

LOOKING
TO BUY
OR SELL?

AGENTS *in* ACTION

PAGE
7

WEEKEND WEATHER		FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
RAINY Occasional showers and low winds				
HIGHS: 57-62				
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110				
LOWS: 45-50				

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 30 • NO. 14

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

Hundreds Tested for Virus in Hayward



PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDER

A long line of cars wait in the rain to enter Hayward's curbside testing station on Saturday morning. The center, at Hayward Fire Station No. 7, opens at 9 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday, but is available only to those with symptoms of COVID-19.

Testing limited to just those with a fever and other symptoms

Testing at the City of Hayward COVID-19 Test Center is now limited to people with fever over 100 degrees and other symptoms of COVID-19 infection such as cough or shortness of breath, the City of Hayward announced.

The Testing Center at Fire Station No. 7, 28270 Huntwood Ave. in South Hayward is free and open to the public regardless of where they live or immigration status. Hours are from 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays or until the number of tests available for the day have been exhausted. The Center will be closed on Mondays.

Of 1,254 people who were among the first to be tested at the City of Hayward's COVID-19 Testing Center, 130 were positive for the new coronavirus infection, laboratory results show.

In all, a total of 1,324 people were tested during the first seven days of operation of the testing center, which is a partnership of the Hayward Fire Department and Avellino Lab of Menlo Park.

To get to the center, the public should enter Huntwood Avenue at Industrial Boulevard, then proceed north to curbside screening locations or backs of lines that lead to them. Access to screening

see TESTED, page 10

Area Hospitals Setting Up Tents

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Local hospitals and health-care facilities continue to prepare for a massive influx of patients needing to treat the COVID-19 disease, including setting up tents and accepting donations such as homemade masks for healthcare workers.

Alameda County Health officials confirmed 339 people are infected with coronavirus as of Wednesday with eight deaths related to the disease.

On Tuesday, California reported more than 5,800 cases of coronavirus, and 135 deaths.

County officials have not made predictions about how

many new cases they expect.

On Monday, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order to add 50,000 temporary hospital beds throughout the state through the month of June and is asking licensed health care workers to lend a hand including those fresh out of nursing school or medical school.

Local hospitals such as Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley and Kaiser Permanente in San Leandro report they are ahead of the curve.

"Preparedness efforts are an integral part of our response,"

see HOSPITALS, page 10

Some Areas of East Bay Parks Closed But most trails are open; just maintain a social distance

The East Bay Regional Park District has closed some of its areas to address overcrowding and public safety during the coronavirus emergency.

Park picnic areas are also closed, and all group gatherings are prohibited. At Lake Chabot Park, the boat ramp is closed.

The Park District hopes to keep parks and trails open, but some closures are necessary to limit overcrowding and maintain social distancing through at least Thursday, April 30.

Trails will remain accessible on a walk-in, bike-in basis.

It's unfortunate but necessary: in an effort to prevent overcrowding and assure the safety of both visitors and staff during the

coronavirus pandemic, said the park district.

"We are all in this together," said Park District General Manager Robert Doyle. "We want to help everyone during this crisis by keeping parks open, but safety of the public and our employees is our top priority."

"If parks are too crowded, please help us keep people safe by going home," added Doyle.

Ways the public can help keep parks open include:

- Maintain a 6-foot distance from other people

- No picnicking, groups, gatherings, or meetups (only immediate households should be together)

see PARKS, page 4



The boat ramp is now closed at Lake Chabot, as well as other park areas where people congregate.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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NEIGHBORS

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NEWS

COVID-19 orders isolate care-home residents. **Page 12**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL
Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 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.



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PETS OF THE WEEK



Archie



Veronica

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Archie the bunny and Veronica the bunny.

Archie is a sweet, English spot mix bunny who's curious and energetic. He's easy to handle and would be a great addition to a loving home. He likes timothy hay, greens and an occasional

piece of fruit.

Veronica is a quiet and laid back bunny. She loves her veggies and enjoys sitting at your side while she gets fed fresh greens. Veronica is spayed and ready to go to her indoor-only home.

For more information on Archie or Veronica, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



Attending the Unity in the Community meeting were San Leandro police chief Jeff Tudor, speaker Martha Kreeger, City Councilman Benny Lee, and Unity in the Community Chairperson Surlene Grant.

Hayward Animal Shelter Adapts During Emergency

The shelter in place restrictions have affected the Hayward Animal Shelter, too.

To adopt a pet from the shelter, go to www.haywardanimals.org. All the available pets are posted on the shelter Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/haywardanimalshelter/posts/>

Hayward Animal Shelter will still be providing services essential to public safety and the safety of animals in the community during the county wide

shelter-in-place.

With the reduction in non-essential services, the shelter is looking for adopters and temporary foster homes for adoptable pets.

Please submit your application to animal.services@hayward-ca.gov. All applications will be reviewed and initial conversations conducted by phone. Appointments to meet with your new permanent or temporary family member will be made at that time.

Unity in the Community Reminds Everybody to Fill Out the Census

Martha Kreeger spoke at the Unity in the Community meeting on Saturday, March 14, about the importance of the census.

The census forms were mailed last week and it's important to fill them out, even in the midst of the coronavirus, Kreeger said.

Kreeger said that an accurate count of the population is important because it has an

effect on government services, congressional representation, and money for vital programs.

The census can also be completed on line or on a mobile phone (www.my2020census.gov) where it is available in 13 languages.

The census only takes about 10 minutes to complete. Today,

DONATIONS TO THE TIMES

All of us at the San Leandro Times appreciate the contributions we have received over the past week to help pay for the printing and home delivery of the paper. For now, contributions can be sent by check to: The Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577 or to: The Times, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501. We will be able to accept contributions online next week.

—Fred Zehnder, Publisher

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Coronavirus Worse Under Capitalism, Say Socialists

Socialist Workers candidates speak at the Senior Center

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

The Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president came to San Leandro on March 14, saying that the response to coronavirus is one of many things that show society needs to be organized better to meet people's needs.

The party's presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, and vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett, spoke to about two dozen people gathered at the Senior Community Center.

Signs at the entrance to the

“*Natural disasters happen, but they become social disasters because of capitalism.*”

— Malcolm Jarrett

senior center announced the canceling of many of the events normally held there due to the coronavirus emergency.

“Natural disasters happen, but they become social disasters because of capitalism,” said Jarrett.

Sutter Needs PPE Donations

Sutter Health is accepting donations of personal protective equipment to help the frontline medical staff prepare for the surge on COVID-19 patients.

Sutter Health anticipates a shortage of medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), like all hospitals and health systems during this health emergency.

We are pursuing additional avenues to bolster and conserve our supplies, so we can meet critical community need while maintaining patient and frontline staff safety, said Rishi Sikka, M.D., president of Sutter Health System Enterprises. “Our top priority continues to be the health and safety of our patients, providers and communities.”

Sutter is asking for business and community donations of the follow-

He pointed to the Daly City hospital (Seton Medical Center) being closed just as an epidemic hits, and to the San Leandro duplexes where rents are being doubled as people are scrambling to deal with school closures and other aspects of the health crisis.

The system is working the way it's supposed to work, Jarrett said. What capitalists know is how to do is things that hurt the working class, he added.

Alyson Kennedy noted that stock market observers are comparing the current stock downturns to the big drop in 1987.

“The things that led up to the 1987 stock market crash haven't changed,” Kennedy said.

“U.S. companies depend on cheap parts from low-wage workers in China. When something happens in China, they're stuck,” Kennedy said.

Electoral politics can't take the place of struggles to protect and extend people's rights at workplaces and in communities, she said.

At the Asarco copper mine in Arizona, the owner, a multinational corporation based in Mexico, has asked to extend a wage freeze that has already lasted 10 years, Kennedy said.

The Asarco workers began their strike last Oct. 13.

Kennedy didn't see the major

ing new items in original packaging:

- N95 masks
- Powered, air-purifying respirator (PAPR) Hoods
- Surgical masks
- Procedure masks
- Isolation gowns
- Paper masks (with ties or elastic)
- Paper protective gowns
- Protective glasses/goggles
- Industrial face shields (e.g., industrial face shields)
- Painters smocks (impermeable)

To make a donation, please contact local Sutter affiliates or call 1-844-987-6099. A Sutter Health representative will provide specific guidance on how to make a delivery. For large local donations, a courier service can be arranged.



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Socialist Workers Party vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett spoke at the March 14 forum. Seated from left are moderator Carole Lesnick, SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy and campaign supporter Libby Kiser.

parties offering much hope to solve the country's problems. She said that while Bernie Sanders describes himself as a socialist, and conservatives here are happy to accept that term, he isn't running a working-class campaign nor is he actually a socialist.

“He doesn't explain a crisis of the capitalist system, a worldwide crisis,” she said.

Sanders thinks you can reform capitalism, and that he'll do it for us, Kennedy said.

In the debate, Democratic candidates argued over how many homes they owned, Kennedy said. She doesn't see that as an issue for most Americans.

“We need to fight to get a different class in power,” she said.

Kennedy is a cashier at a Walmart in Dallas, having worked in coal mines for 14 years previously. Jarrett works as a cook in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

While Democratic candidates have centered their campaigns on criticizing President Donald Trump, the SWP candidates avoided criticizing people who voted for him and might do so again.

Trump won partly because he wasn't seen as a professional politician. People are trying to deal with the crises in their lives, said Kennedy.

“Working people have to be independent of both big parties. Both of them have led attacks on working people for four or five decades now,” Kennedy said.

Many things have been won by mass struggles over the years, she continued. She named the Civil Rights Movement, as well as popular struggles in the 1930's that led to the New Deal, in particular.

“But FDR didn't just give us Social Security and unemployment assistance. People had to fight for them. And LBJ wasn't going to sign the Voting Rights Act until massive struggles forced him to do so,” she said.

Jarrett noted different reactions to the coronavirus outbreak depending on social class. Working-class people he's encountered at dollar stores are buying what they need and not panicking, unlike some shoppers in more upscale stores. People riding the bus still shake hands with each

other, he said.

“The rich, on the other hand, are writing articles about remote places to travel to where there's no virus outbreak yet. Now that's social distancing!” Jarrett said.

Joel Britton, the SWP's candidate for Congress in the 13th District, is running against Democratic incumbent Barbara Lee. Britton, who works at a local Walmart, appealed for both votes

and campaign volunteers.

Event moderator Carole Lesnick said the party is struggling to get on the ballot in “six or seven” additional states. While the SWP is unlikely to win elections currently, Lesnick said that it helps keep their legal status clear.

“It's not an issue right now, but it could be in the future,” she said.

We hope and pray for your health & safety during these difficult times. We have teamed up with Meals on Wheels and are delivering to seniors and shut-ins.
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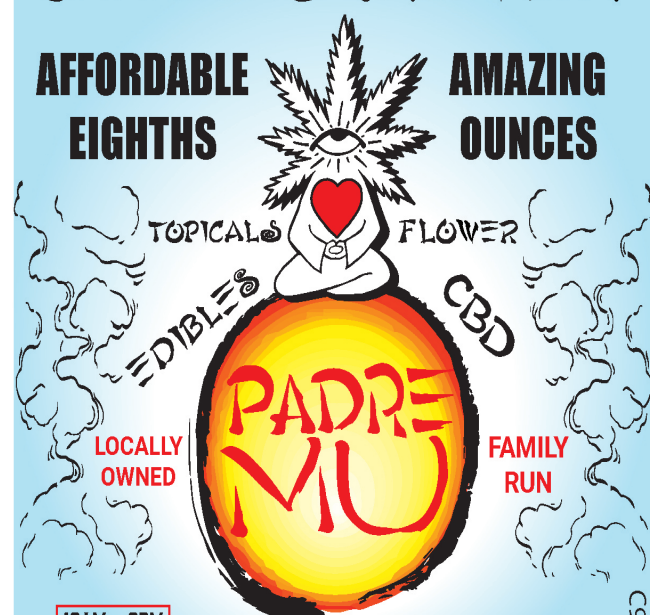
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Steve and Jackie to Celebrate 75th, Met at Navy Base in World War II

Steve and Jackie Fanucchi met during World War II in Hutchinson, Kansas where they both worked on a Navy base for the B-24 Liberator bomber.

Steve, who was born and raised in San Leandro, tested the airplanes. Jackie grew up in Kansas and worked at the concession stand that served refreshments to the pilots and mechanics on their breaks.

They met one night at a dance and they later got married, right in the middle of the war. On April 7, Steve and Jackie will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary.

After the war, Steve and Jackie came back and lived in Castro Valley for a while before moving to Morgan Avenue in San Leandro, not far from where Steve grew up.

Steve delivered the newspaper as a kid and graduated from San Leandro High in 1941. He worked for PG&E for a while before joining the Navy. After the war, he spent his career with Oakland Scavenger, a company founded by his grandfather who was apparently a shrewd businessman.



Steve and Jackie Fanucchi will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary this week.

His grandfather had a horse and wagon and started collecting the garbage in San Leandro, as Steve tells the story. The man collecting garbage in Oakland was coming in and taking some of his customers. So instead of fighting over customers, they merged, and that was the start of

Oakland Scavenger. The Fanucchis raised four children (a son and three daughters), 12 grandchildren (six boys and six girls), 18 great-grandchildren and another great-great-granddaughter. Some of their kids are out of state and some are still here in the East Bay.

Rotary Club Donates to Davis Street

Rotary Club President Elect of San Leandro Amy Neuman met with Basic Needs Manager Emile Awwad and Chief Executive Officer Rose Padilla Johnson at Grocery Outlet and purchased \$2,000 worth of food that was delivered to the Davis Street Food Pantry.

Several volunteers from the Rotary Club of San Leandro dedicate several hours weekly to helping sort, stock, and distribute non-perishable food items to Davis Street's program.

Davis Street thanks the Rotary Club of San Leandro board of directors, including President Dianne Dorn, President-Elect Amy Neuman, Immediate Past President Kim Holland, Treasurer Jesse Bowdle, Secretary Leah Hall, Kristina Seher, Jennifer Reed, Keith Cooke, Aaron Lewis, Morgan Mack-Rose, Dev Mahadevan, and Aisha Knowles.

In the midst of the COVID-19 virus and shutdowns, Davis Street has implemented strong emergency disaster and risk management protocols. Davis Street is going through extreme measures to protect its staff and volunteers to serve and provide



Food bought by the Rotary Club arrives at Davis Street.

services to those that are still in-need. All Davis Street staff has been trained to take extra precautions and are executing hygiene, and sanitation safety standards from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and

the World Health Organization (WHO). Davis Street's mission is to provide safety-net services for those in need and will continue to do so with safety and precautions for staff, volunteers and clients.

Parks: Dogs should be leashed at the parks

continued from front page

• Pack-in, pack-out trash, including dog poop (there is no trash collection during COVID-19)

Park visitation and park use will continue to be monitored closely, with additional closures possible.

Currently, state and county health departments have said they want East Bay Regional Parks to remain open and accessible for outdoor activity if possible. But it may also be necessary to close more park areas based on overcrowding or additional

orders from state or local health agencies.

The park district said it is doing its best to balance the requirements of state and local health agencies' "Shelter in Place" orders, and the community's need for exercise and stress relief.

The public is encouraged to check ebarks.org for up-to-date information on closures.

In addition, the park district is requesting all dogs be leashed everywhere in the regional parks and on trails to avoid interaction with other park users.

LEGAL NOTICE

FILED
MARCH 11, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 569521

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Studio Lafayette located at 1271 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MGN Lafayette, LLC, 572 Lafayette Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. This business commenced 2/4/20. /s/ MGN Lafayette, LLC
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 11, 2025
MAR 19, 26, APR 02, 09, 2020
SLT

FILED
FEBRUARY 25, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 568899

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Irma's House Cleaning Bay Area located at 1769 140th Ave., San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Irma Ramirez, (2) Roxanne Mata, 1769 140th Ave., San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by co-partners. This business commenced N/A. /s/ Irma Ramirez, Roxanne Mata

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

Expires FEBRUARY 25, 2025
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FILED
MARCH 10, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 569467

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): East Bay Cookies located at 949 Bridge Rd., San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Liesl Probasco, 949 Bridge Rd., San Leandro, CA 94577 (2) Alison Knotek, 520 Diehl Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by co-partners. This business commenced 02-03-20. /s/ Liesl Probasco, Alison Knotek

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FILED
MARCH 03, 2020
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County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 569185

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Lorena House Cleaning Services located at 348 105th Ave. Apt A, Oakland, CA 94603, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lorena Salazar, 348 105th Ave. Apt A, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 01-01-20. /s/ Lorena Salazar

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

Expires MARCH 03, 2025
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SLT

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MARCH 03, 2020
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County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 569210

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Derrick's Trucking Inc. located at 15327 Ruggles Street, San Leandro, CA 94579, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Derrick's Trucking Inc., 15327 Ruggles Street, San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by a corporation. This business commenced 01/02/2020. /s/ Derrick's Trucking Inc.

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

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MAR 12, 19, 26, APR 02, 2020
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FILED
MARCH 04, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 569320

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): A&A CPA Accountancy located at 14651 Juniper Street, San Leandro, CA 94579, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Guozhong Lu, 14651 Juniper Street, San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A. /s/ Guozhong Lu

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

Expires MARCH 4, 2025
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0246-SLT

FILED
MARCH 03, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 569245

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Sterling Scalp located at 1515 Aurora Drive Suite 102D, San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vinh Nguyen, 2605 14th Ave., Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A. /s/ Vinh Nguyen

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

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FILED
FEBRUARY 24, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 568870

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Street Mode Specialist located at 22355 Fuller Ave., Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bianca Mayorga, 22355 Fuller Ave., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 2/13/2020. /s/ Bianca Mayorga

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

Expires FEBRUARY 24, 2025
MAR 19, 26, APR 02, 09, 2020
0249-SLT

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You might be upset about having to deal with problems that are no fault of your own. But you can turn the annoyance into an asset by showing how quickly and how well you can resolve them.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): The Bovine's fondness for tidiness pays off when you untangle a situation that seems hopelessly snarled. You might later be surprised to learn who will be expressing his or her gratitude.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Although you can tackle your assignment the way you prefer, it might be a good idea to at least ask for suggestions. Who knows? One or two might even turn out to be helpful.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Make all the changes in your plans or proposals that you feel are necessary before -- repeat, before -- you submit them to your colleagues. You'll come off looking more decisive that way.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): You might feel a mite intimidated in a new environment, be it a job, a classroom or meeting the future in-laws. But enter with a big smile, and everyone will see you as a real take-charge Cat.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): This could be a romantic time for you if you can set aside your cynicism and let yourself believe that someone really cares. If you're already in a relationship, expect your partner to be extra-loving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): It's a good time to shed any doubts about your abilities. You've proved yourself in the past, so why not accept that you'll do just as well, or better, in dealing with the new challenge ahead?

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your suspicions might be on the mark, but unless you can prove what you assume, you need to exercise that Scorpion discretion and let events unfold without your assistance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Be careful not to go over the top this week. Avoid overeating (especially of the wrong foods), or drinking too much, or working too hard. You can do it all, but in moderation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): A family matter is given to you to resolve because you have the gift for bringing quarrelsome kinfolk together. But while you're playing Dr. Phil, don't neglect your career obligations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Someone of importance shares your goals but disagrees with your plan to achieve them. Never mind. Defending your methods with logic and facts earns you admiration and respect.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Consider getting away, perhaps for the weekend, despite all the demands made on your time and energies. You'll return refreshed and ready to tackle it all with your usual finesse.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Gas Price Drops

Demand is down for gasoline, unlike toilet paper, so the price has come down too, as seen on the sign at the U.S. Gas station on Washington Avenue. The nationwide average price for gasoline dropped to \$2.30 last week and in some states it was below two dollars due to the drop in the price of crude oil with the economic slowdown caused by the coronavirus outbreak. Although the price decrease is overshadowed by the overall economic costs of the viral outbreak.

Swalwell to Hold Facebook Question & Answer Session

Congressman Eric Swalwell will hold a Facebook Live Q&A on Thursday, April 2, at 1:30 p.m. with special guest Dr. Yvonne Maldonado, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Stanford University School of Medicine.

You can find the forum on Swalwell's Facebook page at Facebook.com/CongressmanEricSwalwell. Submit questions in advance on the event Facebook page.

"These uncertain times call for new ways to get information out to the public, and I am thrilled

Dr. Maldonado will be joining me for what will undoubtedly be another informative, useful conversation on COVID-19 and what 15th Congressional District residents need to know," Swalwell said.

Dr. Maldonado is a professor at Stanford University School of Medicine. Her research activities have included the epidemiology and prevention of viral infections such as rotavirus, measles, mumps, rubella, polio and pediatric HIV infection. Her research is conducted internationally in Zimbabwe and Mexico, as well

as in the U.S.. She has written over 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and 40 book chapters on these topics. In 1989, she received the Epidemic Intelligence Service Alumni Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and she was inducted into the Multicultural Alumni Hall of Fame at Stanford University in 2001.

Passover Begins Wednesday Evening

The eight-day Passover holiday, one of the most significant observances on the Jewish calendar, begins at sunset on Wednesday with the first Seder meal. It celebrates the redemption of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

Food is a very important part of the celebration, with different foods representing historical events. Eating anything that is leavened is forbidden during Passover. Matzo is a staple and the substitute for bread and can be used for sandwiches.

PASSOVER CHEESE LATKAS

16 ounces cottage cheese
1/2 teaspoon sugar
4 eggs
2 cups of matzo meal or enough to make a semi-thick batter
1/4 cup of oil

In a large bowl mix first 4 ingredients into a batter (batter will be slightly lumpy because of cheese). Heat oil in large frying pan. Drop spoonfuls into oil to make pancakes. Flip when lightly brown. Remove from oil and let drain. Serve with sour cream or applesauce.

PASSOVER BRISKET

1/4 cup packed brown sugar
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 cup red wine
3/4 cup chili sauce
1/4 cup ketchup
3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 (3-1/2 pound) brisket, trimmed
Salt and pepper
3 onions, thinly sliced
3 sprigs fresh thyme

Heat oven to 300°F. In small bowl, mix brown sugar, garlic, wine, chili sauce, ketchup and vinegar with whisk until well blend-



ed. Set aside.

Heat 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat 2 minutes. Pat beef brisket dry with paper towel; season with salt and pepper on each side. Sear beef 2 minutes on one side (beef will develop a dark crust). Turn beef; sear on other side.

Place beef in large roasting pan. Cover with sauce, sliced onions and thyme sprigs. Cover with foil; bake 3 hours.

Let beef stand 10 minutes. Cut across grain into slices. Serve with cooked onions and pan drippings. Yields 7 servings.

MINIATURE POTATO KNISHES

3 cups mashed potatoes
(2 large russet potatoes)

2 eggs, slightly beaten
2 tablespoons margarine
1 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
3/8 cup matzo meal
1 medium onion, diced
1 egg yolk beaten with 1 tablespoon water
Oil for baking sheet

In medium sized bowl, combine mashed potatoes with eggs, margarine, salt, pepper, and matzo meal.

Sauté diced onion until nice and brown and add to mixture. Form into walnut sized balls. Brush with diluted egg yolk.

Place on a well-greased baking sheet and bake in a preheated 400°F oven for 20 minutes or until well browned.

Makes approximately 42 miniature knishes. Easily doubled.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Alameda County Realtors Asking For Essential Services Status

As the coronavirus crisis deepens, shelter-in-place mandates issued by the county and state are dramatically affecting life as we know it. All entities deemed non-essential are closed. Currently, local counties include real estate-related industries. Agents are not allowed to hold open houses, show properties or conduct related activities that necessitate them leaving their homes.

Due to the significant impact of home sales on the country's economy, both the California (CAR) and National (NAR) Associations of Realtors have been working to change the status of real estate activities to essential. NAR President

Vince Malta states, "Everyone's goal is the same right now - to protect the health and wellbeing of our citizens. We must also preserve and defend the fabric of our communities and the critical infrastructure that supports us all," Malta includes, "NAR is working with state Realtor associations to ensure certain real estate services are deemed 'essential' in emergency declarations in order to protect property owners and ensure future economic recovery can occur. It is important that all services involved in facilitating a real estate transaction remain functional during these unprecedented times; including mortgage, title, insurance, appraisal and government recorder services," he concludes.

Local Realtors agree. Since real estate values and related

costs are so high, any delay in the buying, selling and renting processes can be catastrophic for all parties concerned. In addition to the impact of real estate transactions, affected jobs include real estate agents, appraisers and lenders along with other services such as staging companies, home improvement services, sign providers, photographers and more. The majority of these are self-employed individuals who currently do not have access to benefits such as unemployment insurance.

As of March 29th, CAR's website states, "the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) updated its list of essential services during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and expressly included residential real estate. Since Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 order incorporates this list, the order now includes residential and commercial real estate, including settlement services, as essential services in California. However, if a city or county has an order with a more restrictive standard regarding what qualifies as an essential service, or more restrictions on activities, those guidelines will still govern the activities of a licensee (Realtors)."

As of this writing, county regulations supersede state and federal rules, so real estate-related business are still on lockdown. We hope this will change soon.

We are taking a break from our regularly scheduled marketing because we want to touch base with you, heart to heart. ❤️

This global pandemic is real. A lot of people are understandably afraid, confused, overwhelmed, and uncertain. We feel you and we are here for you.

Now is the time more than ever to begin to **practice optimism, kindness, and love.**

We know that when we pull together as a global family, we will make it through.

But some of us need help. And if you are one of those people or you know anyone that is in need, please reach out to us. **We are ready** to track down the essentials, disinfect and leave them on your doorstep. Or, we are here to just talk, so if you want to get on a call to hear a friendly voice please reach out to us. We are here to do whatever we can to help support you through this time.

Stay home. Stay safe. Spread kindness.



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Decorating With Table Lamps: The 5 Best Tips for 2020

Many people underestimate the power of lighting to set the mood and introduce different design elements into their home's interiors. As a result, they often make the mistake of relying solely on overhead fixtures to light their homes.

To get that cozy, homey feel, be sure to incorporate table lamps into your design scheme using these tips and trends from Eyely.com:

- **Use color:** Table lamps can be a good way to add bold pops of color or complement the existing palette. Think about whether you want each lamp to act as focal point or to quietly blend in.

- **Consider size:** Make sure that what you're buying is actually meant to sit atop a table. Table lamps should be between 24 and 31-inches high and at eye level when you're sitting next to them. This comes in handy if you're using the lamp as a reading light. Those on the shorter end of the range are ideal for bedrooms, whereas taller lamps work best in living rooms and other spaces



You'll also need to note the size of the base -- if it's too wide, it may not leave room on the table for books, coasters and decorative pieces.

- **Think purpose:** There are many different types of lampshades and each offers its own benefits. An opaque or dark shade is good for minimizing glare if you're watching TV. A less opaque shade will provide more light and give off a warm glow.

- **Pair up:** Table lamps usually look best in pairs. If you have a long table, you can place a lamp on either end and then, place additional decorations in the center of the table, or, use matching end tables on either side of a sofa to accommodate your twin lamps.

- **Define Your Space:** Do you decorate around a theme such as farmhouse or mid-century design? Lighting can help you define the look. For example, if you're

a bohemian type who prefers a minimalist style, shop for fixtures with an eclectic design and clean, simple lines. For mid-century modern rooms, look for clean lines and vintage-inspired finishes. Mixing rustic and modern finishes can add a modern edge to a traditional space. To get you started, consider these recommendations from Eyely.com:

To simultaneously harken the past and beckon the future, consider the Alani 34-inch Metal LED Table Lamp, which is evocative of 1960s futuristic space race-inspired design but plated in a modern brass, finish.

Flank a table, sofa, or adorn bedside tables with a set of two, such as these Max 27-inch Glass Triple-Sphere LED Table Lamps. Glass blown into a trio of orbs, the look is completed with a matching finial and linen drum

- Statepoint

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What To Do About Small Garlic?; Growing Vines

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Q For the past couple of years, the size of my garlic has been getting smaller and smaller. I'm looking to switch to a different type of fertilizer this year. I'm considering 'Manure Tea.' Could you explain what 'Manure Tea' is and how you go about using it?

A With underground edibles, such as garlic, onions, carrots, beets, etc., you have to be careful with the type of fertilizer that you apply.

Frequent feeding with a high nitrogen fertilizer will produce disappointing results. These types of fertilizers produce lush top growth while the underground portion is undersize.

Nitrogen is the first number in the fertilizer analysis found on every fertilizer. You'll find this information on the front panel of the packaging. I suspect that this is the cause of your problem with the small or undersize garlic.

Organic type fertilizers and



Manure or Compost Tea is ideal for root crops as the nutrient percentages are low. Manure or Compost Tea is simply the nutrient-rich liquid resulting from a container of animal manure or compost and water. It's a favorite fertilizer of organic gardeners.

Here is a simple method of making Manure or Compost Tea. Fill a five-gallon or larger can with one-quart solid material and the balance water and let it sit for four to six days in a sunny location, stirring the mixture several times.

Some gardeners will use burlap

or cheesecloth and place the organic matter in it, drawing up the side and tying it up much like a tea bag hence the tea reference.

When you're done, drain off

the dark liquid and then dilute it with water until it's a light amber color. This liquid is poured around plants as a liquid fertilizer.

You can go online and find a more elaborate system or kits available. So yes, you should consider the Manure Tea this year. Also, I wouldn't be supplementing this with any other type of commercial fertilizer as you may run into the same problems again.

Q We are going to redo our patio this year and will need to raise the soil level about a foot around four ancient and lovely-blooming trumpet vines. How will they tolerate the new conditions?

A Trumpet Vines are an aggressive growing vine, so there is a small possibility that they would be okay. However, I suspect they will struggle for some time and then die, so this is a big gamble that I would not want to take.

Plants do not like to be buried deeper than they were initially planted. Raising the soil level is not an option for me. It is not to late too transplant them, so that is one option. I'd do so quickly before it gets warm.

I think the most practical

option is to install a permanent plant well around each plant. The barrier should extend from the trunk to beyond the drip line. This is where the majority of the roots are located. You can use a variety of materials such as railroad ties, concrete blocks, moss rocks, or a metal grate over them to hold back the soil.

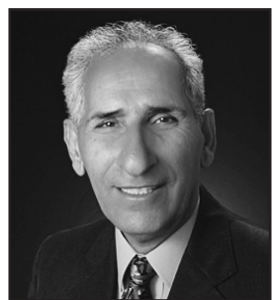
Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com

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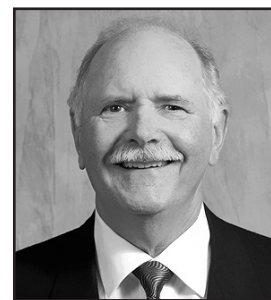
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City of San Leandro Starts Online Hub For Volunteers

Initial phase to focus on food banks and essential providers

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter announced today that the City of San Leandro has launched a new online volunteer hub where community residents may register to serve as a volunteer to assist others in need.

Currently, volunteer opportunities will be focused on local food banks or organizations dedicated to helping the community respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new hub is accessible by visiting: www.SLKindness.net.

Registration is simple and easy. Simply click on the "Sign Up" button that appears on the home screen and follow the prompts.

"I have heard from many San Leandro residents who are looking for ways to volunteer their time to help others impacted by the extremely challenging circumstances we are currently facing," noted Mayor Cutter. "Many of our local non-profit organizations have also shared with me a high priority need for volunteers. That's why I am thrilled to announce the launch

of our Kindness Network website that will help connect volunteers with local organizations that need support. So I am calling on any residents who have available time on their hands and who are healthy enough to help others to please consider signing up."

During the initial phases of the program, the new hub will focus on generating a list of interested volunteers that can be shared with local food banks or other non-profit organizations dedicated to providing meals or groceries to those in need. Over time, the online hub will be expanded to support additional services, including City Departments, non-profit organizations, and community-serving opportunities where volunteers are needed.

Any volunteers seeking to sign up will be required to practice strict social distancing and cleanliness standards to protect against the spread of the coronavirus.

Email Eric Engelbart at eeengelbart@sanleandro.org for more information.

Please Don't Flush Wipes Down The Toilet

Wipes clog pipes, so don't flush them.

The Oro Loma Sanitary District reminds people to not flush disinfectant wipes down the toilet. They go in the trash.

Flushing things like wipes

down the toilet clogs the pipes because they don't break up like toilet paper does.

Think before you flush and reduce the risk of having a sewer backup in your home, or the main sewer line, says Oro Loma.

Tested: Staffed by firefighters and paramedics

continued from front page
lines may be limited at times to provide for safe social distancing and to manage traffic flow.

First responders and health-care workers can schedule a test in advance by calling 510-583-4949 but also must be symptomatic for COVID19 infection and have a temperature over 100 degrees.

The COVID-19 test entails deep swabbing of the nasal cavities and back of the throat, and then transportation of the samples to Avellino Labs in Menlo Park for sample testing. Individual results are available within six days or by the next day in most cases.

The Center is staffed by Hayward firefighter-paramedics who also are continuing to provide fire protection and 911 medical response services in the City.



PHOTO BY FRED ZEHDNER

Over 13,000 people were tested in the first week in Hayward and around 10 percent tested positive.

The Center was established to enhance the region's capacity to suppress new transmission of the coronavirus, take pressure off

hospital emergency rooms and provide quicker answers for first responders and health care workers. Generally, it can provide up

to 370 tests per day.

For more information, go to the City of Hayward's website, www.hayward-ca.gov.

Hospitals: Shortage of necessary equipment

continued from front page

said Sutter Health Communications Manager Monique Binkley Smith. "Most recently, that has included the addition of tents located outside of Eden Medical Center, to help limit the general population's interactions with patients who may have potential respiratory illnesses.

"Using tents is part of our hospital's plan to deal with a surge of patients, and their use is approved by the state. They help prevent the spread of illness to patients and visiting family mem-

bers during influenza season," Smith said.

Like all hospitals and health systems during this unprecedented crisis, those in Alameda County say they anticipate a shortage of medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE).

Eden and Kaiser say they are primarily looking for businesses and community members to donate things like unopened N95 respirators and surgical masks, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and face

shields if they are new and in their original packaging.

"Kaiser Permanente is grateful for the many individuals, community groups, and local businesses that have inquired about donating supplies, such as gloves, masks, and other items," Kaiser Permanente spokesperson Kerri Leedy said. "We have protocols in place to address situations when employees and physicians are exposed to the virus to ensure that we can protect them and others from additional risk."

"Staff at all our medical cen-

ters regularly drill using various emergency scenarios, including detection and treatment of infectious diseases, and have been advised of and are following CDC protocols for the coronavirus," said Leedy.

For those interested in making masks to wear in nonclinical settings or for personal use, Kaiser has published step-by-step instructions, although to be accepted, the masks need to meet certain specifications in order to be effective. You can get the instructions at: lookinside.kaiserpermanente.org/donate-ppe/

Hayward Launches COVID-19 Information Hotline

The City of Hayward has established a new telephone hotline and call center to provide reliable, up-to-date information to community members about coronavirus COVID-19 and its local impact.

The number, 510-583-4949, will be staffed by a multilingual group of City employee volunteers and workers reassigned from other duties, and is in operation from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven

days a week.

The purpose of the hotline is to reduce demand on 911 emergency dispatch call centers and to provide residents—regardless of the language they speak or

immigration status—trustworthy information and connections to the services and help they may need.

Before calling the hotline, residents are highly encouraged to first go online to the City's

COVID-19 Updates webpage at www.hayward-ca.gov/fire-department/disaster-preparedness/covid-19-updates for current information and a growing list of links to other reliable resources.

Mental Health Hotline Free and Confidential

It is likely that the emergency declaration over COVID-19 has left many with increased levels of stress, anxiety, worry, and fear.

The Mental Health Association of San Francisco is making immediate, free non-emergency emotional support available to

anyone in the state via telephone or instant messaging through the California Peer-Run Warm Line, a toll-free service that operates 24/7 and can be reached at: 1-855-845-7415 or on Web Chat at: www.mentalhealthsf.org/peer-run-warmline/

The Warm Line is staffed by

trained peers with specialized training in supporting mental health challenges that people can use to seek support before they've reached the crisis point.

The staff can also help link callers to local emergency, mental health, or social services. All calls are free and confidential.

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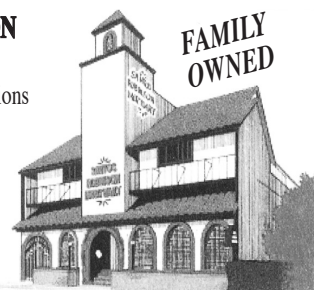
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FD 442

PG&E Offers Ways to Lessen Financial Hardship

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is modifying its billing and service to ensure the lights stay on and the gas continues to flow for customers experiencing financial challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PG&E will suspend service disconnections for non-payment

and waive new service deposit requirements for residential and small business; implement flexible payment plan options; and provide additional support for low-income and medical baseline customers. PG&E has never charged late fees.

This suspension of disconnections applies to both residen-

tial and small business customers and will remain in effect until further notice.

PG&E will also suspend Medical Baseline removals. Customers on the Medical Baseline program will not be asked to re-certify through a doctor or other eligible medical professionals for up to one year.

Bay Area Counties Extend Shelter Order Until May

Alameda County extended the shelter-in-place order till May 3, along with six other Bay Area counties, in an announcement made on Tuesday.

The new order has a few changes over the initial order made on March 16.

- Now shared public recreational facilities are prohibited such as tennis and basketball courts, golf courses, and rock wall climbing.

- Sports where a ball is used is limited to just people who share the same household.

- All essential businesses that offer take-out meals must

have social distancing protocol by April 3.

- Funerals must be limited to no more than 10 people.

- Most construction, residential and commercial, is prohibited.

The list of essential businesses has been expanded to include service providers that enable residential transactions (notaries, title companies, real estate agents, etc.); funeral homes and cemeteries; moving companies, rental car companies and ride-share services that specifically enable essential activities.

Essential businesses that

continue to operate facilities must scale down operations to their essential component only.

Social distancing is the most powerful tool to slow the spread of COVID-19, a virus so new that

it has no approved medicines or vaccines.

“What we need now, for the health of all our communities, is for people to stay home,” said Dr. Grant Colfax, director of

the San Francisco Department of Public Health. “Even though it has been difficult, the Bay Area has really stepped up to the challenge so far, and we need to reaffirm our commit-

ment. We need more time to flatten the curve, to prepare our hospitals for a surge, and to do everything we can to minimize the harm that the virus causes to our communities.”

Message from Mayor Pauline Cutter:

As your Mayor, I want you to know that the City of San Leandro is working hard every day to support the community during this unprecedented public health emergency, limit the spread of coronavirus, and

maintain essential City services to keep the public safe.

Along with my colleagues on the City Council, our City Manager and City staff, we are working around the clock to implement measures to protect

the public based on guidance from public health officials. This includes cancelling events, and altering or suspending non-essential services.

In response to the Governor's shelter-in-place order, most

non-essential meetings are being cancelled. We are also modifying procedures for critical meetings, such as the City Council and disaster council.

Many of these meetings will see MESSAGE, page 12

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.

Marina's Quake Risk to Homes

Editor:

Homeowners at Risk from the Hayward fault
The Southern California developer for the Shoreline Marina project's plan of the landfill area is to build 500 residential homes instead of commercial property.

The EIR discusses potential liquefaction from the inevitable Hayward fault earthquake. Without a seismicographic study the developer wants to go ahead with the construction.

If it built commercial property, businesses that generate income have the chance to recover from property damage, but if residential, homeowners stand to lose their entire life savings.

—Reed Pendleton
San Leandro

COVID-19 Risk at Crowded Store

Editor:

Today I visited our local Walmart store and was unpleasantly surprised

by the fact that it was pretty much as usually before the current health crisis: The store was crowded, protective gear was worn by some workers and not others, customers jostled each other in crowded aisles, no directions for social distancing in the check-out lanes and cash transactions with grimy bills seemed to be the rule.

If this continues, San Leandro will be one of the national hotspots of the outbreak. Given the sorry state of the local health facilities, this is a disaster waiting to happen.

All I can say is avoid Walmart!

—Jim Mehner
Oakland

A Prayer for This Time

Editor:

We are at war with the coronavirus.

I am heartbroken to see that hundreds of lives have been taken in the USA, Europe and Asia. I wholly support our president's measures to

combat the virus and I am sure they will eventually chase the virus down the drain.

For me, I will continue my prayers to God which I partly quote here:

“God of love and mercy, assist me in this time of trouble and anxiety. Strengthen my faith. Increase my trust and confidence in Your compassionate care.

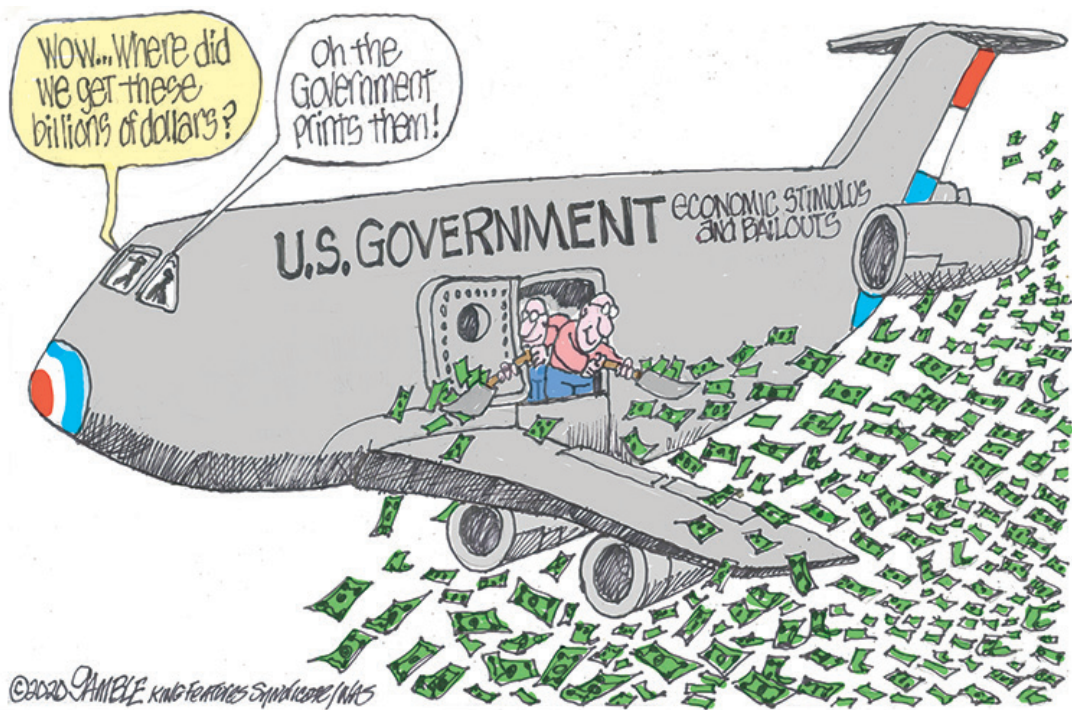
Knowing that with Your help, miracles happen and lives are restored. I pray for a share of Your healing graces and for a heart filled with hope and peace.”

America is strong. We are all in the same boat and will face the virus together.

—Alfred Kwok
San Leandro



Send a Letter to the Editor
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INQUIRING REPORTER

How long can we go on living like this?

— Asked downtown

It's not a matter of how much longer, just as long as we have to. My roommate is going nuts. I work at a chiropractic office and it's open because it's medical. Other than that, you can only go to the grocery store and back home. What else can we do?

Victoria Alvarado
San Leandro



Three weeks and it should be back to normal. I don't believe all the figures the media is giving us. The 1919 Spanish flu just went away and the swine flu went away just the same.

Edgar Herrera
Oakland

I'm still working. I work at a medical office. On the weekends, I stay home. It has affected a lot of businesses. We laid off the whole office. We're just helping emergency patients. In another week, we might all be laid off and then re-group in June.

Veronica Plascencia
San Leandro



Until May or June. I just stay away from big crowds. In Safeway people are too close to each other.

Carlos Rivera
San Leandro

If we work together we can make it. We've got to be strong, work together, be patient and we can make it.

Kasey Dupar
Oakland,
works in San Leandro



Restrictions Causing More Isolation in Senior Care Homes

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Sara Raymond's mom is currently in a senior care facility for dementia in Castro Valley, but she hasn't seen her in nearly a month because of COVID-19 visiting restrictions.

She respects the shelter-in-place rules and is grateful the facility was proactive in protecting residents, but she is concerned that she may not be able to see her mother again.

"She's a really happy, loving person who loves to see people and hold hands and touch hands and be present if you are with her," Raymond says. "This is a hard situation to be in our family, for any family."

Raymond's story echoes how families in Alameda County and elsewhere are trying to cope with loved ones isolated in situations they cannot control.

After coronavirus spread among senior homes in Washington and New York earlier this year, healthcare officials quickly issued guidance on how to slow the spread and protect both senior residents and healthcare workers.

The Alameda County Public Health Department updated its long-term care facility guidance last week. The directive covers independent-living complexes senior housing, retirement residences, residential care facilities, and skilled nursing facilities. These senior housing facilities may manage as many as 100

residents, or operate out of single-family homes.

Under the revised guidelines, residents are screened before being admitted and are then monitored for at least 14 days. Facilities are directed to screen residents at least daily for sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new or changed

"The facility is good about keeping in contact with families."

— Sara Raymond

cough, high temperature, heart and respiratory rates, and oxygen saturation.

"Skilled nursing facilities, or facilities that have a resident with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection should perform this check twice daily," the Public Health Department said in a statement.

In addition to residents, healthcare staff is advised to screen for symptoms at the beginning of each shift and are excluded from work for 14 days if they encounter a high-risk exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Even if everything goes without a hitch, senior facilities are

required to isolate residents as much as possible to prevent the spread of infection. This means most are in their rooms alone or if they are situated in common rooms, they are spread out as much as possible. Such scheduled activities as guest artists and musicians have been all but eliminated to protect all parties involved.

While isolation is difficult for any senior in long-term care, for people with dementia it's especially difficult as they thrive on face-to-face interactions. A phone call may only confuse the patient and they may not recognize the other person on a video chat.

"The facility is really good about keeping in contact with the families," Raymond says. "I hear from the director at least once a week and I hear from my mom's caregiver at least once a day to let us know how she is doing. My heart goes out to the staff. They are part of our family as well."

Ironically, Sara Raymond's mother was a career lab manager for UC Berkeley, Stanford, and eventually Genentech specializing in brain research. Until a few years ago, she was an active member of a UC Berkeley alumni choir, which she helped found.

"And if we do get through all of this, what is she going to be like? What is she going to recognize," wonders Raymond. "An extended absence might have a massive impact on how her illness might accelerate."

Message: 'We have what it takes'

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now be conducted via tele-conference, and we are asking the public to share their comments or feedback in writing, via email, or over the telephone to ensure social distancing.

Written comments or questions may be submitted by email prior to, or during meetings by contacting clerk@sanleandro.

org or citycouncil@sanleandro.org. Many meetings can also be viewed online by visiting the city website and clicking on the City Council link. We've also launch a dedicated website: www.sanleandro.org/C19 where you can find the latest updates from the city related to COVID-19.

We are facing a pandemic that is threatening lives and disrupting

everyday activities, not only here in San Leandro, but throughout the world.

San Leandro is a resilient city. We are also a City of Kindness, and I know we have what it takes to meet this challenge.

These are difficult times, but we are prepared. Let's continue to support each other, even as we practice social distancing.

Have Signs of Illness?

Eden Medical Center is experiencing a heavy flu season. In order to keep patients, staff and the community safe, the hospital is restricting facility access for any visitors and community members who show signs of illness.

Stay home if you have any signs of illness or suspect that you have been exposed to COVID-19. If you aren't feeling well and are seeking care, please contact your doctor for guidance.

If you have concerns that you have been exposed to COVID-19, please contact your doctor or the local health department. You can also find additional tips by visiting Sutter Health's website: www.sutterhealth.org/for-patients/



health-alerts/2019-novel-coronavirus

Due to COVID-19 precautions, Senior Dinners usually

held on Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. at Eden Medical Center, have been canceled until further notice.

SENIORS

Getting Help From Social Security During the Coronavirus Pandemic

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Social Security Administration has closed its 1,200 field offices throughout the country to protect benefit recipients and workers from the coronavirus pandemic.

Their offices have been closed since March 17. How long they will be closed is unclear. It will depend on the course of the pandemic.

In the meantime, services will continue to be available online at the SocialSecurity.gov website, and over the phone. You can also rest assured that monthly payments to the more than 69 million Social Security beneficiaries will not be affected in any way.

Here's a rundown of how you can get help and get answers to your Social Security questions, while their offices are shut down.

Online Help

For any Social Security business you need to conduct, go to SSA.gov/online services. There you can view your latest statement and earnings history, apply for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits online, check the status of an application or appeal, request a replacement Social Security card (in most areas), print a benefit verification letter, and much more — from anywhere and from any of your devices.

Their website also has a wealth of information to answer most of your Social Security questions without having to speak with a representative.

For answers to your Social Security questions see their frequently asked questions page at SSA.gov/ask.

Phone Assistance

If you can't conduct your Social Security business online, check the SSA online field office locator (see SSA.gov/locator) for specific information about how to directly contact your local office.

Your local office will be able to provide critical services to help you apply for benefits, answer your questions, and provide other services over the phone.

Or, you can also call the Social Security national toll-free number at 800-772-1213 (TTY 800-325-0778). This number has many automated service options you can use without waiting to speak with a telephone representative.

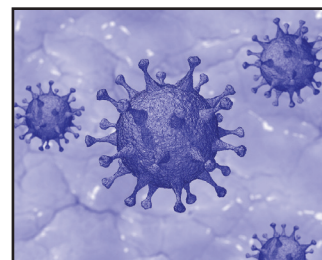
If you already have an in-office appointment scheduled, Social Security will call you to handle your appointment over the phone instead. The call may come from a private number and not from a federal line.

Beware of Scams

Be aware that Social Security telephone impersonation scams are growing.

These scammers may falsely tell you that there is a problem with your account, that your Social Security number has been suspended because of suspected illegal activity, that you're owed a cost-of-living benefit increase, or that your monthly benefits will stop because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The caller may also threaten your benefits, suggest you'll face legal action if you don't provide



information, or pressure you to send money via wire transfers, cash or gift cards. They may even "spoof" your caller ID to make it look like Social Security is actually calling.

If you receive one of these calls, hang up. Social Security rarely contacts anyone by phone unless you have ongoing business with them, and they never threaten you or ask for any form of payment.

For More Information

To get help with Social Security during the coronavirus shutdown, visit SSA.gov/coronavirus.

Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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