

WEEKEND WEATHER
RAIN
 It's raining,
it's pouring...
 HIGHS: 56-61
 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
 LOWS: 43-48

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 29 • NO. 51

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY PAUL KURODA

Veterans and their families came to the annual luncheon for the Veterans Art Program in San Leandro last Friday.

Veterans Find a Voice Through Art

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

The rock 'n' roll band took the stage at the Veterans Building on Bancroft Avenue last Friday, launched into "Jingle Bells" and finished off with "Stand By Me," sung by Eugene Patton, an army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Asked what's the band's name, "Well, we're just the Vet Center Band," said the bass player.

The band had just one rehearsal before the show, as the closing act for the annual "Winter Celebration" luncheon for the Veterans Art Project, hosted by the Oakland Vet Center and the Alameda County Arts

Commission.

The band was the icing on the cake at the annual luncheon to bring together everybody involved in the Veterans Art Project.

The project gives vets the chance to express themselves through art in a supportive environment, part of a statewide initiative

see ART, page 3

Kaiser Mental Health Workers Go on Strike

Picket lines go up across state, including San Leandro

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Kaiser mental health workers, including in San Leandro, are striking for five days statewide this week over what they see as understaffing at the health system's mental health facilities.

Picket lines went up Wednesday morning at Kaiser San Leandro Hospital at 2500 Merced St. At one point pickets marched around the hospital, though Kaiser's San Leandro mental health services are centered at 777 Davis St., near San Leandro BART.

In Oakland, union members marched Tuesday from the Kaiser Medical Center in north Oakland to a noontime rally at Kaiser headquarters downtown.

The dispute over staffing levels goes back several years, and was the cause of a five-day strike by the National Union of Healthcare Workers in December 2018. Another strike had been scheduled for Nov. 11 this year, but was postponed due to the sudden death of then-Kaiser CEO Bernard Tyson.

The union claims that patients wait much longer than is clinically proper between appointments, and that therapist caseloads are also larger than is safe for either the patients or the therapists. The union represents clinicians other than medical doctors.

Michael Torres, a clinical psychologist working with chil-

dren at the 777 Davis St. facility, said that he gets four new patients every week with no limit on his total caseload.

"And I work 30 hours a week."
see STRIKE, page 10

Year in Review: A Look Back At 2019

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

January

• The California Highway Patrol reported that DUI arrests for pot are expected to rise by 70 percent now that weed is legal in the state. But it's hard to nail down whether a driver is stoned because there is no clear-cut test as there is with an alcohol test.

• Homeless people in San Leandro came to the warming shelter in the rec room of First United Methodist Church on Bancroft Avenue. The shelter is open on nights when the temperature is expected to drop below 40 degrees. "I'm just glad this place

see REVIEW, page 12

Bike Giveaway Sets a Record

A thousand bikes given away

Some 1,000 local children have new bikes for Christmas thanks to the Davis Street Family Resource Center, the San Leandro Police Officers Association and Abbott Labs' Diabetes Care Division in Alameda.

Lines of cars and trucks stretched along Alvarado and Teagarden streets on Dec. 14 as parents and children waited to get a bicycle, courtesy of the annual Bikes For Tykes program.

The program is having a record year with 1,000 bikes being distributed. The bike giveaway is headed this year by Jason Jower

of Abbott Diabetes Care. Abbott donated the bikes, while helmets were donated by the San Leandro Police Officers Association, City Councilman Ed Hernandez, and other community members. They were helped by a series of community fundraisers.

Many local businesses contribute to the annual giveaway.

Neighboring business DHL Express lent Davis Street a couple of containers to store the bicycles.

Volunteers helped assemble the bikes and staffed the event, loading the bikes into parents' vehicles.



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Volunteers assembled a thousand bicycles this year for the annual Tykes For Bikes giveaway.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

THEATER

Copeland to perform Christmas classic. **Page 2**

FOOD

Zucchini adds texture to latkes. **Page 5**

INQUIRING

Your favorite Christmas memory? **Page 11**

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San Leandro Times

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

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PETS OF THE WEEK



Evie



Trixie

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Evie the senior poodle and Trixie the Border Collie mix puppy.

If you're looking for a chill dog, Evie, a senior poodle, might be the one for you.

She's very sweet and really just wants a place to lay down and relax. She enjoys going on walks and exploring new environments. Should be okay with

younger kids.

Trixie, a 9 month old Border Collie mix, appears to be full grown at 32 pounds. While a bit timid when meeting new dogs, she comes around when given some time. She plays nicely with dogs she likes and loves toys and people. Best with older kids.

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

Overcome Fear of Public Speaking

The Cherry City Toastmasters Club meets every Tuesday from 12:05 to 1:05 p.m. in the Trustees Room on the first floor at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

Public speaking is said to be the number one fear in America. If this sounds familiar, you are not alone. Toastmasters offers

a safe, supportive environment to grow your public speaking and leadership skills. Come and explore what Toastmasters is all about.

Christmas Concert and Dinner at Badarikashrama

Badarikashrama, 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro, invites everyone to a Christmas Concert & International Vegetarian Dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 3 p.m.

The dinner is free and open to all. For more information, call 510-278-2444.

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Sing for Your Life to Close Out the Year

The 18th Annual "Sing For Your Life" will be on Monday, Dec. 30, from noon to midnight at First Congregational Church, 2501 Harrison St. in Oakland.

All are invited to join the circle, at any point, from noon to midnight (12 hours of non-stop singing) with world famous and local stars of CircleSinging.

"Sing For Your Life" typical-

ly draws 400 people. It's directed by world-renowned performer David Worm, and facilitated by local stars of vocal improv, with guest artists including members of Bobby McFerrin's Voicestra, Gimme5, We Be3, and SoVoS6.

Sing out the old year, dream in a new year of resilience—in kindness and possibility, while celebrating life with our voices.

Sing or listen—no experience necessary. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Come and go or stay the entire time.

See interactive altars by community artists. Drinks and snacks are available in the Café or share what you bring.

Tickets online at CircleSing.org or at the door: \$25. A portion benefits Living Jazz.

Brian Copeland will perform his classic Christmas solo show, The Jewelry Box, this Friday and Saturday night at the Main Library.

Copeland to Perform Christmas Story, The Jewelry Box

Brian Copeland will perform his award-winning Christmas show, *The Jewelry Box*, on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 20 and 21, at 8 p.m. in the theater of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

Tickets are \$20, available at the door, for this great Christmas show for the whole family.

The heartwarming story fol-

lows 6-year-old Brian as he heads to the streets of Oakland to buy his mom a Christmas present. When he finds the perfect gift—a jewelry box in the White Front Department store—Brian sets out to earn the required \$11.97 by Christmas.

The story is rife with references to 1970s Oakland, recounting Brian's adventures as

he scours the "help wanted" ads, applies for jobs, and collects bottles, inching his way toward the perfect Christmas gift.

"*The Jewelry Box* is a gift in itself... it glitters with bright comedy, sharply observed local color and deftly drawn characters as well as genuine warmth," said a review in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

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Art: The newly formed Vet Center Band puts the icing on the cake

continued from front page

funded by the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Art made by veterans was on display at the Veterans Building where a couple hundred people came for the program and luncheon.

"When we leave the military we display art as a way to remind ourselves and the public, those we fought for, that we are here," said David Joseph, director of the Oakland Vet Center.

"Healing takes many forms, many paths," said Joseph. "Some say they can't make art, but when

it was displayed at the Vet Center, the impression that made on me was unbelievable."

Speakers from the Vet Center and the County Arts Commission



PTSD service dog Nemo.

recognized all the key players in the crowd – art instructors, yoga teachers, financial and legal advisors, service dog organizations – all who work with veterans.

Navy veteran Jack Minton had his service dog Pinto with him at his table. He said the dog was trained at Tony LaRusa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) in Walnut Creek and helps him emotionally.

There's even a PGA golf program for veterans with pro golfers as teachers, said Joseph, who spoke as the crowd ate a delicious lunch.

"It's nice they have this program," said Sparky Snyder, a



PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

Eugene Patton sings as the Vets Center Band plays at the luncheon for the Veterans Art Project last Friday in San Leandro.

Vietnam-era veteran and retired electrician who came to the luncheon. "Single men, especially veterans, tend to isolate."

The Vet Center and Arts Commission have been working together for five years to provide

free art programs to Alameda County veterans and their families. The Vet Center provides services to veterans across Alameda County. About 80 percent of the clients are combat vets, and 15 to 20 percent have reported sexual

trauma, according to the VA.

The programs are designed to focus on readjustment goals and to be engaging for people with all levels of art experience.

In addition to creating art, the program creates a community, Joseph said.

"In the past year those who participated in making art found that there was always food, and to be together," Joseph said.

"The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war."

— Douglas MacArthur



Navy veteran Jack Minton with his service dog Pinto. Below are examples of the art by Alameda County veterans.



LEGAL NOTICE

FILED
DECEMBER 10, 2019
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 566339

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): MeeMe Hair Studio located at 703 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jameelah Atchison, 868 61st Street, Oakland, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 11-10-19.

/s/ Jameelah Atchison

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

Expires DECEMBER 10, 2024

DEC 19, 26, 2019 JAN 02, 09, 2020
0194-SLT

FILED
NOVEMBER 20, 2019
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 565639

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Drift Plants located at 19577 Center Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, mailing address 5385 Elaine Ct., Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Drift Succulents LLC, 5385 Elaine Ct., Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Drift Succulents LLC

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

Expires NOVEMBER 20, 2024

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FILED
DECEMBER 04, 2019
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 566077

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Onward Painting located at 1418 Marybelle Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deagean Painting Inc., 1418 Marybelle Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a corporation. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Deagean Painting Inc.

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

Expires December 04, 2024

DEC 12, 19, 26, 2019 JAN 02, 2020
0190-SLT

FILED
NOVEMBER 14, 2019
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 565425

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Studio HX located at 4748 Mira Vista Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wei Wu, 4748 Mira Vista Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Wei Wu

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

Expires NOVEMBER 14, 2024

DEC 12, 19, 26, 2019 JAN 02, 2020
0192-SLT

FILED
DECEMBER 10, 2019
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 566331

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Superior Auto Sales located at 109 Jackson Street Suite 220, Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jannet Ranita-Deo Pratap, 567 Dean Street, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Jannet Ranita-Deo Pratap

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

Expires DECEMBER 10, 2024

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NEIGHBORS



Gima Rivera left was happy to get 400 stuffed Finley the Foxes for the 6th year that Myrna Hoag delivered for the kids at Children's Hospital for the Christmas Holiday.

San Leandrans Deliver Plush Animals to Children's Hospital

Myrna and Keith Hoag delivered 400 plush Finley the Foxes to Gima Rivera at Children's Hospital.

This was Myrna's sixth annual Avon fundraiser for Children's Hospital. They would like to thank the following businesses, families and friends who helped make this fundraiser a great success.

Chambless & Son Towing, Pirtek San Leandro, FHDaily Chevrolet, Nicks Family Rest, Duarte's Towing, Maria Monteiro, Connie Stagg, Danny Monteiro, San Leandro Auto Upholstery, Moeller Bros. Body Shop, Electro Plating Specialties, Vitality Bowls Castro Valley, Elios Restaurant, Bara's Grocery & Deli, California Hair, Roger Fernando State Farm Ins., Vin-

tage Alley, Precision Auto Care, Tender Loving Care House Keeping, Number One Acoustics, Candice Hanisch, Cheryl Brun, Lori Anixter, Carrie Sinai, Dani Nebel, Diana Henares, Larry & Denise Hemenez, Marcie Lambly, Tina Neppel, Karen Clore, Linda Cortez, Michelle Iwai, Debbie Del Rio, Mike & Renee Bush, Celeste Anaya-Peper, Shirley Houston, Rose Mercado, Susan Reisz, Pamela Herrera and Pam Neil.

Myrna wishes everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2020 New Year.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your love of the holidays creates a special bond between you and the people in your life. Use this as a way of building stronger relationships that will carry over well beyond this time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A new approach could go a long way toward resolving a painful estrangement, especially at this holiday time. And since your aspects favor friendship this week, why not go ahead and try it?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your positives continue to dominate, and any negative factors that squeeze in can be dealt with easily. The secret is to tackle them at once and not allow them to benefit by your neglect.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Good news: A colleague's remarks could help you move toward ultimately resolving that persistent workplace situation. Meanwhile, enjoy the holidays with loved ones.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) No one reflects the bright holiday more than all you Leos and Leonas who love the shimmer and glimmer of the season. P.S.: There just might be a very special something from Santa.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Celebrate the holidays by being more receptive to new experiences. Overriding the Virgo reluctance to try new things could be the best gift you've given yourself in a long while.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Good news about a loved one makes the holidays even more festive. Expect some unexpected gifts, so be prepared with a few nicely wrapped packages of goodies to offer in return.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The holiday season provides an opportunity to meet new people, some of whom you might even consider "worthy" enough to join the Scorpio's select group of friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You always bring your own wonderful sparkle and light to the holidays, and don't be surprised if this year someone special reaches out to respond to your warmth in kind.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Togetherness is the dominant theme for the Goat's holiday celebrations this year. That means reaching out to bring everyone you care for into your very own special circle of light.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A reminder of a very special moment from the past makes the holidays more memorable for the romantic Aquarian. New friendships hold the promise of a romantic future as well.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Getting into the swim of things for all you party-loving Pisceans is easy enough this holiday season. And, of course, you can expect to impress people wherever you go.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Deadline for Calendar Items is Friday for the Following Week



❖ San Leandro Adult School

San Leandro Adult School, 1448 Williams St., will host a Career Technical Education Open House tonight, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. Explore the many certificated training classes and programs: Accounting I & II, Administrative Assistant, Barbering & Cosmetology, Clinical Medical Assistant, Employment Preparation, Homecare Worker, Nurse Assistant & Home Health Aide, Medical Billing & Coding, Medical Terminology Bootcamp, Microsoft Office Word, Excel & PowerPoint, Office Skills Preparation, Para Educator Test Preparation, Payroll Accounting, Pharmacy Technician and QuickBooks. For more information, call 510-667-6250 or visit www.sanleandroadult-school.org.

❖ San Leandro Toastmasters

The San Leandro Toastmasters meet on Thursday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The group fosters improved communication and public speaking. All levels of speakers from novice to seasoned are welcome.

❖ Build It with Legos at Manor Library

Build it with Legos. Come and let your imagination soar with Legos at the Manor Library 1241 Manor Boulevard in San Leandro, on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Bring your design skills. Legos for building will be provided. For kids 6 to 10 years old. No registration required.

❖ Douglas Morrisson Theatre

This holiday season, the Douglas Morrisson Theatre and East Bay Children's Theatre are decking the halls with a splashy musical for the entire family, *Christmas In OZ*, running till Dec. 22. Tickets are \$15 to \$29. Performances will be held at Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. For tickets and more information, visit www.dmtOnline.org or www.ebctOnline.org or phone 510-881-6777. Show times are Friday and Saturdays Dec. 20, 21 at 8 p.m., Sunday Dec. 22 at 2 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.

❖ Bal Theater Presents A Christmas Carol

The San Leandro Players will perform a live radio show adaptation of Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. at the historic Bal Theater, 14808 East 14th St. in San Leandro. The show will benefit the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club. Tickets for the show are free and can be obtained through either the San Leandro Players website – www.slplayers.org – or the Bal Theater website – www.baltheater.com. Walk-ups on the night of the show will also be acceptable. Doors open at 6 p.m. for music and photos with Santa Claus. Although the show is free, donations will be cheerfully accepted.

❖ Christmas is Here Concert 2019

Life Change Baptist Church, 13067 Aurora Drive in San Leandro invites everyone to the 2019 Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 22. There will be two showings, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please RSVP for the time that works best for you. For either option, plan on joining in for lunch at 11:30. For more information, call 925-755-8710.

❖ Story Time with Muriel

Keep the kids busy the day before Christmas at Bayfair's Story Time with Muriel held Tuesday, Dec. 24 from 11 a.m. to noon at Bayfair Center, 15555 E 14th St, San Leandro.

This interactive hour of fun includes singing, educational activities, stories and a craft. All children 12 and under are welcome.

❖ Christmas Concert & Dinner

Badarikashrama, 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro, invites everyone to a Christmas Concert & International Vegetarian Dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 3 p.m. The dinner is free and open to all. For more information, call 510-278-2444.

❖ Cherry City Toastmasters Meetings

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❖ Kiwanis Club of San Leandro

The San Leandro Kiwanis Club will holding its annual crab feed on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, salad and hot garlic bread. Local band, The Kopi Katz, will provide classic rock 'n' roll oldies for post-dinner dancing. The event is assigned seating only. To purchase tickets or for more information, call Terri Neumann at 510-895-4425. Proceeds support the San Leandro Kiwanis Club.

❖ Cherry City Toastmasters Meetings

The Cherry City Toastmasters Club meets every Tuesday from 12:05 to 1:05 p.m. in the Trustees Room on the first floor at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Public speaking is said to be the number one fear in America. If this sounds familiar, you are not alone. Toastmasters offers a safe, supportive environment to grow your public speaking and leadership skills. Come and explore what Toastmasters is all about.

❖ San Leandro LeTip Meeting

Come see how LeTip can help your business sales grow. Meetings are held every Thursday at 7 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 1803 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. LeTip is a professional organization whose purpose is the exchange of business leads. Each business category can only be represented by only one person. For more information, call Robert West at 912-0555.

❖ A Singing Celebration

OneVoice CircleSingers present *Sing For Your Life!* 18th annual celebration on Monday, Dec. 30, from noon to midnight at the First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. in Oakland. 12 hours of continuous community singing with highly skilled improv artists sing out the old year, dream in a new year of resilience, in kindness and possibility, while celebrating life with our voices. Sing or listen, no experience necessary. All are welcome—a family-friendly event. Come and go or stay the entire time. Interactive alters by community artists. Drinks and snacks in the café and share what you bring. Tickets online at CircleSing.org or at the door: \$25 (no one turned away for lack of funds). Portion benefits Living Jazz and no one turned away for lack of funds.

LIFESTYLE

Symbolic Holiday Menu Calls for Latkes, Jelly Doughnuts



Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, begins at sundown Sunday and continues for eight days and nights.

The holiday is celebrated by candle lighting, exchanging gifts and eating foods fried in oil, an ancient custom commemorating an event in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, where a tiny vial of oil is said to have burned for eight days.

The favorite food is latkes – potato pancakes – served with sour cream and applesauce or preserves.

The other popular and traditional Hanukkah treat is the jelly doughnut, called sufganiyot in Hebrew. While both are tasty holiday treats, they can be enjoyed year round by everyone.

POTATO-ZUCCHINI LATKES

Zucchini adds just the right texture to latkes. For an Italian spin, sprinkle the latkes with extra oregano and Parmesan. Most people choose to peel the potatoes before making latkes, but this is entirely a matter of taste.

- 2 medium zucchini (12 ounces total), shredded on large holes of a box grater
- 8 ounces russet potatoes, peeled and shredded on large holes of a box grater
- 1/2 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 large egg
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1/4 cup olive oil

Preheat the oven to 250°F. Place

a wire rack on a rimmed baking sheet; set aside. Place the zucchini and potato in a colander set over a bowl to drain. With your fingers squeeze the liquid out of the zucchini and potato until dry. Discard any liquid.

Transfer mixture to a bowl and add the Parmesan, flour, egg, salt, and oregano; toss well to combine.

In a large, heavy skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of oil over medium heat. Using a 1/4-cup measure, place 3 to 4 mounds of zucchini mixture in the pan, flattening with a metal spatula to a 1/2-inch thickness. Cook until golden brown and cooked through, 3 to 4 minutes per side, lowering the heat if over browning. Transfer latkes to rack set on baking sheet and place in the oven to keep warm.

Repeat with remaining mixture, adding remaining 1 to 2 tablespoons of oil for remaining batches as needed. Makes 8 latkes.

This recipe, with the potatoes and zucchini shredded coarsely, makes latkes with rough, crispy edges. If you prefer denser latkes with smooth edges, use the fine side of the grater.

Note: Although latkes are tra-

ditionally made from potatoes and onions, some recipes call for shredded sweet potatoes, apples, carrots, garlic or parsnips. The majority of the mixture must always consist of potatoes, however, because other vegetables don't contain enough starch to make the mixture stick together.

APPLESAUCE

- 4 apples, peeled, cored and chopped
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

In a saucepan, combine apples, water, sugar, and cinnamon. Cover, and cook over medium heat for 15 to 20 minutes, or until apples are soft. Allow to cool, then mash with a fork or potato masher. Makes 4 servings.

HANUKKAH SUFGANIYOT

- 2 scant tablespoons (2 packages) active dry yeast
- 4 tablespoons sugar, plus sugar for rolling
- 3/4 cup lukewarm water or

- milk
- 2-1/2 cups flour, sifted
- 2 large egg yolks
- Pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1-1/2 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
- Vegetable oil for deep-frying
- 1/2 cup plum, strawberry, raspberry jelly or jam

Sprinkle the yeast and 2 tablespoons of the sugar into the water or milk and stir to dissolve.

Place the flour on a work surface and make a well in the center. Add the yeast mixture, egg yolks, salt, cinnamon, and the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Knead well, about 5 minutes, working the butter or margarine into the dough and kneading until the dough is elastic. You can also use a food processor fitted with the steel blade to do this, processing about 2 minutes.

Put the dough on a greased bowl, cover with a kitchen towel, and let it rise for 1-2 hours, or until doubled in size.

Sprinkle flour on the work surface. Roll out the dough to an 1/8-inch thickness. Using a 2-inch cookie cutter or floured drinking glass, cut out circles. Let the dough circles rise 15 minutes or more.

With your hands, gently form the dough circles into balls.

Pour 2-inches of oil into a heavy pot and heat until very hot, about 375°F.

Slip the doughnuts into the oil, 4 or 5 at a time, using a slotted spoon. Turn them when brown, after a few minutes, to crisp on the other side. Drain on paper towels.

Using a turkey baster or an injector available at cooking stores, inject a teaspoon of jam into each doughnut. Then roll all of them in granulated sugar and serve immediately. Makes 24 doughnuts.

NOODLE KUGEL

- 1 pound wide egg noodles
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 pound cottage cheese
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 5 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 2 cups pecan pieces
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Add the noodles and cook until tender, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove and drain. Toss the noodles with the butter.

In a large mixing bowl, mix the cottage cheese, sour cream, sugar, milk, eggs, and vanilla. Mix well.



Fold in the noodles. Mix well.

Pour the mixture into a buttered 9 by 13-inch pan.

In a small mixing bowl, mix the brown sugar, pecan pieces and cinnamon, together. Mix well. Sprinkle the mixture on top of the egg mixture, evenly.

Bake for about an hour or until the pudding is set.

Remove from the oven and cool before serving. Yields about 12 servings.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Hidden Purchase Costs Can Ambush Homebuyers

Looking to buy a home in 2020? With local prices projected to rise approximately 3% next year, homebuyer wannabes will need to finetune budgets to check off the homeownership box.

Make sure you factor in the 'real' costs of home ownership.

The primary purchase costs are visible, including down payment, closing costs, loan, taxes, insurance and, if applicable, HOA fees. These are factored in when qualifying for a loan.

It is the hidden costs that catch buyers by surprise. Here are our Top 6:

- Moving Expenses

If you can load your belongings in a pickup truck, moving costs will be low. Factor in larger items, however, and expenses rack up quickly. Have bigger items such as a fridge, exercise equipment or a piano? You may need professional help.

- Furnishings

Occasionally existing furniture does not fit well or look

good in the new home. Our first home had rooms that remained vacant (including the living room) the entire time we lived there because we never had the funds to fill them.

Keep in mind that furnishings include window coverings, throw rugs and other designer items that help make the home cozy.

- Upgrades

Every buyer wants their new digs to reflect their own personal tastes. While this may be as simple as a can of paint, some new homeowners want to change floors, counters, redo kitchens and baths, upgrade landscaping and more.

Most buyers do not have a good grasp on current home improvement costs, and projects that may have seemed simple and inexpensive on paper have a way of quickly expanding. Upgrading appliances can also be expensive.

- Security

Increasing numbers of owners, concerned about safety, are installing alarms, cameras, smart locks and other security features. These not only have initial

costs, many have accompanying monthly fees as well.

- Utilities

Hard to believe, but some buyers forget electrical, gas, water, trash, internet and phone costs. Utilities can be higher than expected, especially if the home has inefficient furnaces/air conditioning units, pools or other high-energy systems.

Older homes might not have adequate insulation, pushing energy costs higher. If you want wifi-connected thermostats, factor purchase and installation costs in as well.

- Maintenance

Once you own a home, maintenance is on you. We recommend saving money monthly to establish a maintenance fund.

Buying a new home can be exciting! With good financial planning, you can keep hidden costs from showing up as unexpected guests.

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.

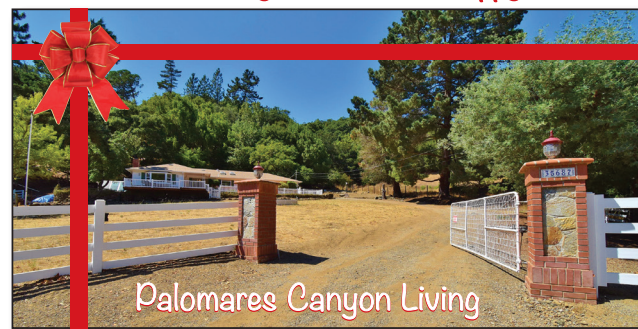
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Looking to Buy a Home? 2020 May Be Your Year

If buying a home is on your near-future to-do list, experts say that 2020 may be a good year to make it happen. Mortgage interest rates are near historic lows, providing you with the opportunity to finance a new home purchase at a much lower cost.

According to a new forecast from Freddie Mac, mortgage rates will stay in the 3-4 percent range for all of 2020 and 2021, giving prospective homeowners

substantial time to plan their purchase. This, combined with modest inflation and a solid labor market, makes for good climate to buy a home with a fixed rate mortgage. For those who are already homeowners, refinancing now may be a good idea.

"For those serious about homeownership, today's sub 4 percent mortgage rates should not be taken for granted," says Freddie Mac chief economist, Sam Khater. "For comparative purposes, in 2000, rates averaged eight percent; and in the 80s, they spiked to 18.5 percent."

Khater stresses that while mortgage rates are an essential factor to consider in the home-buying process, there are other important items to think about as well as you lay the groundwork for your purchase.

These include getting a firm handle on your finances, knowing your credit score (and taking steps to boost it if necessary) and familiarizing yourself with down payment options.

For more information and tools on home buying and homeownership, visit myhome.freddie.com.

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SENIORS

Will Mom Lose Medicare or Medi-Cal Coverage If She Leaves the Nursing Home To Visit Family For the Holidays?

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.
Special to the Times

Q Mom has been receiving care in a nursing home. She is currently covered by Medicare, but soon will switch to Medi-Cal. She would really like to come to

our home for a short visit during the holidays. However, I heard that she might lose her coverage if she does so. Is that true?

A Not if her visit is handled correctly, including arranging for a "pass"

from the nursing home for the visit and making sure that it is included in her Plan of Care.

In this regard, the rules for Medicare are different from the rules for Medi-Cal. Here's the way they work:

Medicare: While the Medi-

care Benefits Policy Manual recognizes that most beneficiaries needing nursing level care are unable to leave the facility, it recites that "the fact that a patient is granted an outside pass or short leave of absence for the purpose of attending a special

religious service, holiday meal, family occasion, going on a car ride, or for a trial visit home, is not, by itself evidence that the individual no longer needs to be in a [nursing home] for the receipt of required skill care."

The Manual also states that it is not appropriate for the facility to notify the patient that the visit home will result in a denial of coverage. However, it is best if your mom returns before midnight on the same day, as Medicare will only pay for that one day away.

If her visit extends out more than the same day, the facility can charge her privately for the bed-hold for each day thereafter, so long as it has advised her, in advance, that it will do so and the cost for same.

So, short visits of one or two days to be with family is entirely appropriate, and will not result in a loss of Medicare coverage, but — after the first day away — the visit may require private payment to hold her bed.

Medi-Cal: The rules for persons on Medi-Cal are more lenient. If your mom's stay is

covered by Medi-Cal at the time of her visit, she could be granted a leave of absence (LOA) of up to 18 days per calendar year, provided that the physician approves the LOA and writes it into her Plan of Care.

Medi-Cal will cover the first seven days of "bed hold" while she is away, and considers this a "therapeutic leave." Further, she could be granted up to an additional 12 days of LOA per year under certain conditions.

So, again, if your mom were relying upon Medi-Cal for nursing home coverage, her visit home should not be a problem, but be sure to request that the physician writes the planned LOA into her Plan of Care.

Good wishes to your mom and family, and I hope that she enjoys the holidays with those she loves.

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com.



Why the Risk of Heart Attack Rises in Winter

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

Everyone knows winter is cold and flu season, but many don't know that it's also the prime season for heart attacks too, especially if you already have heart disease or have suffered a previous heart attack.

Here's what you should know, along with some tips to help you protect yourself.

In the U.S., the risk of having a heart attack during the winter months is twice as high as it is during the summertime. Why? There are a number of factors, and they're not all linked to cold weather.

Even people who live in warm climates have an increased risk. Here are the areas you need to pay extra attention to this winter.

• Cold temperatures:

When a person gets cold, the body responds by constricting the blood vessels to help the body maintain heat. This causes blood pressure to go up and makes the heart work harder.

Cold temperatures can also increase levels of certain proteins that can thicken the blood and increase the risk for blood clots.

So, stay warm this winter, and when you do have to go outside, make sure you bundle up in layers with gloves and a hat, and place a scarf over your mouth and nose to warm up the air before you breathe it in.

• Strenuous Activity:

Studies have shown that heart attack rates jump dramatically in the first few days after a major snowstorm, usually a result of snow shoveling. Any strenuous activity raises blood pressure and stresses the heart. Combine those factors with the

cold temperatures and the risks for heart attack surges.

• New Year's resolutions:

Every Jan. 1, millions of people join gyms or start exercise programs as part of their New Year's resolution to get in shape, and many overexert themselves too soon.

If you're starting a new exercise program this winter, take the time to talk to your doctor about what types and how much exercise may be appropriate for you.

• Winter weight gain:

People tend to eat and drink more and gain more weight during the holiday season and winter months, all of which are hard on the heart and risky for

someone with heart disease.

So, keep a watchful eye on your diet this winter and avoid binging on fatty foods and alcohol.

• **Shorter days:** Less daylight in the winter months can cause many people to develop "seasonal affective disorder" or SAD, a wintertime depression that can stress the heart.

Studies have also looked at heart attack patients and found they usually have lower levels of vitamin D (which comes from sunlight) than people with healthy hearts.

To boost your vitamin D this winter, consider taking a supplement that contains between 1,000 and 2,000 international

units (IU) per day.

• **Flu season:** Studies show that people who get flu shots have a lower heart attack risk. It's known that the inflammatory reaction set off by a flu infection can increase blood clotting which can lead to heart attacks in vulnerable people.

So, if you haven't already done so this year, get a flu shot for protection. And, if you've never been vaccinated for pneumococcal pneumonia, you should consider getting these two shots (given 12 months apart) too.

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

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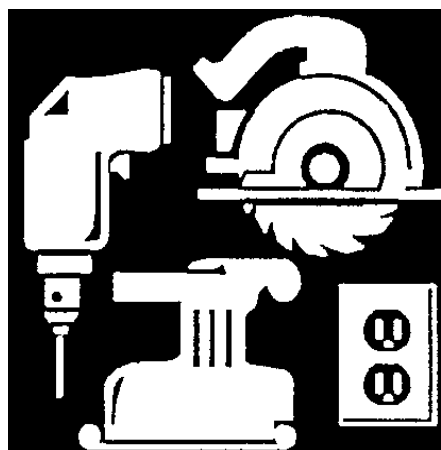
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Strike: Kaiser says it has increased number of clinical providers



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Striking Kaiser mental health clinicians, members of the National Union of Health Care Workers, marched around Kaiser's hospital in San Leandro on Wednesday.

continued from front page

If you work 40, you get more," Torres said. "I've been working for Kaiser for 17 years, and I've seen the same ineffective, unethical and immoral model operating that whole time for people with major mental health conditions. They really need to finally hire enough clinical staff to meet professionally recognized guidelines of best practices."

Torres said those guidelines, including frequency of patient appointments, were developed by the American Psychological Association.

But Kaiser asserts that it is rapidly adding mental health staff, particularly in southern Alameda County, which includes San Leandro.

Kaiser officials said at the time the San Leandro facility opened on Oct. 7 that some 140

doctors, therapists and other clinical providers now work in southern Alameda County. Forty of those positions were recently added, as was the San Leandro facility itself, Kaiser spokeswoman Debra Lambert said then.

Union picket lines have gone up throughout the the Bay Area, and statewide from Sacramento to San Diego.

Kaiser told patients that their facilities will continue to operate

during the strike, though some "non-urgent" appointments may be rescheduled.

The union has been working without a contract for a year. Private mediator Tom Schneider is trying to help the two sides reach an agreement. Kaiser said the mediator is "external and neutral." But a union spokesman, Matthew Artz, said Schneider is paid by Kaiser and has worked with them in previous negotiations.

SL Adult School to Host Tech Ed. Open House

San Leandro Adult School, 1448 Williams St., will host a Career Technical Education Open House tonight (Thursday, Dec. 19) at 6 p.m.

Explore the many certificated training classes and programs: Accounting I & II, Administrative Assistant, Barbering & Cosmetology, Clinical Medical Assistant, Employment Preparation, Homecare Worker, Nurse

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LOCAL DEATHS

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Joe Kozel

January 9, 1926 - December 11, 2019

Joseph Anton Kozel, aka "Papo Joe", passed away peacefully in San Leandro on December 11, 2019. He was a devoted and loving husband to the late Martha Kozel for 52 years and a wonderful father to LaDonna and Gary Leach, Kevin and Lynn Kozel. He was an affectionate and supportive grandfather to Justin and Jill Leach, Ashley and Brian Cardella, Kathleen and Kevin Tibbitts, Brenden and Thao Kozel, Angelo Tanedo and Abigail Lumaban, great-grandfather to Brooklyn and Carter Leach, Lucas and Olivia Cardella, and Cole Kozel. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

Joe was born to John and Emilie Kozel on January 9, 1926 in Pierce, Nebraska, the third of four children.

At 18 years of age, Joe enlisted in the Army during World War II where he fought in the China Burma India Theater, earning three medals for his brave service. Later he entered the Korean War for which he was recently recognized in a ceremony by the Korean government for his courageous service.

Following the Korean War, Joe became a butcher working with his father in Oakland. He was a proud member of several labor unions during his career, including the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen Union and the Retail Clerks International Union.

Joe met Martha through his sister, Frances, and the two fell in love over a romantic long-distance courtship of letters, calls, and visits. Martha moved from Texas to California, and the two married, bought their forever home in San Leandro, and started a family.

Joe worked at Lucky Stores for 35 years. Above all, he was dedicated to providing the best life for his family. After retirement he worked part-time for ANG Newspaper/Daily Review, rising early each morning for his paper route and earning the honor of Newspaper Carrier of the Year.

Papo Joe was a very dedicated grandparent, picking up his grandchildren from school and sports practices, and always a half hour early. He was also a big sports fan, especially the A's, Giants, Warriors, and the 49ers.

Joe was strong willed, but sensitive. His beautiful baby blue eyes and warm smile captured the hearts of all who knew him. His mind was sharp throughout his entire life. He was truly knowledgeable on Bay Area sports, national politics, local business news, and the regional weather.

A Memorial Mass honoring his life will be held on Friday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 3433 Somerset Avenue in Castro Valley.

Donations in Joe's honor may be made to Hope Hospice who cared for Joe in his home during his last four months. Donations can be made directly on their website at www.hopehospice.com

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- Beer gut
- Fitting
- "Camelot" role
- First victim
- Bullets and such
- Big bother
- Director Kazan
- Unruly group
- Trouble
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- New Orleans neighborhood
- Criterion
- Yanks
- Sauce source
- That girl
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- Swiss city
- Country
- TV's Superman portrayer
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- More than enough
- Whopper
- Unwavering
- Unwanted email
- Ricochet, in billiards
- Shack
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- Gulf War missile
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- Masseur's workplace
- Theater canopy
- Fond du __, Wis.
- Scul need
- Sternward
- Anger
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- Have a go at
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- "__ was saying ..."
- Icicles' homes
- Saturn's largest moon
- Storybook baddie
- Stagger
- Survive
- Deadly septet
- Playgoers' box
- Type measures
- Previous night
- Shock and __

ANSWERS ON PAGE 2



Rabbi Shmaya Shusterman, Sheina Shusterman and their daughter Chava.

New Jewish Center Opens in SL

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

San Leandro's Jewish community is getting a new option for worship and community, just in time for Chanukah, with the opening of a Chabad House off Lewelling Boulevard in early December.

San Leandro's only Jewish house of worship in San Leandro had been Temple Beth Shalom on Dolores Street until now. The new center is co-directed by Rabbi Shmaya and Sheina Shusterman. The husband-and-wife team arrived in Northern California, joining family members here, recently after growing up in Melbourne, Australia and Vienna, Austria, respectively.

The couple have already been hosting community members for Friday night Shabbat meals and are looking forward to creating additional Jewish programs in coming months.

The new Chabad center will initial-

ly use the rabbi's house as a gathering point, but not offer worship until it grows large enough to have its own building. Interested people can contact the rabbi at (510) 736-2311 or chabadsanleandro@gmail.com for details and location.

"We feel very welcome here, and our goal is to make everyone else feel welcome who gathers here with us," said Rabbi Shusterman.

"We're here to help people out, too, if they need it. Counseling if you could use some, or just companionship and community," he said.

There will be a housewarming event and Chanukah party at the Shusterman home on Monday, December 23 at 7 p.m. where any member of the Jewish community can meet the Shustermans and learn of their plans. A menorah will be lit, and there will be a light buffet, crafts, and different games for different ages. Calling or e-mailing ahead is re-

quested for those planning to attend, at (510) 736-2311 or chabadsanleandro@gmail.com.

The Shustermans will also be leading San Leandro's giant menorah lighting for Chanukah at City Hall on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 5 p.m. where Mayor Pauline Cutter will light the menorah. There will be a live band, doughnuts, latkes (traditional potato pancakes), hot cocoa, crafts and a traditional grand Chanukah gelt drop, where chocolate coins wrapped in gold-colored foil rain down on participants.

Many Chabad Houses are located on college and university campuses, but the Lubavitcher movement's late leader Menachem Schneerson urged expanding them to all parts of every country where Jews live. Some 500 new Chabad centers have been founded in the U.S. and elsewhere since his 1994 death.

Lunch Menu at Senior Center

Lunch provided by Spectrum Community Services

A low-cost senior lunch provided by Spectrum Community Services is served on weekdays at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St.

Everyone age 60 and up can have lunch. A suggested donation is \$3.75, but no one is refused for lack of funds. (\$10 for those under 60.)

Call 24 hours ahead to reserve a lunch (1-510-825-9793) or sign up at the Senior Center.

The menu for lunch next week, Dec. 23 to Dec. 27, is:

Monday – Hearty beef stew, vegetable medley salad, biscuits, and

applesauce.

Tuesday and Wednesday – Closed for Christmas.

Thursday – Cod with sun-dried tomato sauce on bed of spinach, carrot soup, whole wheat rolls, birthday cake.

Friday – Chicken cacciatore over whole wheat spaghetti, steamed zucchini, whole wheat crackers, and grapes.

Note: The New Year's Eve lunch (Dec. 31) will be ham, black-eyed peas, collard greens, corn bread, sweet potatoes and oranges.

INQUIRING REPORTER

Your favorite Christmas memory?

— Asked downtown

The best was last year with extended family. It was really nice to see the whole family and the kids, all the warmth.

Dee Richardson

Tracy,
works in San Leandro



People in my family have died right around the holidays so it's not usually a good time, and I had brain surgery right around the holidays four years ago. But I'm glad I'm alive and that I'll see my aunt on Christmas.

Andre Gomes

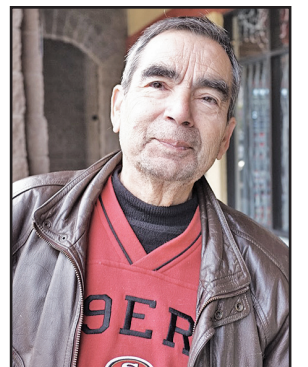
San Leandro



Probably back in the early 1950s in North Sacramento. I was younger then and all the fun of it, Santa Claus and decorating the Christmas tree. My dad took me to see Santa Claus.

Bob Soza

San Leandro



When I was in my 20s I took my daughter back to Boston where the whole family lives. It snowed on Christmas Day and on Christmas Eve in Boston Common. They had a nativity scene and real reindeer. My daughter was only 3 and saw snow for the first time.

John Leo

Union City



Last year, spending Christmas with lots of family and with the kids I work with at an after-school program, getting them antlers for their Christmas show. They sang, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Kwanya Watkins

Oakland,
works in San Leandro



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.

Local Representatives Applauded

Editor:

There are many reasons that make me appreciate living in the Bay Area.

This week most of our Bay Area congressional representatives (Barbara Lee, Jared Huffman, Ro Khanna, and Mark DeSaulnier) voted against the National Defense Authorization Act.

Months ago when the House passed their version of this bill, it included the repeal of the 2002 Iraq authorization for the use of military force (AUMF). This 17-year-old, outdated and temporary authorization has been used by every executive office since then to use military force in areas such as Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen, without the approval of Congress.

Article 1 of the Constitution states that Congress has the sole authority to decide whether to allow the president to take the country into a prolonged war.

At the last minute, under pressure from the Pentagon, this language was pulled from the final legislation. Total military spending for 2020 is budgeted at \$989 billion, the largest amount allocated since

the start of the war in Iraq in 2003.

The United States spends more on defense than the next nine countries combined.

I applaud our local members of Congress for their righteous vote of NO on the NDAA.

—Robert M. Behr, San Leandro

Building Community

Editor:

On behalf of Broadmoor Preschool, our families, alumni, supporters, and the City of San Leandro, I'd like to thank the San Leandro Unified School District Board of Trustees and Superintendent for correcting the error that led us to understand we were being evicted from our space.

As a community builder, I do not believe it is the sole responsibility of our elected leaders to decide what is important to us as a city. We, the people, can empower ourselves and each other. Defining prosperity solely based on what fits on an Excel spreadsheet doesn't work. Even Ebenezer Scrooge learned that wealth is about so much more.

At Broadmoor Preschool, we are a community of alchemists. We are able to provide an extraordinary learning opportunity for young kids and also a strong foundation for parents.

Through our dynamic co-op model one of the things we teach both our parents and kids is how to be community leaders. People graduate our program and become PTA presidents, award-winning volunteers, City Council members, Mayors, neighborhood association leaders, local business owners, and educators. We are a direct reflection of San Leandro's diversity.

It was a profoundly moving experience to hear the stories of people who have come through Broadmoor Preschool as told at City Hall Tuesday evening: the veteran who spoke of how it helped her come back to civilian life after serving our country, the introverts who spoke through their extreme anxiety, the grade-schooler who stood up to advocate for what she knew was right, the artist who painted our mural who spoke of the work of the artists that came before, the fathers whose voices caught while moved to tears as they spoke about what this place means to them.

The biggest takeaway was *We Build Community* and it is through this community that we are building a better San Leandro.

—Gloria Strohm

Community Building Chairperson
Broadmoor Preschool, San Leandro

Review: Homeless evicted at marina, fire on East 14th, rainbow crosswalks

continued from front page
is open,” said Reyes Ram.

• PG&E announced another rate hike. Barbara Lee joined with newly elected congresswomen after the most diverse Congress in history was sworn into office. Genentech proposed a plan to run a ferry from San Leandro to its offices in South San Francisco.

• Utility rate payers objected to being automatically switched from PG&E to East Bay Community Energy (EBCE), and that they made it complicated to “opt out” if you want to stay with PG&E.

• A talk by the city’s economic development director at the Chamber of Commerce highlighted the strength of San Leandro’s manufacturing sector. The talk of the past 8 years of San Leandro being “on the cusp” of becoming the next big high tech center had quietly faded away.

February

• The San Leandro City Council told a developer to scale down a planned apartment building on Bancroft Avenue after an uproar from North Area homeowners who opposed the building. A resident told the newspaper, “We’re not NIMBYs. We just don’t want it in our neighborhood.”

• The San Leandro High basketball team beat Grenada High of Livermore in the North Coast Section playoffs to advance to the second round. The San Leandro High girls did the same by beating Dublin and advancing to the second round.

• The county public works

agency planned to reconfigure busy East Levee Boulevard. The crowd at a meeting called for a safer street where cars come off the freeway at high speed. The county planning commission approved a 163-unit art deco apartment complex at the long vacant Mervyn’s site in San Lorenzo Village.

March

• The Neste company demonstrated a new renewable fuel station where trucks can fill up at Western States Oil on Teagarden Street. Mayor Pauline Cutter and City Councilwoman Deborah Cox cut the ribbon and filled up the first truck.

• County Supervisor Nate Miley unveiled plans to designate a parking lot at Fairmont Hospital for people who live in their cars. A monitored lot would accommodate 12 to 15 single adults living in their cars. A community market opened in Ashland as Nate Miley cut the ribbon on the Ashland Market & Cafe.

• A fire gutted a house on Drew Street in San Lorenzo shortly before midnight on March 15. There were no injuries as three adults and a dog got out of the house in time. Three people from San Leandro were shot and wounded at a downtown Oakland sports bar.

April

The San Leandro City Council unanimously voted to hire a parking enforcement company to issue parking tickets, replacing the police department’s meter

maids. The city will pay SP Plus Corp. of Chicago \$243,000 a year to tag parking violators.

• The San Leandro Police Department told the City Council that car collisions were down 30 percent at intersections with red-light cameras. Collision data was analyzed after people questioned the camera’s effectiveness.

• Kennedy Park in San Lorenzo was closed for extensive renovations to give the park more green space and connect it with neighboring McConaghy House. Former San Leandro Mayor Tony Santos, who was on the City Council for almost 20 years, died after battling heart problems. Santos fulfilled his campaign promise of opening the Senior Center, despite a recession while he was mayor.

• Congressman Eric Swalwell kicked off his presidential campaign with a rally in his hometown of Dublin, talking about his middle-class upbringing and his paper route in an effort to distance himself from Donald Trump.

• The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) proposed a water rate hike of 6.5 percent in 2019 and another increase by the same percentage in 2020 at a budget workshop. A San Leandro 18-year-old was charged by the district attorney in the robbery of a blind woman walking along Davis Street downtown.

May

• San Leandro High sprinters led the pack at the league meet at Hayward High as the Pirates boys took three of the top four times in



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Mayor Pauline Cutter fills up the first truck at the new renewable fuel station.

the 100 meters.

• Medical supplies left San Leandro for a children’s hospital in Zimbabwe, a country hit by cyclone Idai. The Medshare warehouse on Alvarado Street sends supplies that American hospitals discard but are still valuable to hospitals that lack medical equipment.

• The City Council banned non-hosted Airbnbs, but voted to allow short term rentals at homes where the primary resident is at the premises hosting. Residents had complained that out-of-town owners were effectively operating hotels out of homes.

• Madison School parents protested the school district’s decision to reassign the principal to a teaching job at another school. District officials said they couldn’t answer the parent’s questions about the decision because it was a personnel matter.

• A new 341 Area Code was added to the same area that is 510, called an overlay. New numbers will be assigned the 341 Area Code, but 510 numbers will stay the same. The City Council approved spending \$31,000 to buy the police department a drone.

June

• People living in RVs at the San Leandro Marina were told to ship out by the police. RV dwellers said they didn’t bother anybody by staying at the mostly empty parking lot by the semi-decommissioned marina. Mayor Cutter said the city looked the other way for a while, but there was more garbage, some fights, “so for people’s safety the privilege was revoked.”

• Police shot and killed a man on Martin Boulevard who was seen earlier with a machete and who suddenly stood up from his

front porch with an object held like a gun, but the object turned out to be a piece of wood. The case has been under investigation.

• Brian Copeland, Joe Klocke, Jann Karam, Sandy Stec and other top comics performed outdoors at the San Leandro Main Library. The annual Sausage & Suds Music Festival was canceled by the Downtown Association which promised a new and improved festival next year.

• Three businesses were destroyed in a 3-alarm fire on East 14th Street. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

• San Leandro celebrated Pride Month by cutting the ribbon to open the rainbow crosswalks at the corner of Parrott Street and Washington Avenue to the cheers of the LGBTQ community and supporters.

Year in Review, Part 2, will continue next week.

Holidays

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