

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

WARM Sun, sun, and more sun!

HIGHS: 65-70

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110

LOWS: 43-48

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 31 • NO. 8 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Student art decorates the campus of Wilson Elementary School on Williams Street this week.

Meeting Set for Wilson Name Change

The San Leandro Unified School District will host an online meeting to discuss a proposal to rename Woodrow Wilson Elementary School on Tuesday, March 2, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be on Zoom at <https://slusd-us.zoom.us/j/86199924365>.

The proposal to change the school's name began last summer with a letter to the superintendent from over 30 Wilson teachers and staff.

The teacher's reasons for changing the name included Woodrow Wilson's support for segregated policies in departments of the federal government and vocal support for racist policies and practices during his tenure.

The school district said it sent a survey to Wilson families and a majority of those who responded indicated support for the proposal to change the school's name.

The Wilson Elementary principal shared the results and feedback summary at a

see WILSON, page 2

Council, Citizens Call for Police Oversight Board

Different types of boards looked at to oversee police actions

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Over a dozen people came to comment at an online San Leandro City Council work session Monday night to discuss a civilian review board to oversee the police department.

The City Council has been reviewing police policy in the wake of recent controversies involving the police, including the shooting death of Steven Taylor.

The council supported some version of civilian review at a City Council work session held online on Monday night. Public comments at the meeting almost all were in favor of civilian review.

currently facing manslaughter charges in that shooting, which occurred after Taylor brandished a baseball bat at the store.

Former Mayor Stephen Cassidy also signed the letter, along

see OVERSIGHT, page 12

Police Policies To Change, Says Torres

Acting San Leandro Police Chief Luis Torres announced two policy changes this week, and acknowledged that law enforcement needs to change.

"We are in a moment in law enforcement in which we need to re-think the way we police," Torres said in a statement on social media on Monday.

The past year has been a turning point in the police profession, so police must evolve in order to succeed, Torres said.

Two policy changes have recently been made, Torres said. The first is prohibiting the use of no-knock warrants, which are a

see CHANGES, page 11

Taylor Supporters Promise to Hold City Officials to their Word

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Steven Taylor, a 33-year-old San Leandro High School graduate, was fatally shot by a San Leandro police officer on April 18 last year at the Walmart on Hesperian Boulevard.

Last week, the City Council voted unanimously (except Councilman Pete Ballew who was absent) to honor Taylor's life by proclaiming April 18 to be known as Steven Taylor and Sanctity of Life Day.

Taylor's grandmother, Addie Kitchen, and other members of the Justice 4 Steven Taylor Organizing Group said they worked directly with City Councilman Fred Simon in the creation of the resolution.

"The council at large endorsing and voting in favor of this resolution symbolizes a lot of what organizers have been asking the city to do since last year: speak out about Steven's murder and commit to taking significant action in San Leandro," Jenna

“Now it's up to them to see it through, and we will continue to show up.”

— Jenna Hewitt King

Hewitt King, an organizer with Justice 4 Steven Taylor told the *San Leandro Times*. "Now it's up to them to see it through, and as a group, we will continue to show up and hold them accountable. And we want a seat at the table in the process."

In a statement, Mayor Pauline Cutter noted that the proclamation is part of the city's ongoing efforts to pursue racial justice and social equity.

"We hope this will promote

see PROMISE, page 12

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

FIRE

New fire truck designed for the hills.

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SCHOOLS

SLHS student chosen in national contest.

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Put some pasta on your plate.

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San Leandro Times

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PETS OF THE WEEK



Lily Puff

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are both bunnies, Lily Puff and Tiger.

Lily Puff is an adorable puff ball of a bunny who is sweet and allows handling. She is on medication for an ear infection and is foster-to-adopt.



Tiger

Tiger is a male bunny who is friendly and curious. He does well with handling. He is neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and ready to go home.

For more information on Lily Puff or Tiger, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Woodrow Wilson Elementary School opened in 1947 with its sculpted pediment glowing with optimism for growth and industry in the post-war years.

Find Tax Forms at the SL Main Library

The San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., will have state and federal tax forms in front of the library daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The tax materials include:
• State 540 Forms and Instructions In English and Spanish
• State 540 2EZ Forms and In-

structions

• Non-Resident State 540 Forms and Instructions
• Federal 1040 and 1040 SR Instructions and Forms

For more information, see the library's website at www.sanleandrolibrary.org or call the Information Desk at 510-577-3971.

Wilson: Public comments welcome

continued from front page
school board meeting in October. The school board then requested a further review of the proposal from a Community Advisory Committee of local leaders and historians.

The committee reviewed

the proposal and the comments gathered to date. This committee will also hear and summarize public comments shared at the forum on March 2 on behalf of the school board.

Join Online Teach-In On Police Funding Saturday

A free online teach-in on real-locating police funding, hosted by a group of San Leandrans, will be held on Saturday Feb. 27, from 3 to 4 p.m. Hear about how police funding works and what is meant by "defund the police."

The meeting will look at the

relationship between policing and community safety, how police spend their time and how the police budget relates to the rest of the city's budget.

Register at <http://bit.ly/SLPDteachin> (case sensitive) to join the meeting.

New Japanese Restaurant Coming to Greenhouse

A new Japanese restaurant will open in the Greenhouse Marketplace.

Weingarten Realty announced last week that that Urban Ka-Re House leased 1,160 square foot space at Greenhouse Marketplace at Washington Avenue and Lewelling Boulevard.

Urban Ka-Re House brings awareness to authentic Japanese style curry along with other favorite Japanese dishes and

snacks. The restaurant is scheduled to open by the end of March.

Weingarten Realty Investors is a shopping center owner, manager and developer.

This Day in History February 25

1949: Actor Robert Mitchum released after serving a two-month sentence for marijuana possession.

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Renaming Wilson Elementary Community Forum

San Leandro Unified is hosting a discussion on the proposal to rename Woodrow Wilson Elementary School.

Please join us to share your input!
Tuesday, March 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM
<https://slusd-us.zoom.us/j/86199924365>

See the proposal at www.slusd.us.

CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA

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Emergency Rental Assistance grants are available for San Leandro tenants experiencing COVID-19 economic hardship.

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at
centrolegal.org

Visit centrolegal.org or call @ 510-422-5669 for eligibility information



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

A special fire fighting truck was purchased to fight fires in the hills.

New Fire Truck Purchased To Help Fight Wildfires

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Homeowners in the San Leandro hills will soon have a new piece of fire equipment to help protect their neighborhoods.

Earlier this month, the City Council voted unanimously to spend \$301,000 on a replacement fire truck that will be able to travel beyond areas such as Bay-O-Vista and Sheffield Village and into the woodlands close to Lake Chabot.

The Type 5 Wildland Pumper is casually known as a Skeeter Brush Truck and it will be housed at Fire Station number 9 on Estudillo Avenue near Huff Avenue. It replaces a 15-year-old engine which will be retired.

Alameda County Fire De-

partment spokesperson Joanna Leal says the new truck will be purchased from Golden State Fire Apparatus with a base price of just over \$238,000. The additional \$63,000 will go to modifications that will make the truck very effective in fighting wildfires.

"We're asking the company to equip the Skeeter with special pump cabinets that include compartments for foam that will help us fight fires in wildland areas, where there are no hydrants for water," Leal said. "The truck will of course have all the tools necessary to fight building fires as well."

San Leandro contracts with Alameda County Fire Department for emergency and

non-emergency fire services.

The City retains ownership of its five fire stations, the fleet of fire engines and trucks, and the fire training facility. The county is responsible for emergencies including medical response, hazardous materials, and rescue. Alameda County also supplies paramedic services on all its companies.

While the new truck will be used primarily for fires within San Leandro city limits, the county may call on this truck to respond to nearby fires in the area as part of its promise to provide mutual aid.

"Fire doesn't care about boundaries," Leal said.

San Leandro Democratic Club

The San Leandro Democratic Club will hold a virtual meeting on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. To join the meeting, email club President Melissa West at mwest.udc@hotmail.com for the link.

Peregrine Falcons of the Bay 2020

The Friends of San Leandro Creek invite the public to an online program on The Peregrines of Pine Canyon, their drama and heartbreak of 2020, on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. Find the forum at EventBrite: Friends of San Leandro Creek - Peregrine Falcons of the Bay.

Reimagining Public Safety In San Leandro

A free online teach-in on reallocating police funding, hosted by a group of San Leandrans, will be held on Saturday Feb. 27, from 3 to 4 p.m. Hear about how police funding works and what is meant by "defund the police."

The meeting will look at the relationship between policing and community safety, how police spend their time and how the police budget relates to the rest of the city's budget. Register at <http://bit.ly/SLPDteachin> (case sensitive) to join the meeting.

Community Clean-up on Bancroft

Join City Councilman Bryan Azevedo for a Community Clean-Up along Bancroft Avenue on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 to 11 a.m. Meet at Harry's Hofbrau, 14900 East 14th St. Gloves, water, snacks, vests and garbage bags provided. Prizes will be awarded for the top two garbage getters.

Newsom Recall Petition Drive

The public is welcome to attend a Gavin Newsom Recall Petition Signature Drive on Saturday

and Sunday, Feb. 27 and 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Free Speech Corner, 20629 Redwood Road, the corner of Castro Valley Boulevard and Redwood Road in Castro Valley. Only three weekends left to sign. The website is recallgavin2020.com.

Black History Month Read-In

Join the San Leandro Public Library for its first annual virtual Black History Month Read-In, for teens and adults, to uplift and celebrate Black writers and thinkers.

Earn badges by reading books from our #ownvoices Black Writers Booklist, writing reviews of #ownvoices books by Black authors, and watching movies about Black history. Each badge gets you a raffle ticket for the Grand Prize. Earn three or more badges and you'll be eligible to pick up a completion prize from the library. The challenge will run through the month of February. For more information, visit the library's website, www.sanleandrolibrary.org.

Light a Candle for the Arc

The Arc of the East Bay, a nonprofit organization offering life skills education along with job training and placement services to some 350 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is hosting a candle fundraiser.

The Arc's clients include individuals with such disabilities as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and fetal alcohol syndrome.

From now until March 31 help support the clients and families by purchasing amazing candles and diffusers by contacting Judy Vierra at judyvierra@arcalameda.org. For more information, visit abc.afsports.biz/order/F8T7XK.

Items for the calendar can be emailed to jimk@ebpublishing.com or call 510-614-1557.

Student from San Leandro Makes Dean's List in Minnesota

St. Cloud State University in Minnesota has announced the names of more than 1,300 students whose academic achievement placed them on the 2020 fall semester dean's list, including Binita Pathak of San Leandro, Calif.

Pathak is a student in the

university's Hergerger Business School. Students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale to be eligible for the dean's list.

St. Cloud State University is Minnesota's second-largest university, with more than 11,000 students.

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How to Sell Your San Leandro Home Yourself: 10 Tips Real Estate Agents Don't Want You to Know

San Leandro - If you've tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the "For Sale by Owner" sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren't from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

Like other "For Sale by Owners", you'll be subjected

to a hundred sales pitches from agents who will tell you how great they are and how you can't possibly sell your home by yourself. After all, without the proper information, selling a home isn't easy. Perhaps you've had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their

homes themselves. But don't give up until you've read a new report entitled "Sell Your Own Home" which has been prepared especially for homesellers like you. You'll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

Inside this report, you'll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price

in the shortest amount of time. You'll find out what real estate agents don't want you to know.

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SLHS Student Chosen in National Oratory Contest

High school junior performs monologue portraying 19th century Black abolitionist

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

San Leandro High school junior Arinze Jiroh has been chosen as one of five national Outstanding Performance Winners in a national competition held by the producers of the hit musical “Hamilton.”

The National Hamilton Education Competition, or EduHam, chose Jiroh’s monologue portraying early Massachusetts Black abolitionist Prince Hall from among hundreds of performance pieces submitted. All submissions were based on an analysis of multiple primary sources related

to a person or event from the Founding Era, according to San Leandro school district spokeswoman Keziah Moss.

As soon as the pandemic improves, Jiroh will fly to New York City to see “Hamilton” on Broadway, go backstage and meet the cast.

Jiroh’s American history teacher Ms. Emily Solberg normally takes her class to San Francisco to see the play “Hamilton,” but wasn’t able to do so this year due to the pandemic. Instead, Solberg made sure her entire

class entered the performance contest.

Jiroh prepared a monologue in which he portrayed Prince Hall, a free Black man in early 19th century Massachusetts. The state had officially abolished slavery, but free Black men were still being seized and enslaved due to loopholes in the law.

Hall visited the state legislature in Boston during several different sessions to demand that those loopholes be closed so Black people could be secure in their freedom, Jiroh said.

Hall told the legislature that Black people were not allowed to

return to Africa, but neither were they allowed to securely own land in the state, according to Jiroh. Any land they bought could still be seized from them.

The legislature refused to act until years after Hall’s last visit. Jiroh said he chose to portray Hall because the man saw a problem and acted against it.

“He took action. That’s what I want to do,” Jiroh said.

Jiroh’s monologue can be seen online at <https://youtu.be/neDGCdkK5h8>.

Jiroh said the issues Hall raised 200 years ago are still with us.

“Why should we have to go time and time again for basic rights?” he asked. “The dehumanization continues. People are still being enslaved, if not in quite the same way.”

Jiroh said that if Hall were to visit us today, he’d find some of the same problems he fought back then.

“In fact, he’d find himself repeating himself,” Jiroh said.

Jiroh said he had written a script for his monologue, but soon realized he didn’t need it, and delivered the rest of the performance extemporaneously.

“I stopped talking from my head, but spoke from my heart,” he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARINZE JIROH

Arinze Jiroh is one of five winners in a national competition held by the producers of *Hamilton* and will travel to New York after the pandemic conditions improve.

Students Invited To Submit Art About Transportation

Alameda County is inviting high school students to make and submit creative art pieces this month for a new event, “Creation for Transportation: Art for Walking, Bicycling, Carpooling and Taking Transit.”

Creation for Transportation encourages students to create and submit artistic pieces that address the impacts of different transportation choices and that inspire action around walking,

bicycling, skateboarding, and taking transit.

The program is designed to encourage students to explore different transportation choices that reduce their carbon footprint, while complying with state-wide health orders.

Art can be created in any medium, such as video (featuring a dance, skit, music or documentary personal testimonial); written poem, or visual art.

Students are encouraged to take photos or videos of their participation and post them on their school’s websites and on social media using the hashtag #creationfortransportation.

For contest purposes, artwork may include air quality, safety, health, climate change, community, and well-being. Students will have until Friday, Feb. 26, to submit their art at: tinyurl.com/Creation4Transportation.

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED
MELISSA WILK
JANUARY 21, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 575933

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): GOOD 2 GO PLUMBING located at 13885 Doolittle Dr. Apt 209, San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Oliver Javier, 13885 Doolittle Dr. Apt 209, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Oliver Javier
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 21, 2026
FEB 11, 18, 25, MAR 4, 2021
324-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
FEBRUARY 1, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 576305

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): DOTJE located at 246 Arroyo Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Suzanne Emans, 246 Arroyo Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577 and (2) Pascalle Jansen Abdelrahim, 660 King Street 354, San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by a general partnership. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Suzanne Emans, Pascalle Jansen Abdelrahim
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires FEBRUARY 1, 2026
FEB 11, 18, 25, MAR 4, 2021
327-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
JANUARY 5, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 575614

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): New Found Freedom located at 1650 152nd Street, San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harold B. Brooks, 1650 152nd Street, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Harold B. Brooks
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 5, 2026
FEB 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021
326-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
JANUARY 20, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 575890

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): M & M One Stop Shop located at 14393 Washington Avenue Suite F, San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Maged Al Khateeb, 606 Cozumel Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93307 and (2) Muad Al Maliki, 480 1st Street, Richmond, CA 94801. This business is conducted by a general partnership. This business commenced 10-01-2020.

/s/ Maged Al Khateeb, Muad Al Maliki
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 20, 2026
FEB 18, 25, MAR 4, 11, 2021
328-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
JANUARY 29, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 576227

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Colonial Acres Residential Care Home located at 18905 Standish Avenue, Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Celeste N. Olivarez, 1636 162 Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 06/22/2018.

/s/ Celeste N. Olivarez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 29, 2026
FEB 11, 18, 25, MAR 4, 2021
325-SLT

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Pilot Program to Offer Some Suspects Mental Health Services Instead of Jail

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley announced a partnership last week that will redirect some individuals involved in criminal conduct from the criminal justice system

into behavioral or mental health support systems.

Known as the “3-D Program” it will be a pilot project that is expected to expand to all police agencies in Alameda County.

Under the program, when police contact a person displaying mental health or substance abuse struggles who is suspected of committing a low level offense, that suspect can choose between going to jail or being taken to a Navigation Center operated by CARES (Community Assessment, Referral and Engagement Services).

At the CARES center, the individual will be assessed by a Peer Support Specialist who has gone through an intensive training program covering support, mental health and substance abuse interventions and skill building.

The 3-D program will work with city police departments in Hayward, San Leandro, Fremont and Oakland.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Whatever decisions you’re faced with this week, rely on your strong Aries instincts, and base them on your honest feelings, not necessarily on what others might expect you to do.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Your sensitive Taurean spirit is pained by what you feel is an unwarranted attack by a miffed colleague. But your sensible self should see it as proof that you must be doing something right.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): More fine-tuning might be in order before you can be absolutely certain that you’re on the right track. Someone close to you might offer to help. The weekend favors family get-togethers.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): The week continues to be a balancing act ‘twixt dreaming and doing. But by week’s end, you should have a much better idea of what you actually plan to do and how you plan to do it.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Changing your plans can be risky, but it can also be a necessary move. Recheck your facts before you act. Tense encounters should ease by midweek, and all should be well by the weekend.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): You might still be trying to adjust to recent changes. But things should improve considerably as you get to see some positive results. An uneasy personal matter calls for more patience.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Congratulations. Your good intentions are finally recognized, and long-overdue appreciation should follow. Keep working toward improvements wherever you think they’re necessary.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Try to look at your options without prejudging any of them. Learn the facts, and then make your assessments. Spend the weekend enjoying films, plays and musical events.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Someone might want to take advantage of the Sagittarian’s sense of fair play. But before you ride off to right what you’ve been told is a wrong, be sure of your facts.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): You might be surprised to learn that not everyone agrees with your ideas. But this can prove to be a good thing. Go over them and see where improvements can be made.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): After taking advice on a number of matters in recent months, expect to be called on to return the gesture. And, by the way, you might be surprised at who makes the request.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Reassure everyone concerned that a change of mind isn’t necessarily a change of heart. You might still want to pursue a specific goal, but feel a need to change the way you’ll get there.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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	LAMA	LENT
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ALBS	STEERAGE	
TASTY	EVAN	
	ROB	RANCH
ENCOURAGE	OOO	
GEEK	INNS	OWL
GALE	TOUT	KLM

LIFESTYLE



When it Hasta be Pasta

Versatile pasta is one of the best bets for a quick, informal supper. Pasta-centered meals are not only easy to prepare, they also help tip the nutritional balance in a healthful direction.

Pasta contains almost no fat and a plain cup of cooked pasta has about 5 grams of protein, but only 160 calories.

Cook pasta according to package directions in a large quantity of boiling water, leaving plenty of room for it to move around as it boils. To help prevent sticking, add a splash of olive oil to the boiling water, then drop the pasta in slowly. Do not cover or it will boil over.

ITALIAN SPAGHETTI WITH MARINARA

1/4 cup olive oil
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tablespoons minced parsley
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
3-1/2 cups cooked tomatoes
1 green pepper, minced
Dash of red pepper
8 ounces spaghetti, cooked according to directions
Freshly grated Parmesan or Romano cheese

Simmer all ingredients about 1

hour in a heavy skillet. Pour sauce over hot, drained spaghetti on a hot platter. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Serves 6 to 8.

PASTA WITH KALE, BACON & SUN DRIED TOMATOES

8 ounces small-shaped pasta
5 cups bagged prewashed kale
2 slices bacon
1/4 cup oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, drained and roughly chopped
1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
3 large garlic cloves, chopped
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 ounce Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, shaved
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Cook pasta in boiling water 8 minutes or until almost tender. Add kale, and cook 2 minutes. Drain in a colander over a bowl, reserving 1/2 cup cooking liquid.

While pasta cooks, fry bacon in a large skillet over medium-high heat 4 minutes or until crisp. Remove bacon from pan with a slotted spoon; crumble and set aside.

Reduce skillet heat to medium-low. Add sun-dried tomatoes,

crushed red pepper, and garlic to bacon drippings and cook 1 minute, stirring frequently. Add pasta mixture, reserved 1/2 cup cooking liquid, black pepper, and salt to pan; toss to combine.

Top pasta mixture evenly with bacon and cheese; drizzle evenly with lemon juice. Serves 4.

BAKED RAVIOLI

2 (25-ounce) packages frozen cheese ravioli
4 (14.5-ounce) cans diced tomatoes with juice
4 (8-ounce) cans tomato sauce
1 onion, chopped
2 tablespoons Italian seasoning
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup water
16 ounces shredded mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 cloves garlic, minced

In a medium stock pot combine the diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, chopped onion, Italian seasoning, salt and water. Stir in the minced garlic in quantity desired. Allow mixture to simmer for 2 hours. If sauce seems dry add additional water.

In large pot of boiling salted

water cook the ravioli until done. Drain. In a 9x13-inch pan layer sauce and cooked ravioli. Top with grated Parmesan cheese and grated mozzarella cheese.

Bake in a preheated 400°F oven for 30 minutes, or until light golden brown. Let cool 15 minutes before serving. Yields 6 to 8 servings.

PASTA WITH OLIVES & SAUSAGE

1 cup chopped yellow onion
1 tablespoon olive oil
3/4 pound low-fat Italian turkey or chicken sausage
2 teaspoons chopped garlic
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper, optional
1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes in juice
1/4 cup tomato paste
1 cup drained large black ripe pitted olives
1 dried bay leaf
1 teaspoon dried basil
1/2 teaspoon each dried rosemary and oregano
1 pound farfalle (butterflies), penne or other pasta
Finely shredded Parmesan

In large saucepan, cook onion

in olive oil over medium-low heat until soft, stirring occasionally. Remove sausage from casings and crumble into pan. Add garlic and crushed red pepper. Increase heat to medium-high; stir and cook until sausage is brown. Stir in tomatoes with liquid, olives, tomato paste and herbs. Bring to boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer gently 15 to 20 minutes.

Cook pasta in 6 quarts boiling, salted water just until tender. Drain well. Turn pasta into serving bowl and toss with sauce. Top with cheese. Makes 4 to 6 servings

Red Wine Sauce: If desired, add 1/2 cup red wine after browning sausage. Simmer 5 minutes, then proceed with recipe as directed.

Note: If using regular sausage, drain off excess fat after browning. Two teaspoons Italian herb seasoning can be used instead of basil, rosemary and oregano

PESTO SAUCE

1 to 1-1/2 cups basil
1/2 cup Italian parsley (optional)
1/4 cup nuts (pine, walnuts, pecans or pistachios)

2 to 6 garlic cloves
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 cup grated Parmesan

Purée basil, parsley, nuts, garlic and oil in a blender or food processor. Add cheese and stir to blend. Serve over hot pasta

LAST-MINUTE LASAGNA

1 (26-ounce) jar pasta sauce
2 (30-ounce) bags frozen large cheese ravioli, unthawed
1 (10-ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed of excess water
1 (8-ounce) bag shredded mozzarella
1/2 cup grated Parmesan

Heat oven to 350° F. Coat a 13-by-9-inch baking dish with cooking spray and spoon in a third of the sauce.

Arrange 12 ravioli on top and scatter the spinach over them. Top with half of each cheese. Cover with another layer of ravioli and the remaining sauce and cheese.

Cover with foil, bake 25 minutes, uncover and bake 5 to 10 minutes more or until bubbly. Serves 6.

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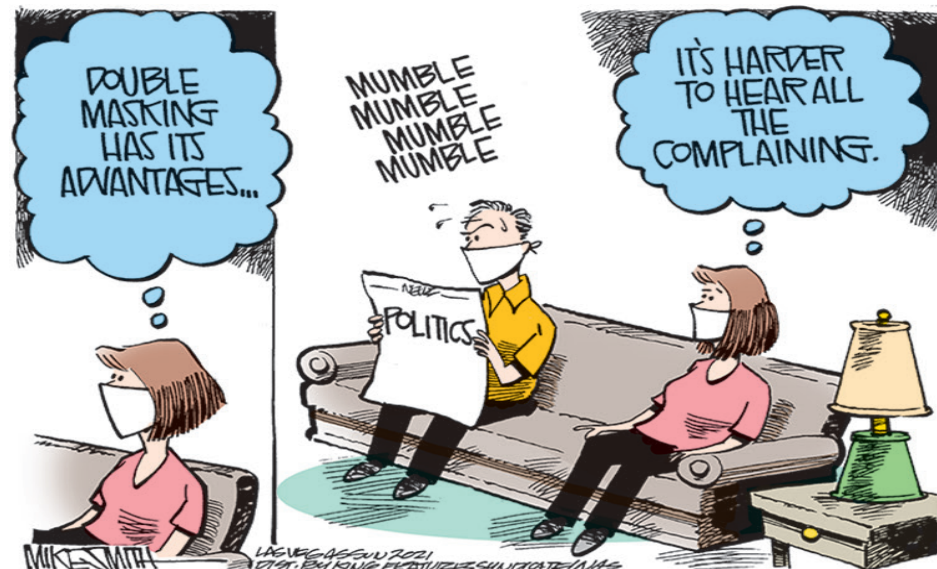
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DF-CD-NP-Q121



REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Loan Forbearance and Foreclosure Relief Programs Extended

While at first glance it may appear that the end of the long COVID-19 tunnel could be in sight, the economic damage done to many homeowners may take a lot longer to resolve.

With this in mind, and acknowledging that the crisis has lasted far longer than anyone initially anticipated, the White House released the following statement on Feb. 16, 2021:

"As millions of Americans face continued hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic, President Biden is continuing to take action to help keep individuals and families in their homes. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a housing affordability crisis. Today, 1 in 5 renters is behind on rent and just over 10 million homeowners are behind on mortgage payments. People of color face even greater hardship and are more likely to have deferred or missed payments, putting them at greater risk of eviction and foreclosure."

Today, as part of the President's commitment to deliver immediate relief for American

families bearing the brunt of this crisis, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Agriculture announced a coordinated extension and expansion of forbearance and foreclosure relief programs. These critical protections were due to expire in March, leaving many at risk of falling further into debt and losing their homes. Now, homeowners will receive urgently needed relief as we face this unprecedented national emergency. Today's action builds on steps the President took on Day One to extend foreclosure moratoriums for federally guaranteed mortgages."

The program changes are as follows:

The foreclosure moratorium for homeowners has been extended through June 30, 2021.

The mortgage payment forbearance enrollment window has been extended until June 30, 2021 for borrowers who wish to request forbearance.

Borrowers who entered forbearance on or before June 30, 2020 can received up to six

months of additional mortgage payment forbearance, in three-month increments.

According to the White House release, the new Biden-Harris administration has three major priorities:

- Provide immediate relief to homeowners across America, including not only those currently in the programs but anyone else who needs assistance now.

- Support hard-hit communities of color.

- Provide a centralized resource for housing assistance to make the process easier for those in need.

For those suffering from the current pandemic-related economic crisis, this will be welcome news. If you are seeking assistance or looking for answers to questions, a website has been set up at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus/mortgage-and-housing-assistance/>.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty and a licensed general contractor. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association.

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NEW - Coming Soon

Ideally located within walking distance of 12 years of CV schools, this charming home is instantly appealing. Located on a quiet street with beautifully manicured, mature landscaping - nice backyard with fruit trees, trex-type decking and room for gardening.

A long list of upgrades to this home including paver driveway/walkway/porch, newer roofing, dual-paned windows... and much more. The eat-in kitchen opens to the spacious family room with raised-hearth fireplace, lots of windows, & a gracious staircase. Two bedrooms & one bath on the main floor with oversized master suite on the second floor create a very livable floorplan. Formal dining room & living room featuring a 2nd fireplace including heat-producing custom insert, & crown moulding.

3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, approx. 2032 square feet.

Contact Brian for more information & showings. Going on market 3/7



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Olive Tree Making Big Mess

By Buzz Bertolero

Special to the Times

I've just finished raking up the last of the mess from my olive tree. I love the tree, but the olives and other debris are an annual pain. What can I do this year to stop it?

The leaf drop is a natural occurrence, so there isn't much you can do to prevent this, but you can stop the olive from forming.

Flore Fruit Eliminator from Monterey Lawn and Garden aborts the blossom, so the fruit cannot set. The key to its success is in the timing of the spray.

Olives do not bloom all at once. So you have to make repeat

applications every five days as the flowers open until the entire tree is in full bloom. The blooming period for Olives is between the last week in April and Mother's Day.

Flore also works on other plants, so check the label for the complete list. For many gardeners, this is a problem. The tree's size, the proper equipment, and the cost to hire an applicator are issues for many gardeners.

I have several roses that are six to seven feet tall which haven't been pruned in several years. Is it too late to prune them as the new growth is already appearing? If it's okay, then how far back do I go? I've heard that roses will go into shock if you remove more than half of their growth.

It's never too late to prune roses. Actually, all types of roses are pruned year-round. The appearance of new growth does not signal the end of the pruning season, nor does it shock the plant.

I'm not aware that there are

any limitations when pruning roses. When pruning, you haven't disturbed any of the roots, just reduced the canes' length; therefore, no trauma has resulted. Roses are pruned every time you remove the spent flowers. It's just not thought of as a pruning activity.

We're concerned with the bush structure during the winter, as the leaves don't block our view—shaping and preventing the plants from overgrowing a location is the focus the rest of the year.

Roses that are severely pruned in late March or April bloom later than those pruned earlier. I wouldn't have any problem cutting the bushes down to three feet, but you might not feel comfortable about that height, so you select a more appropriate size, and don't forget to reduce the side growth.

Eliminate all dead wood and remove any stems that are crossing over another. Keep the ones that add to the overall shape of the plant. After each flowering cycle, remove the spent flowers and shape the plant to control the growth by pruning the top and sides. Again the amount is a judgment call on your part.

If you make a mistake, it's not the end of the world, as roses of all types recover. The fear that the plants will die from pruning is just a myth. I've found that roses are very resilient plants and can take a lot of abuse from a pair of hand shears.

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.



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AUTOMOTIVE

BMW 330e: An Old Favorite, Now Electrified

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

BMW has been a pioneer in electric cars, offering the unusually styled i3 hatchback since 2014. More all-electric BMWs are coming soon, but today, you can choose from multiple BMW plug-in hybrids, including the 330e.

As a plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV), the BMW 330e combines an engine and a motor. The 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbocharged engine puts out 181 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. The integrated electric traction motor adds 107 horsepower and 77 pound-feet of torque. The combined output is 288 horsepower and 310 pound-feet of torque.

A high-voltage 12 kWh lithium-ion battery under the rear seats powers the motor. The eight-speed automatic transmission can electronically choose the most efficient gear for the current driving situation.

The U.S. EPA rates the 330e at 75 MPGe using electricity plus gasoline, and a more modest 28 mpg with gasoline alone. The official electric range is 23 miles, with a total range of 320 miles. The EPA Green scores are 7 for Smog and 8 for greenhouse gas. The sticker says you'll save \$1,000 over five years compared to the average car.

Because the 330e isn't a full-electric car, the battery is fairly small, so you can't go too far on electricity alone. It's essentially an EV for commuting, shopping, and errands. When you take it on longer trips, the 330e works like a hybrid, using gas and electricity efficiently.

Charging takes only a couple of hours at 240 volts (Level 2) or overnight on regular household current (Level 1). No need to invest in a dedicated charger—just plug it into the garage wall before you go to bed.

On my first trip, I set the control in my Alpine White test car to "Electric" so it would use only electric power. When it ran out of juice at 22 miles, it automatically switched to "Hybrid" mode, displaying a message on the center dash screen. My destination was 24 miles from home, so I almost made it petrol free. The mostly gas-powered return trip was nearly as quiet as the electric leg of the trip, which means a smooth and quiet engine and plenty of sound insulation.

The car starts out in Hybrid mode by default, so if you want to drive electric only, push the "Electric" button on the center console.

I went to a rehearsal with my three bandmates, who, through careful planning, became part of my COVID bubble (before

the current lockdown). Because it was only 4.2 miles away, I drove both ways without using any gasoline at all.

The downside of a PHEV is that you may have the best of both worlds, but you also must lug along the hardware of both worlds—engine + motor, battery + fuel tank, and so on. Some of those parts need periodic service, while battery-electric cars have little service other than tire rotations.

On the outside, the 330e is undoubtedly a BMW, with a reasonably proportioned twin kidney grille and Hofmeister kink in the rear side window. BMWs have edgier interiors than they used to, but everything is up to date and electronic. You still control the dash screen with a dial on the center console. There's a bit of a learning curve to program the numerous custom features—German engineering brings German complexity.

My tester came with numerous upgrades. The Cognac Vernasca Leather inside (\$1,450) looked and smelled wonderful. The Dynamic Handling Package (\$1,400) sportified the brakes, suspension, and steering. The Drivers Assistance Pro Package (\$1,700) offered Extended Traffic Jam Assistant, which I luckily never need to use. The M Sport Package



The eight-speed automatic transmission can electronically choose the most efficient gear for the current driving situation.

(\$3,800) included the SensaTec Dashboard and more. The Parking Assistance Package (\$700) included handy Surround View with 3D View in the center console, helping you know exactly where the car is when you're backing up or entering the flow of traffic. The Executive Package (\$2,600) included a heated steering wheel, adaptive LED headlamps, a head-up display, active blind spot detection, and gesture control.

The base price is \$44,500, but with all the extras, my tester came to \$59,645.

I think that people buy and love 3-Series BMWs because of the model's long history as The Ultimate Driving Machine®. Inevitably, it has grown larger and less sprightly over the years, as most 45-year-olds do.

I tested my first 3 Series in



BMW has edgier interiors than they used to, but everything is up to date and electronic.

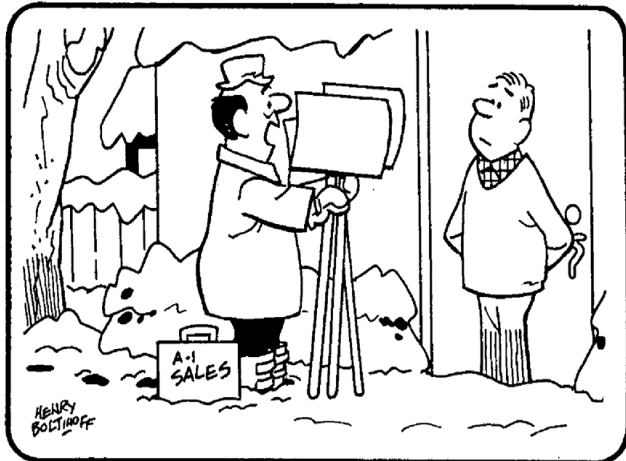
1992, shortly after I started writing my car column, and loved the blend of useful space and sporty handling. My older son currently leases one, and I'm hoping to move him into a 330e when his lease is up. My younger son's first car was a used 2000 3 series coupe.

While a regular hybrid can eliminate half a car's CO2 emissions, a plug-in hybrid, driven locally most of the time, can do even better.

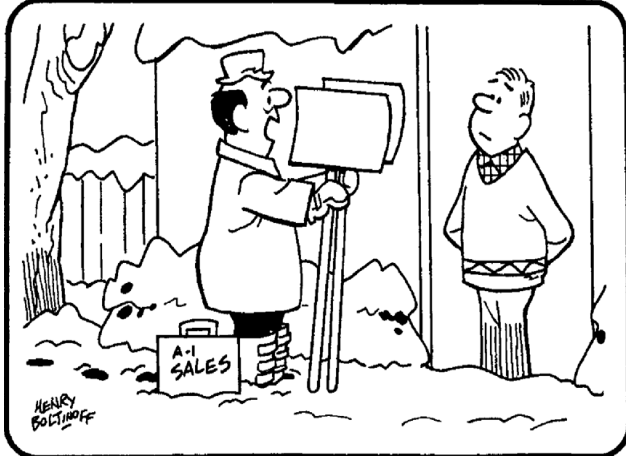
Steve Schaefer lives in Castro Valley. He has been reviewing new cars in the Times for 29 years.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sweater has decoration. 2. Door knob is missing. 3. Boots are taller. 4. One shovel is gone. 5. Fence is higher. 6. House is missing.

Riddle Card

1. What did the big rose say to the little rose?
2. What has five eyes but cannot see?
3. What is the biggest jewel in the world?
4. What is the best name for a lady engineer?
5. Why are playing cards like wolves?



Answers: 1. Hiya, bud. 2. The "Mississippi" River. 3. A base-ball diamond. 4. Bridget. 5. Because they come in packs.

ODD MAN OUT!

To the right is a list of five words. Can you figure out which word doesn't belong on the list?

Answer: Danger. The other words all contain the name of some part of your body. (1. Eye. 2. Ear. 3. Rib. 4. Skin.)

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

ARE YOU IN SHAPE FOR THIS PUZZLE?

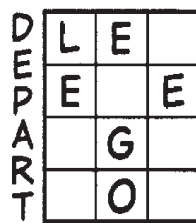


Illustrated by David Coulson

1. GREYED
2. GEARBOX
3. DANGER
4. CARIBOU
5. RISKING

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "DEPART." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

Answers: (Across): Let, ere, age, pod. (Down): Leap, ergo, teed.



You're a winner if you can finish this puzzle in under five minutes. In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed MILE to POST in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. COWS to BARN
2. GALA to FETE
3. DARE to RISK
4. SINE to MATH
5. NAIL to BOLT

Answers: 1. COWS, CAWS, CARS, BARS, BARN. 2. GALA, GALE, GATE, FATE, FETE. 3. DARE, RARE, RASE, RISE, RISK. 4. SINE, MITE, MATE, MATH. 5. NAIL, BAL, BALL, BOLL, BOLT.

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

On Civilian Police Oversight

Editor:

I respect the work of our police officers and staff at the police department. I am deeply grateful for their vital contributions to the safety of the community. However, the San Leandro Police Department operates largely as an autonomous organization within city government. The resulting lack of oversight and accountability does not serve the interests of the people of San Leandro.

This is why I support the creation of an independent and empowered police oversight commission. The people of San Leandro need a mechanism for the review of police policies and practices as well as the investigation of complaints concerning police actions, including the use of excessive force, by a local, independent body.

This is an important reform in making San Leandro a safer and more just community. It is essential for our safety that all San Leandrans have trust and confidence in the police department, so they will report crimes when they occur. To maintain the public's trust and confidence, there also must be an investigation and accountability when a police officer has engaged in misconduct. In short, safety and justice go hand-in-hand.

—Stephen Cassidy, San Leandro

Supports Police Oversight

Editor:

It's 1:11a.m., I'm up late. It's Saturday already. The Citizens app on my iPhone notifies me of a fire nearby, at E.12th St. and 7th Ave. I thought to myself, "please don't let it be the Community Center, please don't let this be the fourth time we have to put out a fire in the middle of the night."

By 1:55 a.m. I was certain it was the Center and proceeded to head down to check it out, only to find dozens of fire fighters trying to extinguish a blaze that destroyed almost 40% of the building. I just stood there and wept.

The City recently passed ordinances that, if enforced, could have prevented such fires from damaging community property, such property that could very well be critical to public health and safety like it was in this case. And in the end, we all have an interest in preventing destruction to community property, right?

Now imagine if stakeholders of community property had a mechanism to communicate with local police, and call upon tools the City created to prevent destruction of spaces critical to public health and safety - we as a community would feel more secure, I believe.

The San Leandro city council recently voted to create a new mechanism for public safety through the creation of civilian police oversight within the next 6 months. I applaud the council's decision to take this important step towards public safety for all.

There are many different models for police oversight, but research shows that the most effective models have the ability to subpoena records, conduct independent investigations, have a say in policy (including training), have a say in discipline, and communicate

transparently with the public. Oversight can save cities money through prevention of costly incidents that damage the local community. At a basic level, oversight is something every government agency should have; government bodies should be accountable in how they treat the public and how they get tax dollars.

I strongly support the creation of Civilian Police Oversight in San Leandro: www.tinyurl.com/sloversight

—Sean P. Fong, San Leandro

Reimagining Public Safety

Editor:

You may be pleasantly surprised to learn that the San Leandro City Council has committed itself to the creation of a civilian police oversight body within 6 months! There will even be a presentation by Michael Genacco of the OIR Group, a nationally recognized expert on law enforcement reform and accountability.

Notably, the benefits of police oversight extend beyond fostering trust between law enforcement and residents. With civilian oversight comes a systematic response to wasteful spending, disciplinary failures, as well as implementing innovative best practices in policing.

After the past two years of SLPD brutality and misconduct, on top of decades of bloated over-investment towards ineffective policing, it is about time our community starts taking a more active role in reimagining public safety in our city. This accomplishment comes on the heels of months of grassroots efforts spearheaded by local leaders among the activists and organizers residing in San Leandro.

We owe particular thanks to Celina Reyes, Bob Bailey, Oversight 4 SL, as well as San Leandro For Accountability, Transparency & Equity.

You can read SLATE's open letter with more information at <http://www.tinyurl.com/sloversight>. In the meantime, please contact our elected officials and tell them you support effective and efficient civilian oversight with meaningful power to curb misconduct! Take note and take care.

—Stephen Michael Tow, San Leandro

Supports Officer Niemi Day

Editor:

I wanted to express my support for the San Leandro City Council to proclaim July 25 as Officer Nelson Daniel Niemi Day.

—Dean Feldman, San Leandro

On Grocery Workers' Hazard Pay

Editor:

Five Dollars an Hour Hazard Pay for Some Grocery Store Workers

"It's a small token, actually, but it's something," according to Councilwoman Corina Lopez. A small token when it isn't your money. Will this small token be extended to teachers when they come back (hint: No). Why, because then we need to talk about budgets and fiscal responsibility.

Grocery store workers have not lost their jobs and the pandemic is winding down. Arbitrarily raising salaries results in higher food costs and/or store closures as is the case in both Seattle and Long

Beach. What profit margin does Grocery Outlet operate on? I don't know, and neither does the City Council. But hey let the city with the highest sales tax in the county help you run your business. And too bad if you work for an independent grocer, apparently there is no hazard there. No soup for you!

—Fred Honsal, San Leandro

Employees Deserve Support

Editor:

I laud the San Leandro City Council for their efforts to support our local grocery workers with the passage of the Retail Food Worker Hazard Pay Ordinance. But, I am wondering why this was only applicable to grocery store employees at large establishments? In addition to this group of employees, what about the employees at fast food outlets, who also have served a huge need during the pandemic?

Unlike the grocery workers who generally are unionized with union pay, most fast food employees at places like McDonalds are considerably underpaid, with no union support.

I feel that both groups of employees deserve the City's support and appreciation. It would be helpful to know how this decision was made, and at whose request and or influence.

—Maureen Sirhall, San Leandro

Supports Grocery Workers

Editor:

I applaud Victor Aguilar and the city council for voting to give grocery store workers a \$5 increase in pay. Trader Joe's has been doing this since the beginning of the pandemic.

Grocery workers are on the front lines of this terrible pandemic. Paying for the raise could come from higher prices, a voluntary donation from customers, they often ask customers to make donations when they process a transaction with their payment card. This could nationally happen from the little known so-called swipe fee that banks charge merchants who use a credit or debit card. YouTube has a few short videos on the subject.

The pandemic is a warlike situation and in war countries usually ask their citizens to sacrifice. The banks could do a little sacrificing on the swipe fee. Other countries charge a much lower swipe fee rate or no swipe fee rate at all. Technically it cost the banks 4 cents to process debit card transactions. They charge \$.24 and up to merchants per customer swipe.

During World War II the wealthy paid a 90 percent income tax rate, today we could ask for a freeze on the swipe fee and it would go a long way in terms of financing hazard pay and even help in the fight for \$15 since many low wage service sector workers are in the food and retail industries.

—Craig Williams, San Leandro

Repaint 'Black Lives Matter' Sign

Editor:

Mayor Cutter, please continue to show San Leandro's love, support and appreciation for our African-American community.

Now, especially during Black History Month, would be an appropriate time to honor that. You have the ability to delegate the resources to have the "BLACK LIVES MATTER" letters on Parrott St. repainted. Don't let the importance of this message continue to fade away from weather and tire marks.

—Kirk Thompson, San Leandro

Why No San Leandro Vaccination Zip Codes?

Editor:

Like most, I would like to schedule a Covid-19 vaccination.

As it happens, my age group is now being told I am eligible to receive a vaccine. Imagine my surprise when I called the 211 Alameda County (run by Eden I&R) help line, and was told that they are scheduling only for five Oakland zip codes. When I asked why only five Oakland zip codes, I did not get an answer. I wonder why San Leandro was being excluded.

—Joe Springer, San Leandro

Inner Wheel Thanks Supporters Of Burrito Drop-Off

Editor:

Inner Wheel of San Leandro thanks all the supporters of our Second Burrito Drop-Off Event honoring our Healthcare Heroes at San Leandro and Eden Hospitals.

One hundred seventy-five burritos, prepared by Los Pericos Market in San Leandro, were enjoyed by very dedicated and compassionate healthcare providers.

Thank you for your generous support.

—P. Johnston, Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro

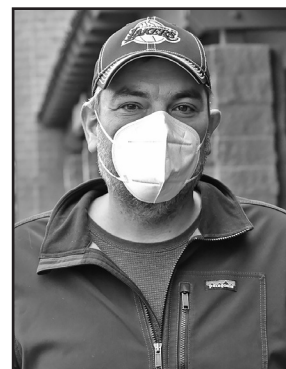
INQUIRING REPORTER

Could you live without a cell phone?

— Asked downtown

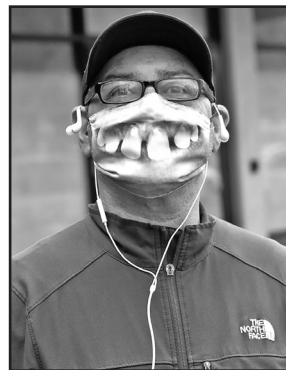
Probably not, but I like to go camping where there's no cell phone reception. It's nice every once in a while – unplugged.

Martin Otero
Sheffield Village



Yes, the only thing I do on a cell phone is listen to music. The technology today is geared toward younger people. You don't necessarily need a phone to communicate with people.

Mark Anthony
San Leandro



No, I'm tied to it – to connect with my family and everyone. Work related, home related, school related – everything is tied to that little box.

Evelyn Olivera
San Leandro



I could. I'm from a time before cell phones. I sometimes go out without a cell phone. A lot of calls you think are important aren't that important.

Owen Garrett
San Leandro



I feel that I could get by without a cell phone. It makes me more in the moment, enjoy life. It's better for your mental health to not always be checking your phone. But sometimes it's good to have one to keep in touch.

Diego Alonzo
San Leandro



Grocers Group Sues City over Mandated Pay Raise

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro City Council voted last week to temporarily increase grocery workers hourly pay by \$5.

The move has sparked a lawsuit by a grocery association and criticism from the Chamber of Commerce.

Five members of the City Council voted for the pay increase, called the Retail Food

“Grocery store workers have endured a challenging work environment brought on by the pandemic.”

— City Councilman
Victor Aguilar

Workers Hazard Pay Ordinance. Mayor Pauline Cutter recused herself from the vote, and Councilman Pete Ballew was absent.

Councilman Victor Aguilar said he and other council members adopted the “urgency” ordinance to acknowledge that

grocery workers are at greater risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus because of their public-facing jobs.

“For nearly one year, grocery store workers have endured a challenging work environment brought upon them by the pandemic,” Aguilar said in a written statement. “They have performed at a high level while providing food and essential supplies to our residents. This action will mitigate grocery workers’ overexposure to the COVID-19 virus because they will not have to work two to three jobs during this time. The City Council took this action in recognition of their critical work.”

The ordinance covers 2,105 employees at 19 different stores including grocers such as Safeway, Lucky, Pak N Save, Food Maxx, and Grocery Outlet. It also includes other stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, Costco, CVS and Walgreens. The hourly increase would remain in effect for the next 120 days or so long as Alameda County is outside the Yellow tier under the current statewide health order framework, or until such time as most employees are vaccinated.

The cities of Oakland, Long Beach, Montebello, and West Hollywood have also adopted Hazard Pay ordinances.

In response to these ordi-

nances, the California Grocers Association (CGA) filed federal lawsuits against several cities this month, including San Leandro, citing a violation of federal and state laws.

The industry lobby says the Hazard Pay singles out only certain grocers and ignores other groups that employ essential frontline workers. The suit also accuses San Leandro of preempting the federal National Labor

“Grocers have already taken a massive effort to make both workers and customers safer.”

— Ron Fong, California
Grocers Association

Relations Act, which protects the integrity of the collective-bargaining process.

“Grocery store workers are frontline heroes, and that’s why grocers have already undertaken a massive effort to institute measures to make both workers and customers safer in stores,” said Ron Fong, president & CEO of the California Grocers Association. “Firefighters, police officers, health care workers, as well as transportation, sanitation, and restaurant workers are essential, yet grocers are the only businesses being targeted for extra pay mandates. These ordinances will not make workers any safer.”



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The hazard pay ordinance affects all large grocery stores in San Leandro.

Fong says a \$5 per-hour raise amounts to a 28 percent average increase in labor costs for grocery stores and would result in either passing the costs to customers, cutting employee hours, store hours, or possibly closing a store.

The lawsuit against San Leandro was filed in the Northern District of California and asks the courts to declare the ordinance invalid and unconstitutional.

San Leandro Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Emily Griego echoed the CGA’s concerns noting that the usual legislative process was completely bypassed allowing this ordinance to move forward even more quickly than anticipated by deeming it an “emergency ordinance.”

“This is very concerning for the business community as this action sets a precedence that could lead to opening a Pandora’s Box,” Griego said in a written statement.

Griego said that the ordinance moved through very quickly without first going to a committee

or special meeting, as customary with legislation.

Over the years, there have been other cases of “emergency ordinances” being questioned, because if legislation is declared an emergency it doesn’t get the usual time for discussion and public comment.

Changes: New policies

continued from front page

risk to people being served the warrant, as well as the police, he said.

San Leandro has not used no-knock warrants in a long time, but prohibiting them is a step toward building trust, Torres said.

The second change is in background investigations for candidates who are current or former police officers.

“We have updated our policy to allow our background investigators to have access to any record currently being held by an employing law enforcement agency, including incomplete investigations or sealed records,” Torres said.

Torres acknowledged that the City Council voted to proclaim April 18 as Steven Taylor and Sanctity of Life Day.

“As a person and a member of law enforcement, I am committed to ending racial disparities in po-

licing,” Torres said. “I believe the City Council’s action in honoring Steven Taylor on April 18th will serve as a reminder of our ongoing effort towards racial equity and inclusivity.”

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LOCAL DEATHS

Mildred Field

Mildred Field, a resident of San Leandro for over 70 years, passed away peacefully at her home in San Leandro on Tuesday January 26, 2021.

Mildred was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was born on May 10, 1927 on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. She moved to California and settled in Oakland where she met Howard Field, who she later married in 1945. They eventually settled in San Leandro where they would both live for the next 55 years and raise their three daughters, Shirley, Janice, and Linda. Mildred enjoyed spending time outside in her garden, doing puzzles, spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and most of all, cooking. All who knew her, experienced her generosity, kind heart, strength, and selflessness. She will never stop being an inspiration to those who knew her.

She is survived by her daughters Janice Mitchell and Linda Sanos, son-in-law Doug O’Callaghan, and grandsons John O’Callaghan, Matt and Joseph Mitchell, and James Sanos and their families. She leaves behind ten great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will take place at the Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward.



TIMES OBITUARIES may be submitted online at ebpublishing.com, emailed to obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number. A fee will apply depending on the length. A photo can be added for an additional cost. For further assistance, call 510-614-1555.

Frances Gay Joyce

November 25, 1930 ~ February 9, 2021

Frances Gay Joyce, long time Oakland resident who spent a year at Carlton Plaza in San Leandro, passed away on February 9th. She was a history teacher at Las Positas College. She was married to Dr. Robert Joyce who practiced anesthesia at San Leandro and Castro Valley Hospitals. She was famous for her Bastille Parties at her home in Yountville and for New Years Eve parties at her home in Hiller Highlands. When older she became disabled and had to live in assisted living facilities. She loved being at Carlton Plaza but because of her caregivers schedule she was moved to a similar facility in Phoenix, AZ. Her last year in Phoenix was marred by the Covid-19 pandemic and she was very much alone. None of her many long time friends from the Bay Area were able to keep in touch with her and that was very sad. She will be much missed by her many friends.



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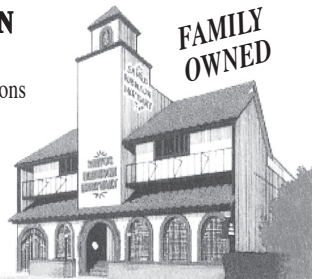
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Promise: Fred Simon proposes memorial for Steven Taylor at Marina Park

continued from front page

the ongoing work of dismantling systemic racism," said Mayor Cutter. "We are committed to the belief that every member of this community, including people of color, are valued and essential to promoting human rights and social justice for all."

Steven Taylor, who was homeless at the time, was experiencing a mental health crisis when he wielded a baseball bat inside the Walmart store, according to a statement at the time by Lee Merritt, an attorney for Taylor's family.

Police were called to Walmart and Fletcher approached Taylor and ordered him to put down the metal baseball bat. Taylor refused to do so and Fletcher fired his taser twice and then a bullet. The Alameda County's District Attorney charged Fletcher with felony manslaughter citing unreasonable use of deadly force. Fletcher pleaded not guilty in December. The trial is pending.

Since then, the City of San Leandro and police department say they have been working to update policies and implement

practices and training to address excessive uses of force in policing.

City Now Supports De-Escalation Tactics

As part of the proclamation, the city said it supports policies that promote de-escalation tactics and regular police training to save the lives of all persons, especially those disproportionately impacted by law enforcement. Steven Taylor and Sanctity of Life Day will serve as a reminder of the city's commitment to this mission, the proclamation said.

"Though symbolic, this resolution cannot stand on its own," Hewitt King said. "A proposal to open a Navigation Center and a commitment to prioritizing access to mental health services in our community are at the top of the city's prioritization list for the year, and we are paying close attention to our leaders as they move forward with this work."

Memorial to Steven Taylor

City Councilman Fred Simon has also proposed a park at the Marina to memorialize Taylor

and others who were killed by the police. The memorial would have a circle of benches and boulders with inscriptions. It would be build near the Luster Knight Memorial Bench near the par course.

Wants Police Oversight

Hewitt King added that the Justice 4 Steven Taylor organization is also awaiting the city's approval and creation of a police oversight commission to ensure changes happen within the San Leandro Police Department as well.

Outside of San Leandro, Hewitt King said the group will continue to stand in solidarity with the Taylor family throughout the pending trial of former Officer Jason Fletcher.

The group says it also supports California Assembly Bill AB392. If passed, the bill would bar police from using lethal force unless it is necessary to prevent the imminent threat of death or serious injury to themselves and others. Newly appointed California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, D-San Diego, authored AB392.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

City Councilman Fred Simon is proposing a memorial to Steven Taylor and other people killed by the police to be built near the par course at Marina Park.

Oversight: Former mayor says City Council has little control over P.D.

continued from front page

with former City Council members Ed Hernandez and Surlene Grant.

Cassidy wrote, "The San Leandro Police Department operates largely as an autonomous organization within city government. This lack of oversight and accountability does not serve the interests of the people of San Leandro. An independent and empowered police oversight commission is an important reform in making San Leandro a safer and more just community."

Monday night's meeting started with a presentation from the OIR Group, who consult with cities on issues relating to policing, on the possible forms civilian review could take.

Stephen Connolly of OIR, which consults with cities on police issues, said there are different models of police accountability efforts. A city could have a review board composed of civilian volunteers, an investigative agency, or monitoring and auditing of police operations – or a combination of these.

San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose have various forms of civilian review.

OIR was already consulting

for the city in the aftermath of the Steven Taylor shooting.

Connolly suggested the "best" model for San Leandro would likely be one that provided both community involvement like a review board and professional

“The San Leandro Police Department operates largely as an autonomous organization within city government.”

— Former mayor Stephen Cassidy

expertise, like the other two models.

Public comments expanded on the need for some sort of accountability for the police. Speakers favored a civilian re-

view board with an investigative or monitoring/auditing body.

Several people said that there had to be enough money budgeted to the board for it to accomplish its work.

City Council members and the mayor, who spoke after the public comments, also called for such a hybrid model, with most favoring a monitor/auditor as well as a review board. City Councilman Victor Aguilar called for an investigative agency in addition to a review board.

Attesting to the disconnection between the public and the police, public speaker Spalding added to his comments, "Any change is up to the police chief, who is appointed by a city manager, who answers to the city council. This any change we could make is already three levels removed from the community."

Tax:

continued from page 11
may be eligible for up to \$6,000 in state and federal tax credits, depending on income and family size. United Way has partnered with Code for America to offer safe, online filing and some in-person assistance is available.

Many Bay Area families struggling with furloughs and job losses related to the pandemic can get a much-needed infusion by filing their taxes. Services start with a quick online interview, then residents upload their tax documents and the United Way team does the rest. People who are unable to use online services can get help in person at select locations.

For details, visit: www.uwba.org/tax-help.

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