



African American Aviators
OAKLAND AVIATION MUSEUM TO HOST PROGRAM
SATURDAY ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AVIATORS..... 2

WEEKEND WEATHER
Cloudy Partly cloudy Friday
the sunny thru Sunday
HIGHS: 66-73
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 46-52

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

AN INDEPENDENT HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SERVING SAN LEANDRO, ASHLAND, SAN LORENZO AND SHEFFIELD VILLAGE

VOL. 34 • NO. 8

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO COURTESY SAN LEANDRO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This storybook style house on Pala Avenue was on the Historical Society's 2022 tour. The Historical Society is looking for houses to join this year's tour.

Tour Looking for Historical Homes

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro Historical Society is looking for historic, unique or architecturally representative homes to include on its third annual Architecture & Home Tour on May 18.

"We'd like homes that reflect a particular architectural style or a particular time in San Leandro's history," said

Cynthia Simon of the historical society. "We would also like homes that are unique or have special character in some way, or connect to a historic person."

Simon noted that the home of Daniel Best is on this year's tour. The Best Manor neighborhood is named after him.

Each year's homes are featured in a tour book the society prints for people

going on the tour. It includes color photographs of the homes, along with a discussion by an architectural historian, detailing the homes' architectural styles and notable features. Historical photos of San Leandro homes and other buildings are also included.

"The stories of our homes are the story of the history of San Leandro

see HOMES, page 11

Pridgen Out; New Interim Chief Coming

San Leandro to hire another interim police chief this spring

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

San Leandro is shuffling its police chiefs around. Abdul Pridgen is out and another interim chief is on the way in.

Current Interim Chief Kevin Hart is going back to retirement at the end of April, and a new interim police chief, Angela Averiett, is coming to town from Los Altos, according to City Manager Fran Robustelli in a press release on Wednesday.

The city manager's press release this week said, "San Leandro Police Chief Abdul Pridgen's last day in his posi-

tion was February 20, 2024."

Pridgen – San Leandro's first Black police chief – had been on paid administrative leave since September 11, 2023, following what the city manager described as "allegations regarding department policy violations."

The city hired Kramer Workplace Investigations of Danville to conduct an inquiry into whether Pridgen violated department policy. The investigation wrapped up in late December 2023 and gave its

see CHIEF, page 5

Police Arrest Man For Running Brothel

By Mike McGuire
Special to the Times

Most of the time, it's a quiet block not far from Marina Park. But some residents of Samoa Road had noticed odd things happening at one neighbor's house.

On February 17, San Leandro police served a search warrant and arrested a neighbor for running a brothel

out of his home.

Jianhua Chen, 60 was charged under prostitution laws, according to San Leandro police Lt. Abe Teng.

Two residents who were initially arrested along with Chen were released without the district attorney filing

see ARREST, page 11

Governor Sending Lawyers to DA's Office To Help Fight Organized Retail Theft

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

California Governor Gavin Newsom is sending CHP officers and lawyers to Alameda County to help stop and prosecute organized retail crime, fentanyl-related drug offenses, carjacking, and retail theft, District Attorney Pamela Price's office said last Thursday.

The extra help is needed.

Alameda County saw a 65 percent increase in commercial burglaries reported from just over 200 (per 100,000 population) in 2020 to 335 in 2022, according to a 2023 Public Policy Institute of California analysis of California Department of Justice crime stats. These crimes involve force or a threat of force and include department stores, grocery stores, convenience

stores, gas stations, restaurants, and hotels.

"We welcome the assistance offered by Governor Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta to increase our capacity to prosecute any additional cases generated by the increased presence of CHP officers in Oakland and Alameda County," said Price.

The DA's office notes that drug and car theft are also

being addressed since there is often a correlation between these crimes.

"Together, we can leverage data, connect incidents, and ultimately resolve cases, providing a sense of justice for retailers hard hit by retail theft," said Tara Regan Anderson, assistant chief of administration and operations with the DA's office.

see LAWYERS, page 11

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

PETS

Meet Pearl and Valentino at the shelter. **Page 2**

COMMUNITY

Crab feeds support good causes. **Page 3**

SENIORS

Good food is the best source of vitamins. **Page 5**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL
Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD
Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call Michelle Mayfield at 667-3522.



San Leandro Times

An independent hometown newspaper serving San Leandro, Ashland, San Lorenzo and Sheffield Village

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Pets of the Week



Pearl

Pearl is a 2-year-old Shepherd mix. Pearl likes to play with toys, once she warms up to you. Pearl would do best in a home with teens and up.

Valentino is a 3-year-old pitbull-corgi mix. He's a sniffer, and loves to rub his body on you like a big cat. Valentino is



Valentino

spunky and would love to be the peanut butter to your jelly. Valentino is suited for older kids and up.

To meet or adopt Pearl or Valentino, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

Correction

In the story on the criticism of the ballot question for the school bond measure, Measure J ("Alameda County Grand Jury Association Gives Ballot Question Low Marks on Impartiality," Feb. 15, 2024) the beginning of the story referred to the measure as Measure M. It should have read Measure J.

Oakland Aviation Museum Program To Celebrate African-American Aviators

The Oakland Aviation Museum, 8252 Earhart Road in Oakland, will host a presentation on African Americans who have had an impact on aviation on Saturday, Feb. 24, at noon.

Each year, in February, we reflect on the legacy of African Americans who have dedicated their lives to advancing civil rights, equity, and economic justice. In addition, the Oakland Aviation Museum will celebrate two examples of achievements by African-Americans in aviation, presented by Conway Jones, Jr.:

Bessie Coleman, an early American civil aviator who was the first African-American woman to hold a pilot's license, and the Tuskegee Army Airfield, the first African American fighter pilots and crew



PHOTOS COURTESY OAKLAND AVIATION MUSEUM

Bessie Coleman was the first African-American woman to hold a pilot's license.

in the US Army Air Corp in World War II.

The program will also cover the African-Americans who have an impact on the future of aviation, our nation, and the world.

General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., 21st Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the advisor to the president on military issues, including military aviation.

Victor Glover is one of the four-member crew scheduled to man NASA's Artemis II mission that will launch in November to orbit the moon.



NASA astronaut Victor Glover is part of the 4-member crew who will take off on the Artemis II mission in November to orbit the moon.

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Community Calendar

African Americans in the Arts

The Hayward Area Historical Society will host a panel of Black artists who will discuss how their art represents their experiences as African Americans on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 10 a.m. at the Downtown Hayward Library, 888 C St. in Hayward. The artists will share their thoughts on the preservation of Black history, and how art is a form of empowerment. No charge for admission. Registration is requested and available at www.haywardareahistory.org

IDES Pancake & Bingo Breakfast

IDES St. John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will have a Pancake Breakfast & Bingo on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$15 per person, \$5 for kids up to 12. Price includes a pancake breakfast and four Bingo cards. Extra Bingo cards can be purchased for 25 cents each. For tickets, call Janet Re at 510-483-1132, Willie Calvo at 510-207-6326, or Kathy Dunlap at 775-722-8208.

American Legion Post 117 Sunday Breakfast

San Leandro American Legion Post 117 will serve its monthly Sunday breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, tea and juice. Donation is \$7 for veterans and \$8 for non-veterans.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The San Leandro Church of Christ, 601 MacArthur Blvd., will host a Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 1-800-733-2767 for an appointment, or sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: SANLEANDRO (no space) Entry is off the back parking lot. Let's save some lives together. Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors.

How the Cannery Shaped San Leandro

Learn "How the Cannery Shaped San Leandro" at the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., on Saturday, March 2, from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Also, you can create a strawberry jam to take home. This program is for ages 10+, adult supervision is required. Registration is required for either time slot, spaces are limited. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/slcanery> to register for either time slot. Email historymuseum@sanleandro.org if you have any questions.

Castro Valley Orchestra Free Concert

Castro Valley Orchestra will perform a free concert on Sunday, March 3, at 2 p.m. at Grant-Miller Mortuary's historic chapel at 2850 Telegraph Ave., in Oakland. There is parking in the back of the building. The orchestra will perform works by Faure, Warlock, Jacob, and Ewazen.

SL High United Parents Crab Feed

The San Leandro High School United Parents will host a crab feed on Friday, March 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, 2200 San Leandro Blvd. Tickets are \$70. Order by March 1. (www.32auctions.com/SLHSUPCrabFeed2024) Pre-sold tickets only. No-host bar and dessert bar, raffle, auction items. All proceeds fund programs directly supporting students. For more information or if you need to pay by check, email slhsunitedparents@rates@gmail.com.

Arroyo Athletic Boosters Crab Feed

Arroyo Athletic Boosters will hold their Crab Feed Fundraiser on Saturday, March 16, from 4:30 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$75 for adults, \$50 for kids 6 to 12. All you can eat cold crab, salad, pasta, bread. Raffle Prizes, DJ, No-Host Bar. Tickets: <https://ahs.slzsd.org/apps/pages/arroyocrabfeed>

The Joy of Textile Art

Textile art by members of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland is on display through April 9 at the Hayward Area Historical Society Museum, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. The display showcases a collection of 40 quilts by East Bay artists, as well as the culture, heritage, and traditions of African American quilting.

San Leandro Scholarship Foundation Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction

The San Leandro Scholarship Foundation is hosting its annual Scholarship Dinner and Silent Auction to benefit

graduating seniors on Thursday, March 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St. in

San Leandro.

A social time and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by students from the San Leandro High School Orches-

tra, Jazz Band, and performers from Mamma Mia, and the keynote speaker will be Carolina Ixta, SLUSD teacher and award-winning author.

To donate or purchase tickets visit <https://www.sanleandrosf.com> or for

more information, contact Chad Pennebaker at sanleandrosf@gmail.com, or 510-289-9225.

The scholarships go to local graduating seniors who are going to college or trade school.

SLHS United Parents Crab Feed on March 9

The San Leandro High School United Parents will host a crab feed on Saturday, March 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, 2200 San Leandro Blvd.

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Pre-sold tickets only. No-host bar and dessert bar, raffle, auction items.

All proceeds fund programs directly supporting students. For more information or

if you need to pay by check, email slhsunitedparents@rates@gmail.com.

Women's History Month Tiny Art Show at the Library

The San Leandro Public Library is celebrating Women's History Month this March by honoring women artists with their 3rd Annual Tiny Art Show.

Register at the Main Library information desk to receive a mini art kit and create your masterpiece inspired by a woman artist now through Feb-

ruary 29, while supplies last.

Kit includes a 3" x 3" canvas, paint and brushes along with some ideas to help you get started. Participants are invited to submit their work to be part of the show which will be up throughout March.

Visit the library's website for more information at sanleandrolibrary.org

Lorenzo Named to Dean's List

Saia Lorenzo of San Leandro, Calif. was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2023 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year.

The College of the Holy

Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition since its founding in 1843.

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Hearty Stew for a Perfect Supper

Nothing warms the body on these cold, wintry nights like a steaming bowl of stew, a combination of vegetables – and usually some meat – simmered gently in natural juices. Stews are nutritious one-dish meals that are easy on the cook and sure to be welcomed at the dinner table.

LEGACY BEEF STEW

Special enough for company, but delicious anytime, this unique stew needs nothing more than a good crusty bread to make a warming, nutritious winter meal.

- 2 pounds beef stew meat
- 1 tablespoon each oil and butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, diced

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

V	I	M	O	L	E	T	A	P	R	E
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D	I	E	E	V	A	D	E	R	E	O
E	R	S	L	E	A	S	T	F	O	B

LEGAL NOTICE

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Attorney for Successor Trustee,
BETTY WONG

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
PROBATE DIVISION - BERKELEY COURTHOUSE

In re the POLLY F. WONG and SHU K. WONG
REVOCABLE TRUST (the "Trust") created
September 21, 2001 as amended by Polly F. Wong
and Shu K. Wong as Settlers/Trustees,
Decedents.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named Decedents, that all persons having claims against the Decedents are required to file them with the Superior Court located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, California 94704 and mail or deliver a copy to Betty Wong as Successor Trustee of the Trust dated September 21, 2001 as amended wherein the Decedents were the Settlers in care of Law Office of Kristina E. Rubio, 1177 Branham Lane, #408, San Jose, California 95118 within the later of four (4) months after the date of the first publication of the notice to creditors or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, sixty (60) days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you. A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.

LAW OFFICE OF KRISTINA E. RUBIO

Dated: May 17, 2023

Kristina E. Rubio

By: Kristina E. Rubio, Esq.
Title: Attorney for Successor Trustee, Betty Wong

Case No. RP23143941

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(PROBATE CODE
SECTION 19003 et seq)



- 1 inch fresh ginger, peeled and diced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Dash cayenne pepper
- 4 cups beef broth
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 cup red wine (optional)
- 4 to 6 carrots

- 1/2 winter squash
- 3 white potatoes
- 3 sweet potatoes
- 8 small white onions
- 8 whole cloves
- 1 pound green beans
- 1/2 pound small prunes

In large, heavy stewing pot, brown meat in oil-butter mixture. Set meat aside. Add chopped onion, garlic, and ginger to pot and saute. Add salt, black and cayenne peppers, and continue cooking for a few more minutes. Return meat to pot, add broth, bay leaf, and red wine. Add wa-

ter to cover if necessary. Bring to a boil and cook, uncovered, for 20 minutes, adding more water as needed.

Meanwhile, peel and cut up carrots, squash, and white and sweet potatoes. Peel onions and stick a whole clove into each. Wash, trim, and cut up green beans. Reduce heat. Place carrots and onions over top of stew; cover and steam for 10 minutes, then stir into meat. Repeat this procedure with sweet potatoes and beans. Repeat with squash and white potatoes. Check all for tenderness and correct seasoning. About 15 minutes before serving, lay prunes over top of stew. Cover and steam gently until soft. Makes 8 servings.

CROCK-POT BEEF STROGANOFF

- 2 pounds beef chuck, trimmed of excess fat and cut into 3-inch-long slices 1/2 inch thick
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 pound white mushrooms, trimmed and halved
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- Cooked thin egg noodles, for serving

Chopped fresh dill, for garnish
In a 5- to 6-quart slow cooker, toss beef, onion, and mushrooms with 1-1/2 teaspoons salt and teaspoon pepper. Cover, and cook on low until meat is tender, about 8 hours (or on high for 6 hours).

In a 2-cup glass measuring cup, whisk cornstarch with 2 tablespoons water. Ladle 1 cup cooking liquid into measuring cup; whisk to combine. Pour into a small saucepan, and bring to a boil; cook until thickened, about 1 minute. With slow cooker turned off, stir in

cornstarch mixture, then sour cream and mustard. Serve beef over noodles; sprinkle with dill, if desired. Yields 8 servings.

WINTER VEGETABLE RAGOUT

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 4 large carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 4 cups butternut squash, cut into cubes
- 2 medium red onions, cut into thin strips
- 2 cups coarsely chopped green cabbage (optional)
- 2 medium turnips, coarsely chopped
- Salt and black pepper
- 1/3 cup vegetable or chicken stock
- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- 2 plum tomatoes, cut into cubes
- 3/4 teaspoon dried thyme or rubbed sage

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Toss the carrots, butternut squash, red onions, cabbage, and turnips with the olive oil and arrange the vegetables in a large roasting pan. Season the vegetables with salt and pepper to taste and then roast them in the oven, uncovered, for 30 minutes.

Stir the vegetable stock, white wine, tomatoes, and thyme or sage into the vegetables and continue roasting them for 45 minutes to 1 hour, stirring occasionally, until the sauce has thickened considerably and the vegetables have started to caramelize. Serves 6.

This winter vegetable stew recipe makes 6 servings.

CHICKEN STEW

- 8 skinless chicken drumsticks
- Salt and ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 large carrot, diced large
- 1 large celery stalk, diced large
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled
- 1 large russet potato, diced large
- 1 pound collard greens, stems removed, leaves torn
- 1 (48-ounce) can vegetable juice
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons white vinegar

Season chicken generously with salt and pepper. In a 6-quart Dutch oven or heavy pot, heat oil over medium-high. Cook chicken until brown on all sides, 10 to 12 minutes; transfer to a plate. Add onion, carrot, celery, and

garlic to pot; cook until onion softens, 3 minutes. Add potato and collard greens; cook until greens begin to wilt, 3 minutes.

Return chicken to pot; add vegetable juice and Worcestershire. Bring to a boil; reduce to a medium simmer, partially cover, and cook until chicken is separating from the bone and vegetables are tender, about 45 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and stir in vinegar just before serving. Serves 6.

LENTIL STEW

- Grape seed oil
- 1 cup of dry lentils
- 1/2 cup chopped corn
- 1/2 cup of chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup of chopped carrots
- 1 garlic clove
- 1/2 cup of red wine
- Dash of soy sauce
- Sprinkle of oregano

In a large pot, over high heat, pour some grape seed oil and add onion, garlic, celery, carrots and corn. When the ingredients have softened, add the wine and soy sauce and turn down the heat to medium-high. Then add the lentils, oregano and 4 cups of water and cook for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

CARIBBEAN BEEF STEW

- 1 pound beef stew meat
- 2 large sweet potatoes (about 1-1/4 pounds), peeled, cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 medium onion, cut into thin wedges
- 1 tablespoon jerk seasoning mix
- 1 (14-1/2 ounce) can beef broth
- 1/2 cup thickly sliced Lindsay pimiento-stuffed Spanish olives
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons water
- Chopped cilantro or parsley, optional

Toss meat with jerk seasoning. Brown in large saucepan or Dutch oven in 1 tablespoon butter or olive oil. Add onion; cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add broth; bring to simmer, cover and simmer 45 minutes. Stir in sweet potatoes; continue to simmer, covered, 45 minutes or until beef and vegetables are tender. Stir in olives.

Combine 1 tablespoon cornstarch and 2 tablespoons water; mix well. Stir into stew. Simmer, uncovered, until thickened, about 5 minutes. Garnish with cilantro, if desired. Makes 4 servings.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Stop being the wool-gathering Lamb and start turning that dream project into a reality. You have the ideas, drive and charisma to persuade others to follow your lead, so do it.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): You've scored some big successes. But remember that all hard-working Ferdinands and Ferdinandas need some time to restore their energies and refresh their spirits.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're gaining a stronger mental image of what you're trying to achieve. Now look for the facts that will help get this to develop from a concept into a solid proposal.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Some of you eager-to-please Moon Children might want to delay some decisions until midweek, when you can again think more with your head than your heart.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): A new business venture seems to offer everything you've been looking for. But be careful that this rosy picture doesn't betray traces of red ink under the surface.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): A volatile situation needs the kind of thoughtful and considerate care you can provide right now. There'll be plenty of time later to analyze what might have gone wrong.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Your loyalty to a friend in a tough situation earns you respect from the people you care about. Those who criticize you don't understand what friendship is all about.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your strong work ethic is rewarded with the kind of challenging opportunity you love to tackle. Now go ahead and celebrate with family and/or close friends.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): A legal matter you thought had finally been resolved could require a second look. But don't make any moves yet without consulting your lawyer.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Taking charge is what you like to do, and since you do it so well, expect to be asked to lead a special group. This could open up an exciting new vista for you.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): An important matter might wind up being entrusted to you for handling. The responsibility is heavy, but you'll have support from people who are able and eager to help.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Avoid getting lost in your thoughts early on in the week. Stay grounded until the week's end, when the aspects will give you a stroke of luck that can spur powerful action.

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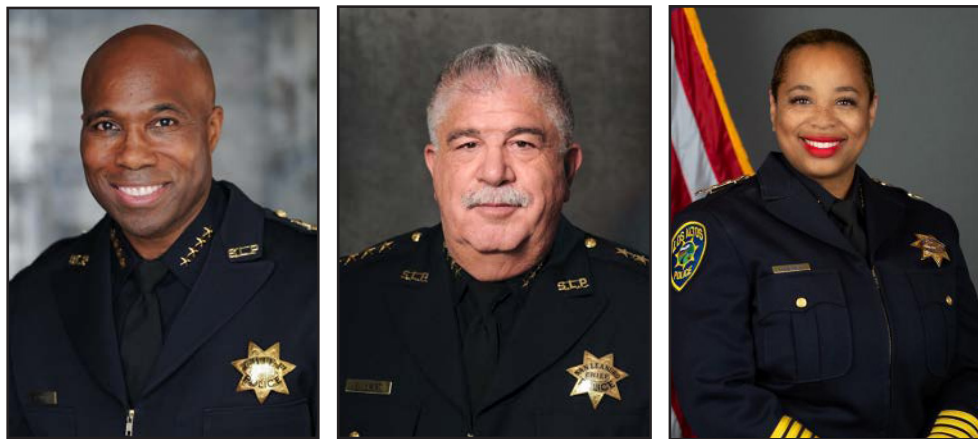
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PHOTOS COURTESY CITY OF SAN LEANDRO

Former Police Chief Abdul Pridgen, current Interim Police Chief Kevin Hart, and soon-to-be Interim Police Chief Angela Averietti.

Chief: Report not released

continued from front page

report to the City Manager. The City Attorney's Office and Chief Pridgen's legal counsel discussed the next steps over the last few weeks, according to city officials.

Despite public requests to release the reason for Pridgen's six-month leave, and dismissal, Robustelli said the report's contents are expected to remain private.

"The city is prohibited by law from releasing any information about public safety personnel, the length of time needed to address these matters, reasons for Mr. Pridgen's departure, and the full results of the investigation," Robustelli said in the press release.

Current interim Police Chief Kevin Hart will stay on until the end of April, Robustelli said. The former Kensington police chief was brought in to manage the department last September when Pridgen was put on leave.

Hart's replacement will be current Los Altos Police Chief Angela Averietti, who has been in various law enforcement agencies for 27 years, including the Hayward Police Department and BART Police.

"Chief Averietti is driven

by a passion for serving a culturally rich and diverse community and is committed to challenging the status quo, both for herself and her organization," Robustelli said, adding that Averietti's affiliation with Simon Sinek's The Curve, a 501(c)3 organization that promotes "justice administered with dignity, equity, and fairness" lines up with San Leandro's commitment for police reform.

Robustelli said the next step is to begin the search for San Leandro's next long-term chief. She said she and her staff will actively collaborate with the Community Police Review Board and the community to determine what the public wants to see in a police chief.

"The collaboration between SLATE (San Leandro Accountability, Transparency, and Equity) and the city to implement the Community Police Review Board and the Independent Police Auditor model was an instrumental step forward for the City," Robustelli said.

Chief Averietti will make San Leandro's history as its first female Black police chief. She will also be the sixth Chief of Police in San Leandro in

the last eight years. Chief Jeff Tudor was hired in 2016 but announced his retirement in 2020, the same year San Leandro police were charged with the shooting death of Steven Taylor at the Walmart on Hesperian Boulevard that April.

Next came Acting Chief Luis Torres from February to June 2021, and then San Leandro brought in former Oakland Police Chief Susan Manheimer on an interim basis from June to September 2021.

Robustelli hired Pridgen in 2021. At the time, the city said Pridgen would bring "transparency, investment into personnel, and implementing police oversight for the department." Robustelli said Pridgen would be an "advocate for diversity, inclusion, and a community builder."

Immediately following Pridgen's leave, Acting Chief Luis Torres led the department for three weeks in September 2023, and finally, interim Chief Kevin Hart from October 2023 to the present.

In January, Pridgen applied for the vacated Oakland Police Chief position and was one of three final candidates. However, Mayor Sheng Thao eventually rejected all three.

SENIORS



Seniors: Don't Reach for the Vitamins and Supplements

By Matilda Charles
Special to the Times

Oh, it was so tempting. I have to admit. When a neighbor strolled by on her afternoon walk, we got to talking about how she stays in shape, and she rattled off a list of vitamins and supplements that she takes.

She swears by them, and she appears to be in excellent condition ... although being 20 years younger might have something to do with it.

Still, I was tempted to try some of those supplements she recommended.

But a little voice told me to check first before I loaded up my cart at the big box store. It's a good thing I did.

I learned that too much cal-

cium can affect the absorption of several medications, and St. John's wort can change how over 70% of prescription drugs work, sometimes in dangerous ways. I also learned that one of the supplements advertised on TV is made with grapefruit, which I cannot have.

This is a time to be cautious. Do not add any supplements to your diet without running it by your doctor.

Even giving a list of potential supplements to the nurse practitioner can be a good start if she also asks the doctor.

If you're thinking about taking vitamin D or Omega-3, ask about increasing your intake of seafood instead.

If you wonder about magnesium for bone health, ask whether you need it or if you

should eat more bananas.

Read the labels on your food. Cereal, for example, is already fortified with several vitamins.

Remember that the vitamin and supplement industry is not regulated. Many are made overseas, and our FDA has no say in what's actually in each one.

Do your own online research. Checking drug interaction websites can help. The one I liked best is www.drugs.com (click "Interaction Checker").

Read what the National Institutes of Health has to say about dietary supplements for seniors at www.nia.nih.gov/health/vitamins-and-supplements/dietary-supplements-older-adults.

Search their database of 178,111 supplements at dssl.od.nih.gov.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



How the Silver Tsunami is Affecting the Housing Market

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

As WW2 came to an end, GIs headed back home to reestablish their lives and get on with the American Dream they had fought to protect. Once statewide, they engaged in an activity they were apparently very good at: making babies. One year after the global conflict ended, a wave of infants ushered in a dominant factor that has dramatically reshaped American culture: the Baby Boomer Generation.

For over 70 years Boomers have been the major influencers in American life. They have fueled the vast expansion to the suburbs, developed new trends in art,

music, fashion and literature, inaugurated the age of consumerism and more. Their legacy is a world radically different than the one left by the previous generation, thanks to the rise of new technologies, business practices and growth in productivity resulting in a new era of wealth, prosperity and security.

Today, as the oldest Boomers turn 78, with over 10,000 turning 65 every day, they are a demographic force 73 million strong who are still having a dramatic effect, especially in the area of housing.

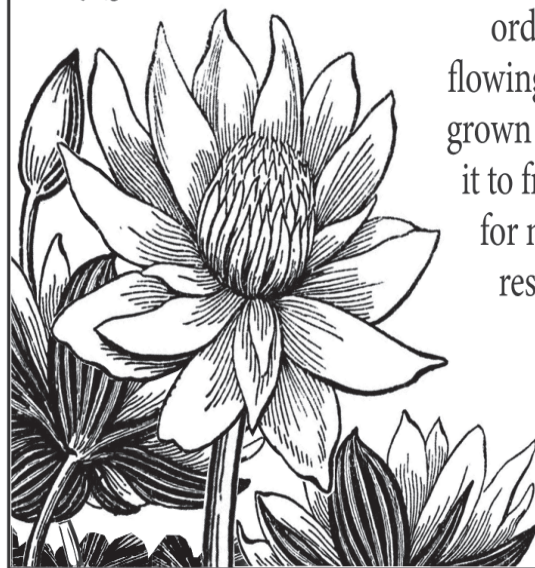
As they have lived longer than previous generations, they have been healthier overall, stayed at work longer and retained their homes for

more years than previous generations. Additionally, their ideas about housing are different than their forebears, which are actually contributing to the current housing crisis. While many, now that their children have moved on, have downsized (AARP estimates that 51% over 50 have done so), the remaining 49% have remained in their homes.

Some Boomers are reticent to pay the high capital gains taxes they would incur if they sold, thanks to the rampant increases in property values the past few years. Others have mortgages in the sub 4% area and exhibit extreme reticence at the idea of selling and incurring a higher mortgage rate. Another group is choosing to age in place, meaning their homes will not be coming on the market any time soon. All of these factors are keeping Boomers in their current homes, continuing the current housing shortage and frustrating buyer wannabes.

While we may see some of

The Garden Bug



The lotus plant can grow as tall as 6 feet in lakes and large ponds, while miniature varieties grow happily in a free-standing bowl on your patio. It needs 6 hours of direct sunlight each day in

order to flower. Do not place it in flowing water or in a fountain; if it is grown in a pot or bowl, do not allow it to freeze. The lotus has been used for millenia as a symbol of beauty, resilience, and transformation in architectural motifs, artwork, textiles and religious settings.

— Brenda Weaver

Sources: bloomnation.com,
bluelotusfarm.com

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RECENT HOME SALES

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22073 Young Avenue 94546: \$830,000 [3 BD - 988 SF - 1948
2130 173rd Avenue 94546: \$850,000 [4 BD - 1,752 SF - 1945
4822 Kathleen Avenue 94546: \$907,000 [2 BD - 1,280 SF - 1949
20851 Nunes Avenue 94546: \$955,000 [3 BD - 1,277 SF - 1948
17745 Hillside Court 94546: \$1,100,000 [3 BD - 1,522 SF - 1969
3712 Christensen Lane 94546: \$1,200,000 [4 BD - 1,302 SF - 1954
4143 Berdina Road 94546: \$1,230,000 [4 BD - 2,040 SF - 1942
5524 Greenridge Road 94552: \$1,750,000 [4 BD - 1,834 SF - 1960

TOTAL SALES: 8

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$830,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,027,500

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,750,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$1,102,750

Hayward

355 Laurel Avenue #8 94541: \$440,000 [2 BD - 882 SF - 1974
28375 Cole Place 94544: \$470,000 [1,411 SF - 1952
26953 Hayward Boulevard #210 94542: \$487,500 [1 BD - 869 SF - 1983
22135 Sevilla Road #47 94541: \$585,000 [2 BD - 1,163 SF - 1982
22741 7th Street 94541: \$746,000 [2 BD - 876 SF - 1939
274 Smalley Avenue 94541: \$749,000 [2 BD - 704 SF - 1932
835 Blaine Way 94544: \$763,000 [3 BD - 1,040 SF - 1954
944 Harder Road 94542: \$780,000 [3 BD - 1,068 SF - 1951
31027 Birkdale Way 94544: \$815,000 [3 BD - 1,092 SF - 1955
26243 Hickory Avenue 94544: \$820,000 [3 BD - 1,059 SF - 1952
23917 Mayville Drive 94541: \$885,000 [3 BD - 1,357 SF - 1956
31621 Chicoine Avenue 94544: \$930,000 [3 BD - 1,582 SF - 1956
25301 Parklane Drive 94544: \$950,000 [4 BD - 2,041 SF - 2020
3330 Speros Loop 94544: \$995,000 [3 BD - 1,891 SF - 2017
23540 Maud Avenue 94541: \$1,061,000 [4 BD - 2,258 SF - 1989
3616 Seabreeze Court 94542: \$1,100,000 [3 BD - 1,666 SF - 1974
836 Blossom Way 94541: \$1,100,000 [4 BD - 1,776 SF - 1926
24268 Nora Circle 94545: \$1,120,000 [4 BD - 1,824 SF - 2018
1080 Central Boulevard 94542: \$1,215,000 [5 BD - 3,636 SF - 1990
24079 Machado Court 94541: \$1,285,000 [4 BD - 2,062 SF - 1985

TOTAL SALES: 20

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$440,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$852,500

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,285,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$864,825

San Leandro

16516 Foothill Boulevard 94578: \$650,000 [2 BD - 1,524 SF - 1991
3939 Mission Way 94578: \$659,000 [3 BD - 1,474 SF - 1954
1424 Marybelle Avenue 94577: \$750,000 [3 BD - 1,028 SF - 1944
977 Kenyon Avenue 94577: \$970,000 [3 BD - 1,682 SF - 1954
247 Oakes Boulevard 94577: \$1,025,000 [2 BD - 1,080 SF - 1918

TOTAL SALES: 5

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$650,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$750,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,025,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$810,800

Now Is the Best Time of Year to Move Camellias

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Q We removed several trees for wildfire concerns. They were a beautiful shade for two mature Camellias. I now have to move because they will receive too much sun. When is the best time of the year to transplant them?

A Camellias are best transplanted when they are in bud and bloom and not actively growing. This is when evergreen plants are in a resting period or dormant. So, now is a perfect time to relocate them. However, the winter rainy season makes the task challenging. So, the transplanting window is open until the end of April. They also can be moved after noon temperatures are below eighty degrees. Last year's cool spring meant the transplanting window was open until mid-June. When



By junichiro aoyama from Kyoto, Japan - Camellia sasanqua, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2787079>

transplanting Camellias, the mortality rate increases dramatically if they are bare-rooted. So, be careful in digging them out of the ground. Camellias are shallow-rooted, so most roots will be close to the soil surface. You start digging about a foot or more from the edge of the drip line. The shape of the root ball should be more like a trapezoid than a cube to accommodate the typical surface roots. The new planting hole should also be a trapezoid shape. The backfill is amended with an Acid or Azalea, Camellia, and Rhododendron Planting Mix. It's a fifty-fifty mixture with the native soil or a hundred percent of the

planting mix. It would help to place the root ball a half-inch above the soil grade to allow for settling. In about a month after transplanting, you begin your feeding schedule. After all this, your Camellias shouldn't miss a beat in their new home.

Q My two cherry trees were traumatized last spring and summer as they were heavily hit with Black Cherry Aphids. I kept cutting off the affected leaves, but the trees looked terrible all summer. In the past, I maintained control of the Aphids by putting a ring of the sticky stuff around the trunk. This year, it didn't help at all.

What can I do for an Aphid-free season this year?

A Aphids are a problem on Cherry, Apple, and Plum trees. It causes the leaves to curl up like one of those Italian cookies. Many gardeners confuse it with the curly or Peach Leaf Curl found only on peaches and nectarines. Hopefully, you had an opportunity to apply a dormant spray of Copper or Horticultural Oil. This

cleans up any over-wintering insects on the bark and in the crevices of the trees, but it doesn't prevent the Aphids from returning. You control the Aphids by diligently checking the trees as the leaves are emerging for curly leaves. Once you see the problem, pick the curly leaves off the trees and spray with Insecticidal Soap, making three applications a week apart. I'd still apply the sticky stuff, Tanglefoot, or Pest Barrier. Ants

ferry aphids around as they feed on the clear sticky residue, 'Honey Dew.' Aphids are present year-round but are only problematic in the spring.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com, and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com.

WEEKEND GARDENER

Plant a Tree

Arbor Day is celebrated in California in March, so make a plan—and pick a spot—to plant a tree.

Before it Rains Again

If the weather is nice this weekend, get out and do some serious work. Finish pruning roses, grapes and deciduous fruit and nut trees. (If you want more grape vines, stick a few of the pruned cuttings into the ground—they root easily.) Put any bulbs that haven't been planted into the ground right away. Pull weeds while the ground is still very moist and before they take over everything.

Repot Cymbidiums

If your cymbidium orchids are bulging out of their containers, repot them from now until the end of June. Remove the old bark, discard dead roots and rotted bulbs, and transfer the entire plant into a larger container filled with cymbidium mix or bark. You can also split up the plant into groups of three to five bulbs with leaves and repot each division individually.

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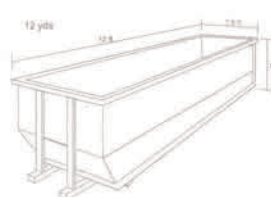
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LEGAL NOTICES

FILED
MELISSA WILK
December 27, 2023
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603028
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
H & L Home Decor, located at 14315
Washington Ave, San Leandro, CA
94578, Alameda County, is hereby reg-
istered by the following owner(s): Pro
Kitchen & Bath Supplies LLC, located at
14315 Washington Ave, San Leandro,
CA 94578. This business is conducted
by a Limited Liability Company. This
business commenced N/A
/s/ Bing Jian Zhang
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires December 26, 2028

FILED
MELISSA WILK
January 24, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603585
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Jaroche Esthetics, located at 14895 E
14th Street Suite 420, San Leandro,
CA 94578 / 16675 Rolando Ave., San
Leandro CA 94578. Alameda County,
is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Mayram Arias De La Cruz,
located at 16675 Rolando Ave., San
Leandro CA 94578. This business is con-
ducted by An Individual. This business
commenced N/A
/s/ Mayram Arias De La Cruz
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 23, 2029

FILED
MELISSA WILK
January 18, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 602487
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Sorrento Auto Sales Inc., located at
22268 Mission Blvd., Hayward, CA
94541. Alameda County, is hereby reg-
istered by the following owner(s): Sor-
rento Auto Sales Inc, located at 22268
Mission Blvd., Hayward, CA 94541. This
business is conducted by a Corpora-
tion. This business commenced N/A
/s/ Karina Suse Bibiano Nunez
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 17, 2029
FEB 01, 08, 15, 22, 2024
1050-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
January 18, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603461
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Ten Ton Consulting, located at 659
Broadmoor Blvd., San Leandro, CA
94577. Alameda County, is hereby
registered by the following owner(s):
Ten Ton Consulting Inc, located at 659
Broadmoor Blvd. This business is con-
ducted by a Corporation. This business
commenced 02/25/14
/s/ Michelle Huitema
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 17, 2029
FEB 01, 08, 15, 22, 2024
1050-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
January 10, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603289
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Crafty Hanako, located at 1008 Cumber-
land Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94579,
Alameda County, is hereby registered
by the following owner(s): Justine Dal-
ipe, located at 1008 Cumberland Ave-
nue, San Leandro, CA 94579. This busi-
ness is conducted by An Individual. This
business commenced 01/10/24
/s/ Justine Dalipe
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 09, 2029
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024
1082-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
February 02, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603796
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Gms Cleaning Services, located at
1664 Maubert CT #10, San Leandro,
CA 94578, Alameda County, is hereby
registered by the following owner(s):
Gabriela Mondragon Soto, located at
1664 Maubert CT #10, San Leandro,
CA 94578. This business is conducted
by An Individual. This business com-
menced N/A
/s/ Gabriela Mondragon Soto
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires February 01, 2029
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024
1085-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
February 02, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603789
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Rocky's Charcoal Drill, located at 300 W
Estudillo Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577,
Alameda County, is hereby registered
by the following owner(s): Demetrio
Martinez, located at 1990 Hillsdale
Street, Hayward, CA 94541. This busi-
ness is conducted by An Individual. This
business commenced N/A
/s/ Demetrio Martinez
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires February 01, 2029
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024
1091-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
January 16, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603364
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Adepa's Kitchen, located at 21070 Royal
Avenue, Hayward, CA 94541, Alameda
County, is hereby registered by the fol-
lowing owner(s): Josephine Adutwum-
waah, located at 21070 Royal Avenue,
Hayward, CA 94541. / Jennifer Asuma-
tse Ampong located at 2153 Alameda
Ave Apt B Alameda, CA 94501 This
business is conducted by Co-partners.
This business commenced 01/16/2024
/s/ Jennifer Asumatse Ampong
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 15, 2029
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024

FILED
MELISSA WILK
January 17, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603413
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Cutie On Duty Cleaning Services, lo-
cated at 15375 Tropic Court #31, San
Leandro, CA 94579, Alameda County,
is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Gia Channel Lucas, located
at 15375 Tropic Court #31, San Leandro,
CA 94579. This business is conducted
by An Individual
This business commenced N/A
/s/ Gia Channel Lucas
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 16, 2029
FEB 22, 29 MAR 07, 14, 2024
1098-SLT

ABANDONMENT FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NUMBER 559072
The following person has abandoned
the use of the fictitious business
name:
Gms Cleaning & Landscaping Services
at 1664 Maubert CT #10,
San Leandro, CA 94578.
Full name of registrant is:
Gabriela Mondragon Soto
at 1664 Maubert CT #10,
San Leandro, CA 94578.
The Fictitious Business
Name Statement
Gms Cleaning & Landscaping Services
was filed on 05/13/2019 in
the county of Alameda.
Original File Number 559072.
I declare that all information in this
statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true
information, which he or she knows to
be false, is guilty of a crime).
This statement was filed with the
County clerk of Alameda County on:
top right stamp date. NOTICE - This
fictitious name statement expires five
years from the date it was filed on, in
the office of the County Clerk. A new
Fictitious Business Name Statement
must be filed prior to that date. The
filing of this statement does not of
itself authorize the use in this state of
a fictitious business name in violation
of the rights of another under federal,
state or common law (see Section
14400, et seq., B&P Code.) This
statement was filed with the County
Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on
02/02/2024
JAN 08, FEB 15, 22, 29, 2024
1087-SLT

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ACROSS

1 Pep
4 "Get Here" singer Adams
9 Opposite of "post-"
12 Equal (Pref.)
13 Jeremy of "Entourage"
14 Corn serving
15 Prepaid convenience
for cell users
17 Texter's "Enough!"
18 Common verb
19 Spiritualist
21 Oliver Twist, for one
24 Cabinet dept. head
25 "Norma --"
26 Snake's warning
28 Mexican snacks
31 Actor Richard
33 UFO crew
35 Commanded
36 Enticed
38 Rep.'s rival
40 "Diamonds" singer
41 Goatee's spot
43 "O Pioneers!" author
45 Long recliner
47 Magic, on scoreboards
48 "A spider!"
49 Cell user's practical joke
54 Conk out
55 Dodge
56 Classic car
57 Hosp. areas
58 Opposite of most
59 Watch chain

DOWN

1 Red-carpet type
2 "Kinda" suffix
3 Cow's greeting
4 Verdi works
5 Permit
6 Hollywood's Gabor
7 Semesters
8 "Still ..."
9 Fund for minor expenses
10 Malek of "Bohemian
Rhapsody"
11 Guitarist Clapton
16 "Unh-unh"
20 Wound cover
21 Pitcher Hersher
22 Pasta sauce brand
23 Fruity baked goods
27 Norm (Abbr.)
29 Garfield's pal
30 Blacken
32 Classic soda brand
34 Extra helpings
37 Put to rest
39 Grocery store
42 Audacity
44 Patient's need, briefly
45 Give up
46 Estate recipient
50 Bond rating
51 Canine cry
52 Zodiac feline
53 Arced tennis shot

ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Former Mayors Recommend Viveros Walton

Editor,

We each served as Mayor of San Leandro, continue to reside in San Leandro and care deeply for the welfare of our community. For San Leandro to be a thriving and vibrant city it is critical that the City Council have seven knowledgeable and effective council members committed to advancing the City's goals.

The appointment for the vacant District 1 seat is for only ten months. At the end of the year, there will be an election to fill the remaining two years of the term.

While each of the remaining applicants for appointment to the seat have their own strengths and talents, Sbeydeh Viveros Walton alone possesses the educational background (including a master's degree in public administration), work history and skill set to quickly overcome the steep learning curve all new members of the City Council experience. In the executive positions she held in the cities of San Leandro and Berkeley, Ms. Viveros Walton demonstrated an ability to thoroughly analyze complex public policy issues, collaborate with others to achieve shared goals, and communicate effectively. Her record of community service is outstanding as is her commitment to San Leandro.

We strongly recommend that the City Council appoint Ms. Viveros Walton to fill the vacancy for Council District 1.

Pauline Cutter and Stephen Cassidy,
former mayors of San Leandro

Math All Wrong

Editor,

Hendy Huang (Follow the Math, If Possible, February 8) argues that the candidate for District 1 should be based upon experience and qualifications. That is solid policy. But then we are given "math" which relies on the percentage ethnicities in the city which he then says should be reflected in the percentage representation on the City Council. This is a flawed argument.

Skin color, ethnic background, what do these have to do with policy? I have family members who I can't agree with regarding public issues, and they are the same

ethnicity, indeed, same family as me. What makes us think someone of my color would represent my desires for city policy? Is this not racism at its very core? Surely he is not suggesting that.

We have to stop the idea that a City Council, a school board, a company board should reflect the color or gender of the community. Dr. Martin Luther King said it best by the words "...they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Our choice for our leaders should not be based on race, or ethnic experience, but on their character, their policies, what they stand for, which direction they would take the city for our benefit.

I don't need a council member who looks like me. I need someone who reflects my values, who will propose well-crafted policies. That can be anyone of any ethnicity.

We must get to substance, character, and positions on issues rather than color of skin or ethnic background. We don't need math to prove race, we need good positions on policy.

Corey Anderson
San Leandro

Bond Measures Improve the Schools

Editor,

We have lived in San Leandro for over 30 years. Our children attended San Leandro public schools, and graduated from San Leandro High School. They had fabulous teachers who inspired them to excel. However, the condition of the schools twenty years ago was deficient. The high school was overcrowded. Classrooms were hot at the start and end of the school year because they lacked air conditioning. Toilets in restrooms were regularly out of order.

Now we are delighted that our grandchildren live in San Leandro. They attend the same public schools our children attended, but the difference in the conditions of the schools is remarkable. The facility issues our children experienced have all been addressed.

This occurred because San Leandrans passed a series of bond measures, generating millions to repair and modernize our schools. The first two of these bond measures are being paid off in the near future. That is why the school

district can promise that Measure J will not increase the tax rate we currently pay on school bonds.

Investing in our schools has made an incredible difference for quality of life in San Leandro. Families now move to and stay in San Leandro because of the quality of our public schools. We wish to see that the progress in our schools continues for the next generation of San Leandrans, including our grandchildren. This is why we encourage everyone to vote yes on Measure J.

Brook & Mary Ann Beesley
San Leandro

Yes on Measure J

Editor,

San Leandro children deserve the same educational opportunities as students in other Bay Area school districts. That is why the San Leandro Teachers Association and strongly endorses Measure J school bond on the March 5th election ballot.

Voters, parents, teachers and administrators have worked together during the last 15 years to make San Leandro a destination district. Measure J will extend that legacy for a new generation of our students. It was only 15 years ago that no performing arts theater existed in the San Leandro school district. Funded by a previous bond measure, we now have a beautiful theater at San Leandro High School and visual and performing arts are flourishing in our schools today.

Dilapidated portable classrooms were once common in San Leandro. Almost all have been replaced with new, modern classrooms, again paid for by bond funds. The new Lincoln High School dedicated last fall is one of the finest alternative high schools in the Bay Area. It consists of twelve standard classrooms, a multi-purpose room, a culinary skills classroom, science lab, and a fabrication lab.

With Measure J, we have the opportunity to continue the tremendous progress we have made in San Leandro schools. California has mandated that all public schools provide instruction for 4-year old-children. But the state is not paying for the new classrooms that must be built for these students. Measure J will provide the funds to build the classrooms for San Leandro's 4-year-old children.

Measure J will also allow the school district to update computers and computer systems essential for high quality instruction in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) courses at all schools. At the high school, a new library, music and choir instruction rooms, a maker lab and student activities center will be housed in a beautiful, new building.

When we invest in our public schools we are investing in our

children. Please join me and the 500 members of San Leandro Teachers Association in supporting Measure J.

Tom Morse
President San Leandro Teachers Association

School Bond Measures Adding Up

Editor,

I am seeing the SLUSD's propaganda popping up on lawns all over town imploring us all to open our wallets yet again to fund Measure J. Before falling for the colorful signs and pleasant photos of school kids posing with them I would ask the taxpayers of this school district to step back and look at the big picture.

The SLUSD has put numerous bond and parcel tax propositions on the ballot in recent years. The November 1994 bond proposal failed because it required two-thirds required to pass. So the district changed its approach and used one that only requires 55% approval.

Since then Prop. A was passed in March 1997 for \$53,850,000. Then in November 2006 we gave them \$109,000,000 via Measure B. In 2010 Measure M granted another \$50,100,000 for athletic facilities. In 2016 Measure J1 extended another \$104,000,000. And most recently, Measure N gave the District another \$198,000,000 in 2020. (All of these only requiring 55% approval and most passed by a small number of votes.)

Now they want another \$174,000,000 for Measure J. That is more than a half a billion dollars that our small city has provided our schools. Does anyone know what our total debt is from all of these measures? Our total debt may well be over a billion.

The district's flyer says the measure will not raise tax rates. This is very misleading because it is an assessment meaning it's added to what you pay.

All of these bonds have raised our debt enormously since 1994 and that debt was exacerbated in 2010 through the use of a Capitol Appreciation Bonds (CABs). In order to expedite construction in 2010 the district leveraged \$19 million Measure M dollars by using a CABs. The interest was so high that it almost quadrupled that portion of the debt to \$52 million.

It is a practice no longer allowed by the state. This and other questionable decisions like building a "separate" 9th grade campus that is no longer separate and contributes to risky student traffic on Bancroft Ave. or using Measure N funds to build additional modular classrooms and then fill them intra-district transfer students makes me feel like this district thinks we don't care what they do with our money.

It gives me enough pause that

I will not support Measure J and I hope the rest of you will at least demand accountability for your previous millions before you give them more.

Steve Parker
San Leandro

Bond Proponents Will Say Anything

Editor,

Here are some reasons I will be voting "No" on Measure J.

It is a surefire way to raise one's property taxes or rent. The proponents of the latest school bond are a one trick pony. They are still telling us, after three previous school bonds, the roofs and plumbing need to be repaired. Really?

Never underestimate their ability to engage in prevarication to advance their agenda. Their goal is to present conditions as dire as possible to tug on one's heartstrings. Say anything to get your money.

Waste of taxpayer funds. The Bancroft Middle School basketball courts near the street were all re-conditioned, and after a short time, torn out for a parking lot, and then were moved to the interior of the property. We all got to pay twice for the basketball courts.

Fantastic longterm planning, but typical of government operations where no one is held accountable and where there is little concern for cost or efficiency with taxpayer money.

At Bancroft and McKinley they are erecting coverings over the parking lots. I assume solar panels will be placed on top of these structures. What's the cost and what's the payback in savings?

Instead of purchasing electrical power from the utility, generate your own power with solar panels. But how many years will it take to recover construction costs and pay for all of this?

I could go on but I expect to be on the losing side of this issue. The San Leandro electorate has never met a tax increase or bond issue they did not embrace with a vote in the affirmative.

Sara Frisbee
San Leandro

Measure J Wasteful And Unaffordable

Editor,

School Bond Measure J will increase your property tax \$26-\$60 per \$100,000 in value with no senior exemption. San Leandro cannot afford a \$350 million dollar tax while San Leandro incomes are falling. Measure J is too expensive and not needed per the state. Your property tax will increase by \$500/year for 30 years. There are already 4 school bonds running concurrently costing hundreds of millions. No on J. It is wasteful and unaffordable.

Chauncey Hutchison
San Leandro



PHOTOS COURTESY SAN LEANDRO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A mid-century Modern house on Bancroft Avenue and an unusual Craftsman style house on Lewis Avenue were on the Historical Society's 2022 tour.

Homes: Houses show city's history and make the city unique

continued from front page

itself," said the society in a statement.

"More than a century and a half of development in San Leandro has blessed the city with a variety of architectural styles — Tudor Revival, Italianate, Storybook, Spanish Revival, Mid-Century Modern, and Craftsman Bungalow to name a few."

Owners of homes on past tours report enjoying the discussions, meeting former residents, and seeing their homes featured in the tour guide, Simon said.

"Your house doesn't have to be perfect or pristine to be on the tour," Simon said. "The point of having a house is to

"Your house doesn't have to be perfect or pristine to be on the tour."

— Cynthia Simon

live in it. There are also no hard and fast rules for what houses can be included."

The society said in its

statement, "Architecture and home tours build community. They teach us the value of respecting our past as well as preserving and restoring homes to maintain a city's character."

The city's General Plan has an element that seeks to preserve San Leandro's legacy of historic resources, enhance the city's aesthetic character, and maintain the features that make San Leandro unique, and the tours support that, said Simon.

Last year's tour included the Little Brown Church at 384 W. Estudillo (behind Casa Peralta), the Masonic Temple at 116 W. Joaquin Ave., the Southern Pacific Depot at

1302 Orchard Ave., the Peralta Home/Alta Mira Club at 561 Lafayette Ave. and homes on Beverly Avenue, Pala Avenue, and Cherry Street.

People interested in having their house on the tour can email the Historical Society at sanleandrohistory@gmail.com or call 510-969-0975

(leave a message). You can view or download past year's tour books on the San Leandro Historical Society website at www.sanleandrohistory.org.

Lawyers: Retailers are worried

continued from front page

The move follows the district attorney's announcement earlier this month that its newly created Organized Retail Crime Alameda (ORCA) Vertical Prosecution Unit is canvassing the county to listen to shop owners' concerns. Prosecutors say they are comparing data, crime analytics, and pooling investigative tools to successfully prosecute defendants accused of participating in organized retail theft schemes.

Two to three lawyers with deputy district attorney experience from the state's Judge Advocate General (JAG) division will be assigned to specific cases. Their start date is yet to be determined. According to Price's office, the state's JAG team will assist with Alameda County's ORCA team.

In September 2023, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office was awarded a \$2 million grant for the cities of Fremont and Newark to establish a vertical prosecution

unit to combat organized retail theft. A month later, Price's office announced it would reallocate an additional \$2 million from her office's budget for the program.

The ORCA Unit is comprised of two deputy district attorneys, two inspectors, a senior program specialist, and two data analysts under the direct supervision of Chief Assistant District Attorney Otis Bruce, Jr.

"We have talked to many retailers who are worried and fearful about their businesses and who are happy to know that the DA's Office is working on holding those responsible for organized retail theft accountable," said Chief Assistant District Attorney Otis Bruce Jr.

Not everyone is excited about the state sending lawyers and CHP officers to combat organized retail crime. Alameda County Chief Public Defender Brendon Woods called the Governor's move "a band-aid to fix a broken arm."

"More prosecution and more police are not the solution here," Woods said. "We need housing, money for community-based organizations, higher wages, employment, as well as money for our schools, medical care, and mental health."

Woods also called out the disparity between how much the county spends on prosecution compared to how much it spends on defense. He said the Public Defender's Office budget is approximately \$54.1 million annually, while the District Attorney's Office gets \$96 million annually.



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

A resident of this house on Samoa Road was arrested on February 17 for running a brothel.

Arrest: Neighbors wondered

continued from front page

charges, Teng said. Chen was taken to Santa Rita Jail, but has since been released from custody as the District Attorney's office pursues the charges and a possible trial, according to Teng.

Teng said the department had received several complaints of odd goings-on at

the house. Cars would arrive at all hours, and then depart a short time later, neighbors told local television stations. Neighbors who asked the visitors what had brought them to the block got vague answers, they said.

Teng said that police took the reports seriously enough to have a detective conduct

surveillance on the residence. Based on that surveillance, a judge issued a search warrant, which was served when police arrived. That led to the arrests.

Except for the current charges, there have been no reports alleging criminal activity at that house in recent years, Teng said.

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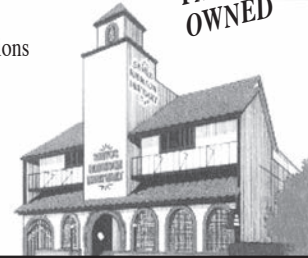
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Arroyo Wrestling Wins League Championship

By Madison Yalung
Special to the Times

The Arroyo High boy's wrestling team finished the season undefeated, earning their second consecutive WACC league championship title.

The Dons won the league title on January 30 at Tennyson High School with victo-

ries against the Alameda Hornets and Tennyson Lancers, finishing with scores of 72-9 and 75-6, respectively.

Arroyo went on to compete in the WACC Championship Tournament on Saturday Feb. 10. They placed first as a team, earning another championship banner and the league perpetual trophy, which will remain in

the Dons' wall of accolades for at least one more year.

Four Arroyo wrestlers had first place finishes at the tournament and were crowned individual league champions, while also earning first-team all WACC honors: sophomore Joseph Estes, who went 8-0 in league at 165 lbs, junior Thomas Adkins 10-0 at 190 lbs, junior Owen Thomason, 9-0 at 215, and sophomore Austin Celzo, who finished the season at 10-0 at 285 lbs.

All four undefeated champion wrestlers were also starting players for the Dons varsity football team.

"I know that wrestling would help me become a better football player and get me in better shape," said Owen Thomason, first-team all-WACC linebacker, and first year wrestler. "The culture of Arroyo wrestling is very welcoming and feels like family. Our coaches make practice a fun place to be."



PHOTO BY NICOLE COCCIMIGLIO

Arroyo wrestler and league champion Owen Thomason works to pin his opponent.



PHOTO BY MADISON YALUNG

League Champions left to right coach Rob Hoggle, coach Rick Barajas, Owen Thomason, Thomas Adkins, Joseph Estes, Austin Celzo and head coach Rich Villegas.

Sophomore Joseph Estes is a back-to-back individual champion. He was also a star football player who ran for 343 yards against Encinal.

"The highlight of my wrestling season was winning again as a team," says Estes. "I think the culture of wrestling is humbling, and challenging."

It's difficult to start to learn, but I think the coaches are supportive and helpful."

The Dons started the year at home on January 11, beating San Leandro High School 66-15, and Hayward High 64-17.

The following week gave the Dons their biggest challenge of the season, with a 54-

24 win against Berkeley High School, and a close match against the Castro Valley Trojans, who the Dons edged by a score of 44-33.

The Dons traveled across town to San Lorenzo High School the following week, where they beat the Grizzlies and Mt. Eden.

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- ✓ **PURCHASE up-to-date technology** for high-quality instruction in math, science, engineering, and career technical education;
- ✓ **BUILD new classrooms** at our elementary schools for all San Leandro four-year-old children to attend public school;
- ✓ **REPLACE worn and outdated classrooms** for band and orchestra with new classrooms for choir and instrumental music and build a new library and student center at San Leandro High School; and
- ✓ **CONSTRUCT affordable housing** for teachers and school staff. The Bay Area housing crisis makes it very difficult for the District to hire and keep talented teachers. By building affordable rental housing, **Measure J will help the District attract and retain outstanding teachers and school staff** who will live and work in San Leandro.



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