recycling plants, and it has enough now to serve eastern Pleasanton along the newly-extended Stoneridge Drive, where purple pipes are in place and service is now provided to the Stoneridge Creek retirement community.

Pleasanton is seeking a 1% interest loan from state water bond grants to add 12-inch pressurized purple pipes to serve Hacienda. The city is also exploring building a "scalping" plant near Bernal Avenue and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to back-flush sewage being pumped there to the DSRSD treatment plant. By forcing this sewage through high-pressure membranes, suitable recycled water can be sent through new purple pipes to Alisal Street with the remaining effluent being sent on its way to the DSRSD plant.

When Callippe Preserve Golf Course was built, Pleasanton placed purple pipes along Alisal to the course. With minimal expense, the scalping procedure developed by Operations Services Director Daniel Smith will be able to pump enough recycled water to Callippe to keep the course green without using potable water that soon will be rationed. ■

GUEST OPINION

Better options for Pleasanton's East Side

BY KARLA BROWN

As your Pleasanton council member I was asked, "Should the city of Pleasanton continue to plan for development of 400 acres of vacant land in East Pleasanton?" Would large-scale development in this area make Pleasanton a better city? Is it required? My answers were NO; we need to look for better options.



Karla Brown

Planning for future development in East Pleasanton began as a way to solve regional housing mandates, but it is no longer needed. Pleasanton has zoned land for 1,245 more residential units than are required! We are set for at least the next seven years; maybe longer. This was a "game changer" for me, which is why I voted to discontinue the current planning process. Even with this new information, I was the only council member who voted to stop the planning process.

Before my election to the City Council, I was a part of the East Pleasanton task force. During that time, I did months of research and heard from many residents regarding their concerns for growth in this area. East Pleasanton is also known as the "Chain of Lakes," a portion of

previously mined quarries located north of Stanley Boulevard, separating Pleasanton and Livermore. Here some facts I took into consideration, before making my decision:

- This area does NOT need to be developed to meet any current local or state mandates, or as part of any legal settlement requirement.
- The 3 nearby lakes (quarry pits) are not suitable for recreation. Two of the lakes are currently banned from human contact and the third is a combination of marsh lands and shallow mud ponds.
- Large-scale development in this area may require the continuation of El Charro Road, plus other roads and infrastructure, estimated to cost \$90 million. In my opinion, it is highly unlikely any large-scale development can absorb this infrastructure cost, thereby placing the burden on current and future taxpayers.
- We were told by the Pleasanton Unified School District that this area may require a new elementary school, at a cost of approximately \$25 million. Older students would have to attend existing already crowded middle and high schools.
- Development in this area will add cut-through traffic and congestion to surrounding neighborhoods.
- Most of East Pleasanton is outside of our city limits, and would require land to be annexed into the city. Some areas are even outside of our

Urban Growth Boundary!

- Large sections of this land are of "geotechnical concern."
- Development ranging from 0 to 2,279 housing units and 1.6 million sq. ft. of industrial space are being studied for environmental impacts. The "Preferred Plan" is 1,759 housing units. Voters approved a 29,000-unit housing cap in 1996. Although it was struck down by the courts, the goal of a small town feel remains. With the Preferred Plan, our total will exceed 30,000 zoned units.

Development in East Pleasanton will be URBAN SPRAWL, not Smart Growth and not Planned Progress. The Preferred Plan, if approved, will increase the burden on our schools, use our limited drinking water, create more traffic and require more police and fire to serve this remote area. No important amenities will be gained, and the impacts will negatively affect current residents.

I think the Chain of Lakes should be evaluated for parks, trails or open space. What do you think? ■

— Karla Brown was elected to the Pleasanton City Council for the term 2012-16, and is a local Realtor. On March 4, she was the only council member who voted to halt further planning of East Pleasanton. She can be reached at KBrown@CityofPleasantonCA.gov.

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Tri Valley Life Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Associate Editor

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 111

Contributors

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

ART & PRODUCTION

Design Director

Shannon Corey

Assistant Design Director

Lili Cao

Designers

Linda Atilano, Rosanna Leung, Paul Llewellyn, Kameron Sawyer

ADVERTISING

Multimedia Account Manager

Mary Hantos, Ext. 222

Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 122

Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 226

Ad Services Manager

Jennifer Lindberg, 650-223-6595

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Zachary Allen, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Sierra Rhodes, Ext. 124

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation email: circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Workshops promote clowning around

Veteran of the big top now loves to train others

By KATE LYNES

Many children, at one point, dream of running away with the circus but they usually lose interest by the time they finish elementary school.

Barry Lubin, who was recently inducted into the International Clown Hall of Fame, actually grew up to live the dream, pursuing a career in circus arts, and experiencing a life of travel, excitement and spontaneity. He is better known as the clown named "Grandma," a 25-year veteran of the New York City-based Big Apple Circus.

Lubin said he originally joined the circus to "see the world on someone else's dime." He feels fortunate to have performed as a clown on six different continents, where he has "met some of the most amazing people and has had exposure to, and learned about, many different cultures."

He is scheduled to hold a workshop for children and adults on April 21 at The Trapeze Arts and Circus School in Oakland; and on April 24 he will teach a physical comedy and clowning class at the San Francisco Clown Conservatory, which offers a year-long program in clowning and theatrical arts.

At both workshops, Lubin plans to focus on character work, improvisation, slapstick, writing physical comedy and other aspects of clowning.

Cieara Gragg, an owner of Balloons and Beyond on Main Street in Pleasanton, is planning to go with a few of her employees who perform as clowns at parties using her balloon arrangements.

"I think they will really benefit from learning how Grandma interacts with his audience, and they will take that experience with them when they are assigned to perform as clowns at parties," Gragg said. "Especially children's parties."

Lubin attended Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Clown College in 1974, learning the necessary skills for his apprenticeship with the U.S. Ringling Brothers national tour, in which he

performed for five seasons. He learned by trial and error, he recalled, testing out new characters and material, and adding his own improvisation.

"The audience taught me what they liked and what they didn't," he noted.

Grandma is his impersonation of the "little old ladies" he would meet as a child on the Atlantic City boardwalk in New Jersey, where he grew up, although he admits that there is a bit of himself in her as well. To create the slightly disheveled character, Lubin couples the traditional clown costume — red nose and all — with a matronly bathrobe and a curly gray wig.

He credits her success to audience members who participated in the act. This also personalized the circus experience for them, he pointed out, making the arena seem more intimate than the traditional, three-ring circuses where he originally performed.

"By working close up, I learned an enormous amount and had a great time learning," Lubin recalled.

When he joined the Big Apple Circus, his first performance was in Acapulco, Mexico. Subsequently, Big Apple asked Lubin to become part of its 1982 Cross-Country Summer Tour, and he remained with Big Apple for the next 25 seasons. During his tenure, Lubin served as creative consultant as well as director of clowning.

After a quarter-

See **CLOWN** on next page



Barry Lubin as himself and as his popular clown persona, Grandma.

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Pleasanton Weekly

READERS CHOICE
2014

It's almost time!

Look for the Readers' Choice Ballot in the next issue of the Pleasanton Weekly

Voting starts online April 25th – PleasantonWeekly.com

Camp Connection



FAMILY FEATURES

With swimming among the most popular summertime activities, poolside safety should be a priority for children and parents.

7 pool safety measures

Tips to protect child and adult swimmers alike

Warmer weather brings leisurely days spent poolside with friends and family. As you get ready to dive in to another season of fun in the sun, remember that safety comes first.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the fifth leading cause of unintentional injury death in the United States. Children are particularly at risk; one in five drowning victims is age 14 or younger.

The CDC cites "lack of swimming ability, lack of barriers to prevent unsupervised water access, lack of close supervision while swimming" as some of the leading risks associated with drowning.

• Here are seven swimming safety tips to help reduce pool injuries and accidents.

1. Designate a "lifeguard." Always pick at least one responsible adult to monitor children at all times.
2. Know CPR: The faster CPR can be admin-

istered to a person in distress, the stronger the long-term outcome.

3. Enroll kids in swimming lessons: Teach the skill of swimming to children at a young age. Enroll kids in classes to learn the basics and avoid accidents.

4. Teach the parts of a pool: Show children where to locate the drains, pipes and other pool openings. Explain the importance of avoiding these areas while swimming as they can cause harm.

5. Keep an eye in the sky: Storms can strike at any time in the summer. Be aware of the current weather and the day's forecast before you jump in for a swim.

6. Don't rely on toys: Swimming noodles, inner-tubes and other inflatable pool toys do not take the place of a life jacket.

7. Keep a phone close: Always keep a cell phone or portable phone with you while supervising kids in the pool.

— Family Features

CLOWN

Continued from previous page

century, Lubin left the Big Apple Circus in 2012 to experiment with other opportunities in clowning. He also wanted to pursue his interests of teaching, writing, directing and mentoring.

Lubin currently resides in Stockholm with his Swedish girlfriend, Ann. He said he is involved in the clown community there and has met numerous people in the Swedish circus business.

But he is back in the United States for a couple of months, spending a few days with his family in New Jersey, and has also booked circus and theater engagements.

In the Bay Area, Lubin will be working with fellow clowns, Michelle Musser and Nathan Holguin, who are meeting up with him for an intensive week-long collaboration on their latest show. And he will be presenting the two public workshops.

Call Trapeze Arts at (510) 419-0700 for more information about Lubin's April 21 workshop. Call the San Francisco Circus Center at (415) 759-8123 to learn about Lubin's April 24 physical comedy and clowning class or email info@circuscenter.org.

Gragg thinks that her Balloons and Be-

yond employees who perform at parties as Disney princesses, as opposed to clowns, will also benefit from Grandma's workshops.

"They will learn tricks from Grandma about how to engage the audience, keep their interest and elicit their participation," Gragg said.

Her balloon artists are also attending to hone their clowning abilities and learn to stay in character while twisting balloon animals, a talent that will be on display at Pleasanton First Wednesday Street Parties.

Since his debut as a world-class clown, Lubin has appeared multiple times on David Letterman's show and has been featured in movies and shows, including CBS's "Circus of the Stars." Lubin has also directed comedy segments for MTV and served as a creative consultant for the NBC series, "Cheers."

Chasing after a full and interesting life, Lubin has truly "run away with the circus." He has achieved his dream of a life in the circus and now enjoys sharing his passion for the circus arts by teaching his clowning skills to the next generation of performers.

— Kate Lyness is the Pleasanton Weekly's youth correspondent. She is a junior at Amador Valley High School.

Join us for a peek at the Unique!

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Classes

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department is offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training, from 6-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, May 7-June 11 at the fire training tower located at the City of Pleasanton Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road. Registration required, space is limited. Contact 454-2361 or CERT@LPfire.org. Go to <http://www.lpfire.org>.

Clubs

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

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON NORTH

Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at the Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Drive. Call 556-2333 or visit www.pnr-rotary.org.

Concerts

EOS ENSEMBLE Enjoy a wonderful chamber music program with Piano Quartet #2 in E-flat by Mozart; Piano Quartet in A minor by Joaquin Turina; and Piano Quartet #1 in G minor by Brahms from 8-10 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$23-\$35. Call 373-6800 or go to www.mylvpac.org. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.

RALPH WOODSON UNPLUGGED

Ralph Woodson Unplugged will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23 at Main Street Brewery. Ralph plays acoustic guitar and sings to prerecorded backing tracks acoustic blues, Rock and Jazz. Call 462-8218. Main Street Brewery, 830 Main St., Pleasanton.

Events

BRUNCH IN LIVERMORE The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California invite you for Brunch at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2801 Constitution Drive, Livermore. RSVP to Ruby by April 24 at 462-9636 or hskooq@comcast.net.

CROSSROADS DOLL AND BEAR SHOW

This lighthearted show and sale is for enthusiasts of all ages with a sales floor packed with dolls, teddy bears, antiques, miniatures, clothes supplies, and more - from antique to modern and the carefully hand crafted. This family friendly show will be from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on

Saturday, April 26 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$7, \$4 for children. Call (775) 348-7713 or go to www.crossroadsshows.com.

FREE ANNUAL COMMUNITY E-WASTE COLLECTION

Free Community E-Waste Collection from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday, April 18 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 at the City's Operations Services Center, 3333 Busch Road. Free to Pleasanton residents who should be prepared to show identification to confirm their residency. Call (866) 335-3373. For a list of accepted items, go to <http://noewaste.com/calendar.php>.

GLITZ AND GLAMOUR

The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop at 1989E Santa Rita Road invites you to its annual jewelry event, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, April 25; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 26; and noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. This event will feature fine, vintage, and costume jewelry as well as women's accessories. Call 462-7374.

GNON'S SPRING FLING TRADE SHOW!

GNON and Lois Cox of Prudential California Realty invite all women to come to this fabulous event from 5-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23 at Prudential California Realty, 4725 First St., Suite 150. Shop at 14 booths! Bring business cards and friends, and enjoy a glass of wine from White Crane Winery. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. RSVP and prepay required by April 21. Visit www.gnon.org/monthly-mixer.html.

HONORING CANCER SURVIVORS EVENT

The Honoring Cancer Survivors Event will be from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 at the Pleasanton Marriott Hotel. Join for refreshments and inspiration. Contact Lisa Brown, event chairman, at lisab364@gmail.com for information. Send names of survivors who can attend in advance. Go to relayforlife.org/pleasantonca.

PLEASANTON VIP CLUB HAWAIIAN LUAU

Pleasanton Senior Center VIP Club presents a Hawaiian Luau from noon-1:45 p.m. on Monday, April 21 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Hui Hula O Na Pu'Uika Noe plus prizes! Lunch offered for \$8. Call 931-5385.

PTSCA CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

Join the Pleasanton Tulacingo Sister City Association for a Cinco de Mayo open house at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 4 at the Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Ave. There will be music, presentations, art, mementos and refreshments. Bring friends and family! Go to www.ptsca.org.

SPRING CELEBRATION AT ALVISO ADOBE COMMUNITY PARK

Come to the Spring Celebration from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 at Alviso Adobe Community Park. Children ages 4 and up can dye eggs, explore the park in an egg fact search, compete in an egg drop, and visit with

rabbits hosted by Abbie 4-H Club. Cost is \$20 for residents, \$23 for non-residents. Call 931-3485 or go to www.pleasantonfun.com.

STOP HUNGER NOW MEAL PACKAGING EVENT

Help package 10,000 meals for hungry people around the world with Stop Hunger Now and Lynnewood United Methodist Church at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 19 at 4444 Black Ave. Volunteers of all ages needed. Call 846-0221 or go to www.lynnewood.org or www.stop-hunger-now.org.

Fundraisers

BE STRONG SWIM-A-THON

The first Annual Be Strong and Give Back Happiness Swim-a-Thon will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, April 27 at Pleasanton Valley Swim Club, 5140 Golden Road. Proceeds benefit Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland. Reserve your lane today by visiting www.bestrongswimathon.eventbrite.com

BLUE STAR MOMS 4TH CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join in supporting Blue Star Moms at their Charity Golf Tournament from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Friday, April 25 at Callipe Golf Course. Entry fee is \$200 and includes a Mobile Pro Shop, green fee and Cart, lunch and dinner, and much more. Call 426-6666 or go to www.playcallippe.com.

KOLB'S SPRING JUBILEE

Kolb Elementary School will hold its Spring Jubilee from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 at 3150 Palermo Way, Dublin. There will be fun booth games, vendors, and gourmet food trucks at the event. Raffle and game tickets are available for purchase on the day of the event.

MAGICAL EVENING AT CASTLEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Join a magical evening to benefit the Tri-Valley YMCA at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24 at Castlewood Country Club. With wine tasting, live and silent auctions, dinner, music and fun all for a great cause! Tickets are \$50. Contact Kelly Frye at 263-4444 or kfrye@ymcaeastbay.org.

PAWS IN NEED YARD SALE

Paws In Need will hold a one-day Yard Sale event on from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, May 3 in the side yard of Milfleur, 200 Ray Street, with new and gently used items such as home and garden décor, jewelry, and more. Proceeds go to Jackie Barnett's Just Like New Fund and the Spay/Neuter program. Contact Ellen at (510) 305-2553 or ellenmagnie@gmail.com.

PRIMAVERA DINNER DANCE

Branch #285 of the Italian Catholic Federation will host its annual Primavera Dinner Dance starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 3 at St Michael's Church, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Dance to the live music of The Mellotones. Raffle and prizes. Tickets are \$35, reservations

required by May 1. Proceeds go to Tri-Valley scholarship program and other charities. Call Anna at 484-1523.

YOURS HUMANLY COMEDY NIGHT WITH JAY PHAROAH

Get ready for an evening of laughs to support a good cause. Join a comedy night with SNL comedian Jay Pharoah at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 at Tommy T's. Proceeds go to Yours Humanly, which helps empower underprivileged children around the world through education. Tickets are \$25, and must be purchased through Yours Humanly. Contact 680-9700 or info@yourshumanly.org. Go to www.yourshumanly.org.

Holiday

PASSOVER WITHOUT MIRACLES COMMUNITY SEDER

This progressive secular potluck seder will feature English-language haggadah with lots of music from the Jewish and Civil Rights traditions, followed by a non-kosher-for-Passover potluck dinner, from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 at the Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St. Livermore. Cost is \$15 for non-members plus potluck contribution. Reservations required. Contact (510) 888-1404 or reservations@Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org.

TRI-VALLEY ICE EASTER EGG HUNT

TriValley Ice is Proud to Present its first Spring Celebration from noon-2 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 at 6611 Preston Ave. Suite D, Livermore. Come see the new ice skating rinks. There will be an egg hunt with four age waves, along with face painting, balloons, arts and crafts and games! All participants will receive a prize just for showing up!

Lectures/ Workshops

DIET AND AUTISM Do you suspect that food is affecting yours or your child's mood or classroom performance? Coach Kim Rice will discuss how certain foods can affect brain function and behavior in both children and adults at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 24 at the Pleasanton

Library. Call 931-3400, ext. 4.

FREE PARENT EDUCATION SERIES

The free Parent Education Series continues with "The Wonder Years: Transition to Middle School" presented by On the Edge of Coaching from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23 at the Pleasanton Library. Call 931-3434 or go to <http://ptownlife.org/parent-education-series>.

On Stage

CREATURES OF IMPULSE PRESENTS 'TRI-VALLEY HIGH: THE MUSICAL'

See one, two, or all three nights of the Bay Area's only improvised teen musical. Audience suggestions inspire so no show is ever the same. Showing at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 24-26 at Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$5, \$2 for students before April 19; \$10, \$5 for students. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

Seniors

FREE MEMORY SCREENING FOR SENIORS

Caring Solutions is sponsoring free memory assessment on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Call 556-4511 for a 30-minute appointment. Preregister by the Monday prior to reserve an appointment. Informational materials are available at the Senior Center.

Support Groups

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR SUPPORT GROUP

If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about this common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us from 10 a.m.-noon on the third Saturday of each month, in the Blackhawk A and B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. For more information, view their blog at www.eastbayet.com or call 487-5706 or email eastbayet@comcast.net.

PET OF THE WEEK



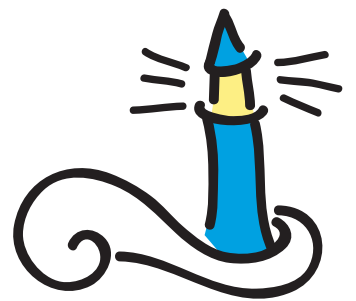
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Class: Autos Wanted

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Paseo Catalina, Pleasanton, Multiple Families participating. Housewares, sporting equipment, baby items, clothing. Quality items at fair prices.

245 Miscellaneous
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995 Fictitious Name Statement
GOING AMERICAN FAB
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 489183
The following person(s) doing business as: GOING AMERICAN FAB, 11582 MANZANITA LANE, DUBLIN, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leroy Richardson, 11582 Manzanita Lane, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Leroy Richardson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/14/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2014)

HAPPY ACRE FARM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 489258
The following person(s) doing business as: HAPPY ACRE FARM, 505 PALOMA WAY, SUNOL, CA 94586, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Helen Tuman, 957 Sunnyhills Road, Oakland, CA 94610; Matthew Sylvester, 3631 Virden Avenue, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by a General partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Helen Tuman. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/17/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 4, 11, 18, 25; 2014)

ELDER BUDDY OF THE TRI-VALLEY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT
File No.: 489376
The following person(s) doing business as: ELDER BUDDY OF THE TRI-VALLEY, 4636 2ND STREET, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ray E. Zarodney, 4636 2nd Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Ray E. Zarodney. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/19/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 4, 11, 18, 25; 2014)

CASE CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 489153
The following person(s) doing business as: CASE CONSULTING, 3679 CENTRAL PARKWAY, DUBLIN, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mark A. Case, 3679 Central Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568; Barbara J. Case, 3679 Central Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Mark A. Case. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/13/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 4, 11, 18, 25; 2014)

ZWIRL SPORTS, INC.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 489504
The following person(s) doing business as: ZWIRL SPORTS, INC., 2371 GLORIA COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): RENWIN Corporation, 2371 Gloria Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 03/01/2014. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/21/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 11, 18, 25, May 2; 2014)

QUEST CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 490096
The following person(s) doing business as: QUEST CONSULTING, 1047 SERPENTINE LANE, #300, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cort Allen, 366 Christina Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 09/1984. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 04/08/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 18, 25, May 2, 9; 2014)

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