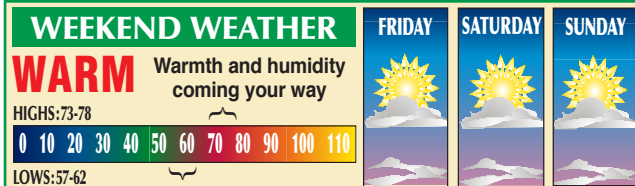


**SIZZLIN'  
SUMMER  
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**4 & 5**



# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 30 • NO. 31

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## Roses and Thorns

The Covid pandemic doesn't seem to bother the roses that are blooming this summer, including this one in a San Leandro yard. Maybe their thorns keep away the coronavirus.

## City Council Forms Budget Task Force

Citizens to be heard on what will likely be tough budget decisions in the upcoming year

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

Want a voice in City government? San Leandro will assemble 28 residents to oversee its future budgets following last week's City Council meeting.

In a 6-1 vote, the City Council approved the creation of a Community Advisory Task Force. The goal is to provide input on community priorities and develop recommendations to ensure a balanced budget. The Task Force will also advise the City Council on the reallocation of approximately \$1.7 million in general funds away from the Police Department in favor of applying it towards various human service programs.

"(This Task Force is) going to be looking at many of the items we have in our budget and doing a test of whether the residents will want to continue the level of service in some areas versus others and so forth, so it's not something just seven council members are deciding," Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter said in her "Mayor's Report," video posted this week on Youtube.

The mayor said the reallocated funds could also be blended in with other federal grant monies for homeless, emergency aid, rental assistance and food access, and family counseling.

Each council member will pick four people to the task force for a total of 28 members. At least see *TASK FORCE*, page 10

## Census Reminder To Fill Out The Form

Another Census reminder postcard – one of six total mailings since the Census opened March 12 – have arrived in mailboxes. If you've received a notice and haven't responded, you have just a couple of weeks before census takers knock on your door.

That operation, called Non-Response Follow Up, employs half a million census takers and begins Tuesday, Aug. 11. Census takers will not be visiting households that have already responded to the census.

The 2020 Census has been extended to Oct. 31, so people still have time to avoid a census taker visit by responding online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov), or by phone 844-330-2020, or by mail.

## County Covid Cases Surpass 10,000

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

The number of people contracting COVID-19 in Alameda County passed the 10,000 mark this past week prompting health officials to remind people to practice social distancing and wear a mask when going out.

"Tragically, 29 fatalities were

reported yesterday bringing our current average to 109 lives lost every day," California Governor Gavin Newsom said in a Tweet on Monday. "Please wear a mask."

Alameda County has been on the state's "watch list" because of growing concerns over the coronavirus. The county experienced a record number of people being

**"We have yet to see a flattening or a decrease in either metric."**

— Neetu Balram

admitted to the hospital (201) and intensive care units (58) than any time since the outbreak began.

"We continue to monitor our local case rate and hospitalization data," said County Health Department spokesperson Neetu Balram. "We have yet to see a flattening or a decrease in either

see *COVID*, page 4

## DA's Report: Police Shooting Not Criminal

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

An investigation by the Alameda County District Attorney's office of the shooting of a man on Martin Boulevard last summer determined that the shooting was not criminal and that the police officer who fired the shot was acting in self defense and the defense of others.

Police had reason to believe that Anthony Gomez had a gun

when he rose up in a shooting stance, raising his arms with an object in his hands, which turned out to be a piece of wood, in a redacted report released by the district attorney's office earlier this month.

The District Attorney's investigation was conducted by a team of experienced Deputy District Attorneys and Inspectors that investigate any death caused by law enforcement officers in Alameda

County, the introduction to the report said.

The investigation focuses exclusively on whether there is sufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that there was a crime committed in the shooting. It doesn't examine whether the shooting followed internal police policy, appropriate tactics, or anything that may give rise to civil liability, and it doesn't express an opinion on non-crimi-

nal matters.

The investigation reviewed police reports, lab reports, police body-worn camera video, cell phone video, civilian interviews and the coroner's report.

There had been an ongoing neighborhood dispute between Gomez and several adults and children who lived at a nearby residence, the report said. Gomez, 56, lived in a vehicle parked in the

see *REPORT*, page 12

## INSIDE YOUR TIMES

### AVIATION

Learn the history of the flying boat.

Page 2

### CARS

Oldsmobile fan finds his dream car.

Page 4

### SENIORS

CEI adapts to keep seniors Covid-free.

Page 7

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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.



## San Leandro Times

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

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## Share Your Photos in 'Our Readers Remember'

The special section, "Our Readers Remember" is coming up in the Aug. 20 issue.

All those memorable photos and stories are welcome. So send them in by Aug. 10.

In past years, the section featured memories of the year it snowed in San Leandro, a first bicycle, a high school rock 'n' roll band, a cheerleader's memory, flying hang-gliders in the '70s, and someone who

recalled her days working on a small TV station that used to broadcast from a building by the marina.

Whatever it is, people want to see it. Send items by email to jimk@ebpublishing.com or send by mail to San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro CA 94577.

For more information, call 510-614-1557.

## Online Tutor Training For Project Literacy

The San Leandro Public Library's adult and family literacy program, Project Literacy, is currently seeking volunteer literacy tutors for the online tutoring program.

Find out how you can help others in your community learn to read by attending Project Literacy's Online Tutor Orientation

over Zoom on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Both required trainings will take place over Zoom on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon; and on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 10 a.m. to noon.

For more information or to register, email avelasquez@sanleandro.org or call 510-577-3944.



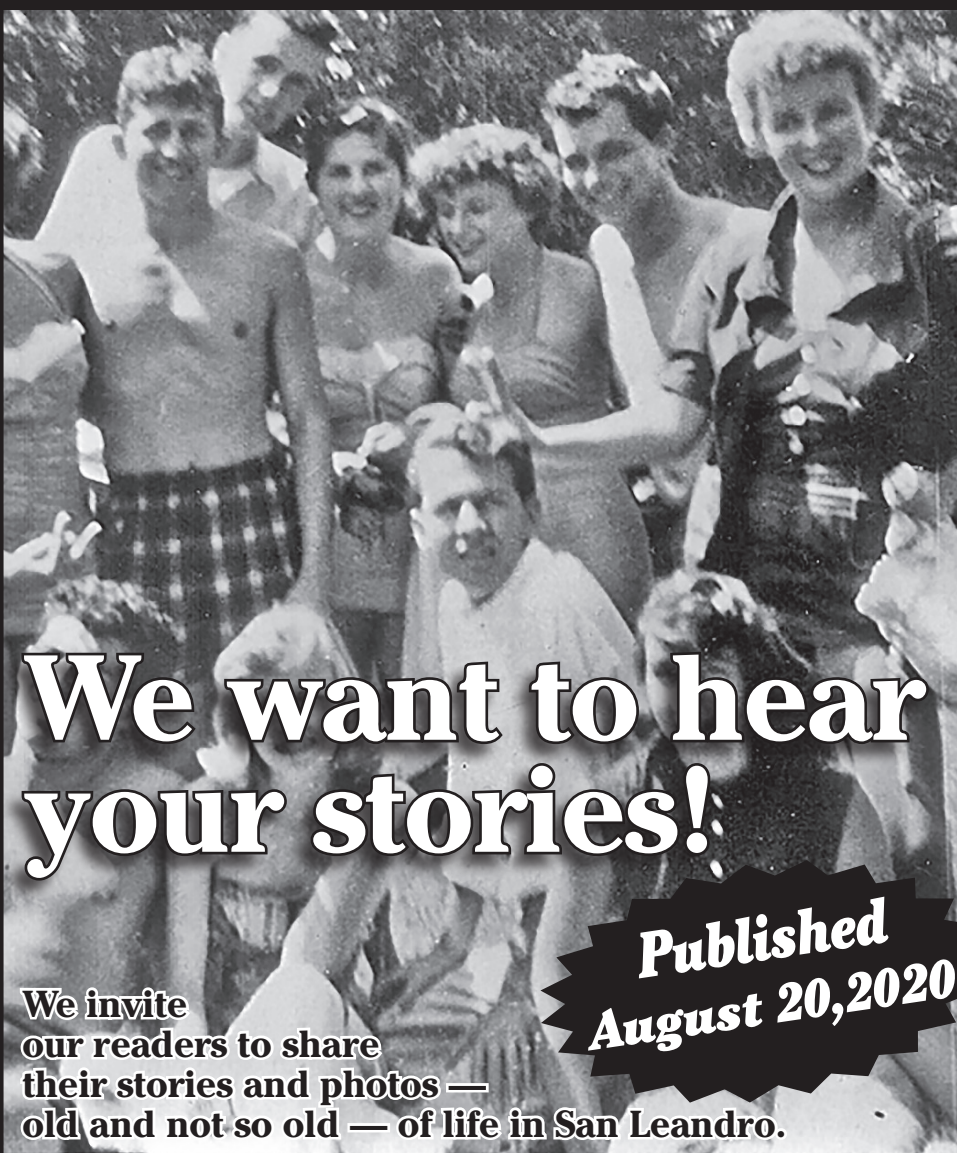
The Short Solent flying boat carried 34 passengers or 24 with night accommodations.

## Aviation Museum to Offer Talk On Famed British Flying Boat

A museum docent will speak about the history of the Short Solent Mk. III, a British airplane from the 1940s, on Saturday, Aug. 1, at noon at the Oakland Aviation Museum at the Oakland Airport's North Field, 8252 Earhart Road in Oakland, just off Doolittle Drive.

The talk will be given by Eulanna Allen, a volunteer docent at the museum. The museum is open for outdoor exhibits only during the coronavirus pandemic. The Short Solent was operated by BOAC in the late '40s between Southampton and Johannesburg.

### ANNUAL "OUR READERS REMEMBER" SPECIAL SECTION



# We want to hear your stories!

**Published August 20, 2020**

We invite our readers to share their stories and photos — old and not so old — of life in San Leandro.

All photos will be returned. Please include your name, address and telephone number on the back of each photo. Items must be submitted by Monday, Aug. 10, at 12 p.m. For more information, call Jim Knowles at 614-1557. For advertising information, call Claudette Morrison at 614-1559 or Linda Nakhai at 915-1513.

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## Join the Hamilton Trivia Contest

Join the San Leandro Public Library's Zoom Meet-Up with a Hamilton Trivia Contest on Thursday, July 30, at 6 p.m. Open to teens going into 7th to 12th grades. Think you know Hamilton? Put your knowledge to the test to win a fabulous gift card prize. Email kmandalay@sanleandro.org to sign up and get the meet-up information.

## Drivers for Survivors to Hold Virtual Black & White Ball

Drivers For Survivors is a nonprofit organization that provides free transportation service and companionship for ambulatory cancer patients living in East Alameda County.

Since its founding in 2012, it has provided over 21,000 rides for some 600 cancer patients.

To raise funds, Drivers For Survivors will hold a virtual

Black & White Ball from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 14, with a VIP pre-event from 5 to 5:45 p.m.

Cost, registration information and details will be announced soon at [www.DFSBall.org](http://www.DFSBall.org).

This year's signature fundraiser commemorates the group's seven-year anniversary serving the community.

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Please send your resume to [cwiley@torani.com](mailto:cwiley@torani.com)



# County Board of Education Welcomes Two New Trustees

The Alameda County Board of Education met virtually on July 14, 2020. The Board welcomed newly-elected Trustees Janevette Cole and Angela Normand, and appointed Aisha Knowles as Board President and Eileen McDonald as Board Vice President.

The Alameda County Board of Education welcomed two new trustees, both elected in March, at its virtual meeting on July 14.

Area 2 Trustee Angela Normand and Area 5 Trustee Janevette Cole were sworn in by Alameda County Superintendent of Schools L. Karen Monroe in an outdoor ceremony at the Alameda County Office of Education on July 10.

"I am proud to work with each of our county trustees, and excited to welcome Trustees Cole and Normand aboard," said Superintendent Monroe. "This is a critical time in education, and the trustees enter their positions in unprecedented circumstances. I know that each of our trustees and the Alameda County education community will continue to uphold our commitment to the education and well-being of every student in Alameda County."



Janevette Cole



Angela Normand

Costa counties in District C. She has also served CTA's Ethnic Minority Early Identification and Development Leadership program and on the Racial Equity Affairs Committee.

Area 2 covers the City of Alameda and parts of Oakland, including the southern portion of West Oakland, all of Jack London Square and Chinatown, part of Fruitvale, the Oakland hills south of Redwood Road, and East Oakland south of Seminary Avenue and 66th Avenue.

## Janevette Cole, Area 5

Cole served on the board of Hayward Promise Neighborhoods at Cal State East Bay, a program aimed at halting generational poverty by providing resources to ensure that students go on to college and establish a career. She has also served as a parent liaison for the Hayward

Unified School District and has worked to implement parent engagement programs in the district. She is the parent of three adult children who attended public schools in Hayward.

Area 5 includes Hayward, Union City, and the southern portions of the unincorporated communities of Cherryland and Fairview.

The Board of Education also appointed Aisha Knowles as board President and Eileen McDonald as Vice President for the 2020-21 school year at its July 14 meeting.

Knowles has served as a trustee since 2012, representing Area 4, which includes San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Ashland, and Castro Valley. She is the founding representative of the Alameda County Board of Education's advisory position on Countywide Events and Charter Schools.

"I'm thankful for outgoing President Rivera's leadership and patience in transitioning the County Board operations to a virtual format," said Knowles. "Though the current public health crisis will continue to present unexpected and extraordinary challenges to school communities throughout Alameda County, I look forward to working with our

newly elected members, Trustee Cole and Trustee Normand, veteran board members, Superintendent Monroe and the entire Alameda County Office of Education team to support the safety, health and mental well-being of the 225,000 students served in Alameda County."

Both Vice President McDonald, who represents Newark and the northern and western portions of Fremont in Area 6, and Area 3 Trustee Ken Berrick were sworn in on July 14 to continue serving on the Board after running unopposed in March 2020.

Find more information about the Alameda County Board of Education at [acoe.org/board](http://acoe.org/board).

## About ACOE

The Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE), under the leadership of County Superintendent of Schools L. Karen Monroe, serves as liaison between the California Department of Education and the 18 Alameda County public school districts that serve more than 200,000 students and 10,000 teachers.

ACOE provides oversight of district budgets and Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). ACOE also directly operates schools that serve Alameda County most vulnerable students: Court Schools at the Juvenile Justice Center, ACOE Opportunity Academy schools serving students 16 and older seeking a high school diploma, and Community Schools that serve foster youth, students in substance abuse treatment, pregnant and parenting teens, Probation-referred youth, and students expelled from their resident school districts.

ACOE also runs the Infant & Family Support Program, which provides individualized service for children from birth to three years and their families. For more information, visit [www.acoe.org](http://www.acoe.org).

# SLZ Schools Offer Free, Reduced-Price Meals

San Lorenzo Unified School District announces its policy to serve nutritious meals every school day under the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program.

Effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income is less than or equal to the federal guidelines.

Households do not need to turn in an application when the household receives a notification letter saying that all children automatically qualify for free meals when any household member receives benefits from CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR.

Children who meet the definition of foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway, and children enrolled in their school's Head

Start program are eligible for free meals. Contact school officials if any child in the household is not on the notification letter. The household must let school officials know if they do not want to receive free or reduced-price meals.

Applications will be sent to the household with a letter about the free and reduced-price meal program. Households that want to apply for meal benefits, must fill out one application for all children in the household and give it to the nutrition office at 15510 Usher St., San Lorenzo, Ca 94580.

For a simple and secure method to apply, use the online application at [www.slzsd.org](http://www.slzsd.org) and the school will let you know if your application is approved or denied for free or reduced-price meals.

# Hayward Waiving Permit Fees for Restaurants

The City of Hayward is waiving all permitting fees, providing streamlined processing and offering personal assistance if needed for restaurants citywide interested in starting dining service outdoors.

Local restaurants interested

in starting outdoor dining service on private or public property should begin by completing a Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit application and submitting it along with related documentation to [planning.division@hayward-ca.gov](mailto:planning.division@hayward-ca.gov).

# Church to Host Prayer Vigil on Racial Injustice

The San Leandro Church of Christ, 601 MacArthur Blvd., in San Leandro will host a hybrid prayer vigil/demonstration on Wednesday night Aug. 12, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in front of the church.

Prayers will be offered for the dismantling of systemic racial injustice in America and for the families of those who have died recently due to racism and/or police brutality.

Masks will be required, and

social distancing observed. People of all faiths are welcome.

If you would like, bring a sheltered candle and a sign with the name of one of those who have recently died. There will also be a "wall of names" where you will have the opportunity to write the names of people you want memorialized who died due to racism or police brutality.

Contact Woody and Judy Square at [woodysquare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodysquare@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

## NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

**Susan Marie Dailey**  
Case Number:  
RP20061372

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Susan Marie Dailey**.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by **Stonecrest Acquisitions, LLC: Denise Hill, Manager** in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that **Stonecrest Acquisitions, LLC: Denise Hill, Manager** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING on the petition will be held on August 11, 2020, 9:31 a.m., Dept. 202, at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.**

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent**, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later** of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

**YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court.** If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: Heather Ledgerwood, Esq.  
84 W. Santa Clara Street, Suite 540  
San Jose, CA 95113 800-835-2634

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PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

Mark Murphree's Oldsmobile Cutlass carried dignitaries around the track at Indy.

## San Leandro Oldsmobile Fan Rolls With 1970 Indy Pace Car

Mark Murphree of San Leandro has owned a few Oldsmobiles, but his latest Olds carries some automotive history.

The 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass was one of the pace cars at the 1970 Indianapolis 500, used to drive dignitaries around the track, Murphree said.

The car is in great condition having only been driven 25,000 miles. It has a 350 cubic-inch Oldsmobile engine with ram air, a racing cam and an Edelbrock carburetor.

— By Jim Knowles



The license plate tells where the car has been.

## Covid: Masks make a difference

*continued from front page*  
metric to determine whether the State's Orders or our June 29 pause on reopening have turned the tide."

While common symptoms include persistent cough, shortness of breath, and fever, most individuals infected with Covid-19 will only experience mild to moderate symptoms and therefore do not seek medical attention or aren't tested, according to Balram who said the number of reported cases may not reflect the full scope of infections.

"With the testing resources available to us right now, we're focused on the goal of testing every symptomatic person in Alameda County, prioritizing those individuals in high-risk settings in alignment with state testing guidance," Balram said.

### Sheriff's Office Reports Covid-19 Deaths

Two Alameda County Sheriff's Office employees are among the latest victims of the pandemic. Last Thursday, 57-year-old Senior Deputy Oscar Rocha died

**"With the resources available to us right now, we're focused on the goal of testing every symptomatic person in Alameda County."**

— Neetu Balram, Alameda County Health Department

from Covid-related complications at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek. A day later, 61-year-old technician Valerie Leon died while being treated for Covid-19 complications at Kaiser Hospital in Modesto.

"Valerie was just a wonderful and loving person with a bright smile. She loved her job, commu-

nity, family, and friends. We are truly heartbroken at her passing," said Sheriff Greg Ahern.

Valerie Leon's granddaughter Isabelle, who lives in Castro Valley, has set up a community fund to help with funeral expenses at [gofundme.com/f/valerie-leon-funeral](https://gofundme.com/f/valerie-leon-funeral).

### Got a Mask?

While scientific evidence suggests that wearing a mask helps prevent the spread of Covid-19, less than 41 percent of Americans wear one when they leave the home, according to a survey.

Premise Data has been collecting data for its Coronavirus Global Impact survey since the beginning of April. Out of the more than 43,500 responses from people based in the U.S., more than 22 percent of respondents say they never wear a mask when leaving the house.

When asked why, 30.5 percent of those respondents said they didn't believe face masks are effective in preventing the spread of the virus.

## County Health Reports 551 Covid Cases in San Leandro

The number of Covid-19 cases in Alameda County reached 10,633 on Wednesday, according to the Alameda County Health Department.

That's 990 more cases in a span of a week.

The county totals on Tuesday reported 181 deaths in Alameda County from Covid-19, a 1.7

percent fatality rate, and 10 more deaths than the previous week.

The county reports 551 Covid-19 cases in San Leandro, as of Wednesday, a jump of 56 cases in the past week.

The county health department's Covid-19 Dashboard doesn't give the number of deaths in each city. But if the rate were

the same as the county rate, 1.7 percent, there would be about nine deaths in this city due to Covid-19.

The highest numbers for Covid-19 in Alameda County are Oakland with 4,218 cases, and Hayward with 1,536 cases. Castro Valley had 303 cases, Fremont 584, Alameda 166, Pleasanton 220, and Union City 324.

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## LIFESTYLE

## How to Make Crackers at Home

Of course, the question is, why would anyone make crackers at home when it's so easy to pick up a box at the grocery store?

Like so many other things these days, we settle for instant satisfaction and convenience over quality.

Crackers are so quick and easy to make that you can experiment to your heart's content and find the exact combination of cracker thickness or topping that you like.

And you won't have to go out shopping for equipment or ingredients — they're all right there in your cupboard!

## SAVORY CRACKERS

1/4 pound butter  
3 ounces grated Parmesan  
1-1/4 cups flour  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Place the butter in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment and mix until creamy. Add the Parmesan, flour, salt, thyme and pepper and combine.

Dump the dough on a lightly floured board and roll into a 13-inch long log. Wrap the log in plastic wrap and place in the freezer for 30 minutes to harden.

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 350°F.

Cut the log crosswise into 1/4 to 1/2-inch thick slices. Place the



slices on a sheet pan and bake for 22 minutes. Yields about 3 dozen crackers.

## CHEDDAR CHEESE SNACK CRACKERS

8 ounces extra-sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded  
1/4 cup butter, at room temp  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 cup flour  
2 to 3 tablespoons ice water

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, mix the cheese, butter, and salt on low speed until combined.

Add the flour and mix on low until pebbly. Slowly add 2 tablespoons of the water and mix as the dough forms a ball. If needed, add the additional tablespoon of water a little at a time until the dough forms. Pat the dough into a disk,

wrap with plastic wrap, and refrigerate for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Divide the dough into two pieces and roll each into a very thin (1/8 inch or thinner) rectangle of about 10-by-12-inches.

Using a fluted pastry wheel, cut the dough into 1-inch squares, then transfer them to the baking sheets. Bake for 15 to 17 minutes, or until puffed and browning at the edges. Immediately move the crackers to wire racks to cool completely, then store in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

Yields about 180 crackers.

## HOMEMADE RITZ-LIKE CRACKERS

2 cups flour  
3 teaspoons baking powder

into a ball.

On a floured surface, roll dough out as thin as you can with a rolling pin. Add more flour if needed when it sticks.

Use cookie cutter, cut the dough and add cut-outs to parchment lined baking sheets. Continue until all the dough is used up. Poke holes in each of the crackers.

Brush the crackers with the egg wash and sprinkle with salt. Bake for 10 minutes on the oven's center rack.

Melt remaining 2 tablespoons of butter and then brush with melted butter while still hot.

## OLD-FASHIONED SODA CRACKERS

2-1/2 cups flour, plus more for rolling dough  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3 tablespoons cold butter, cut into small cubes  
1 cup whole milk  
Coarse sea salt

Preheat oven to 375°F and line two baking sheets with parchment.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the cold butter, working it into the dry ingredients with your fingers until it resembles coarse meal. Slowly add the milk and gently mix the dough, then knead it, until it just comes together and is tacky but not sticky. (If necessary, add more flour.) Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for an hour.

Turn the dough out onto floured surface. Divide in half, and return one half to the refrigerator. Roll out the other half 1/8 inch thick, sprinkling with more flour as needed to

prevent sticking. Using pizza cutter cut into 2-inch squares.

Transfer the squares to the baking sheets, leaving an inch of space between squares; then sprinkle with coarse sea salt, and prick them all over with a fork.

Bake until golden brown and crisp, about 15 minutes, depending on size. Repeat with the second half of the dough.

## SORTA LIKE WHEAT THINS

2-1/2 cups whole wheat flour  
3 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon of salt plus more for final dusting  
1/2 teaspoon of paprika  
8 tablespoons butter cut in to tablespoon pads  
1/2 cup of cold water

Pre-heat oven to 400°F and line large baking sheets with parchment paper.

In food processor, add the flour, sugar, salt, and paprika and pulse once.

Add the tabbed butter and blend then scrape down the sides. Add the water slowly while blending until a dough forms.

On a clean floured surface, roll out small batches of the dough at time, as thin as you can. Cut out 1-1/2 to 2-inch squares and then poke with a fork.

Using a baking spatula, transfer the squares to the parchment lined baking sheets and bake for 5-7 minutes keeping an eye on them because if you've gotten them really thin, they'll bake fast!

Remove from oven when edges begin to brown slightly and transfer to a cooling rack.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## New Listings Are Like Shiny Objects

Crows are attracted to shiny objects. Ironically, humans are as well. It is why publishers use glossy paper for magazines, automotive paint has a shiny topcoat and lipstick glistens.

Scientific studies have not only confirmed our attraction to sparkly things but linked that response to our need for water and survival. Viewed from a distance, water ... sparkles.

Motivated by this trait, many of us migrate from one shiny object to the next. Advertisers understand this and endeavor to make advertisements for new products as "shiny" as possible.

If done correctly, people are attracted and begin moving towards the object. Factor in crowd psychology, and, if the object is shiny enough, you get large groups of people migrating en masse to the new "thing."

I believe buyers see a beautiful new listing as the next shiny object and, as a social group, move towards it. When marketing a home, we talk

about the Golden Window – that period when the opportunity to get the highest price and terms for a listing is at its peak (the first 14 days).

It can best be understood by watching buyer behavior: when a home hits the market, it immediately attracts a swarm of new buyers who migrate towards it as a group. The larger this group, the higher the opportunity for the seller to get a quick sale. This is one of the reasons savvy sellers spend time and money getting their homes to look as "glossy" as possible.

While this is great for sellers, it is bad for buyers. If you imagine that a group of 50 homeowner wannabees look at a home and, of that group, 20 decide to write an offer, only one ends up winning.

In a classic example of "survival of the fittest," the strongest buyer succeeds and the remainder turn away, lick the wounds of their disappointment and then, as a group, head off to the next shiny object, adding a few more new buyers to the group as they go. Lather, rinse, repeat.

The fascinating thing is that as they drive to the next new listing, they pass by less shiny listings that have, for any number of reasons, been sitting on the market a while and subsequently lost their luster. Rather than stop and reconsider these properties, they, blinded by the next shiny object, drive by and miss their best opportunity to actually purchase a home.

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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You will love this spacious 3-Bedroom, 2-Bath, 2,000 sq. ft. home, built in 1946, and located in the desirable Assumption Parish neighborhood. You are greeted with a low-maintenance front yard and inviting porch. The home features so many recent updates, which include interior paint, replaced sewer line, recessed lighting, renovated downstairs bathroom, new upstairs bathroom flooring, upgraded bedroom closets with built-in features. The home has a flexible layout, and can work for different needs. The front living room has recently added built-in cabinets and a closet and can also be used as a 4th bedroom. The large family room also has built-in cabinets and overlooks the backyard, where one can relax in the hot tub on the expansive patio. Conveniently located, only a short walk to downtown San Leandro with its many wonderful shops and restaurants and only one-mile walk to San Leandro BART. For more information contact The Lovewell Team, of Re/Max Accord, at (510)351-5555. (DRE #00689931, #01912817, #01947503)



## Looking for Answers to Marigold Woes

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Times

**Q** I cannot figure out why some of my marigold plants thrive, and others don't. I've planted different varieties in different containers, in the same location, using the same planting mix and receiving the same care. Can you shed some insight into my problem?

**A** There is no clear-cut answer to this question. If your plants were dying shortly after planting, I'd suspect that the water isn't reaching the main root ball. In nursery packs, marigolds

have a very dense white, fibrous root ball, also typical of pansies, violas, and other annuals. When transplanting them, the exposed roots need to be separated with your fingers, interrupting the circular or rectangular pattern of the root ball.

First, be sure they have been watered before removing them from the tray or pack. When planted from a dry pack, water rolls around and never penetrates the root ball because of the dense root mass and the loose potting soil. The plants eventually die from the lack of moisture, even though the soil around them is wet.

With plants in one-gallon and larger size containers, the alternative is to slice the root ball with a knife. If your plants were dying shortly after planting, I'd suspect that the water isn't reaching the main root ball.

Water stress problems would show up right away – in the first couple of weeks.

A prolonged growth pattern might indicate that there is a nutrient issue, as the roots are not expanding out into the native soil. This can occur when reusing potting soil without rejuvenating it with some additional organic matter.

Healthy plants require

healthy soil, and it takes more than a standard fertilizer. So I'd look to feed or supplement your plants with a fertilizer that contains Mycorrhizae or liquid humus. Mycorrhizae fertilizers supply minor and micronutrients, trace minerals, and beneficial microbes to build a balanced, fertile soil.

Container plants lose nutrients every time you water, so they need to be replaced. In summary, water and nutrients

would be the first areas to explore for an answer to your problem.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com) and questions can be sent by email to [buzz@dirtgardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtgardener.com) or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)



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1661 Renaissance Ln	94578: \$600,000	3 BD - 1,294 SF - 2004	
948 Alice Avenue	94577: \$612,000	2 BD - 1,192 SF - 1926	
2443 Heathrow Lane	94577: \$639,000	1,723 SF - 1978	
1228 Trojan Avenue	94579: \$670,000	3 BD - 1,020 SF - 1950	
834 Kenyon Avenue	94577: \$680,000	2 BD - 1,182 SF - 1948	
718 Barri Drive	94578: \$746,000	3 BD - 1,591 SF - 1955	
15421 Maureen Street	94579: \$750,000	3 BD - 1,441 SF - 1958	
2399 Lagoon Court	94579: \$1,055,000	4 BD - 2,778 SF - 1999	
TOTAL SALES:	10		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$375,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$654,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,055,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$669,700



# Center for Elders' Independence Pivots to Home-Based Services

## Keeping seniors healthy and connected during the pandemic

Keeping seniors safe, healthy and connected has always been top priority for Center for Elders' Independence (CEI), an all-inclusive health plan that serves East Bay seniors with serious medical conditions—one of the populations most vulnerable to Covid-19.

To continue providing care as an essential service during the pandemic, CEI had to quickly recreate itself and find new ways to operate.

"We were facing a monumental task and had to turn the organization on its ear," said CEI's Chief Executive Officer Linda Trowbridge. "Within a week, we

had to decompress taking care of 900 people a day at our five centers to being able to serve everyone in their homes."

CEI's centers have remained open to a limited number of participants who need in-person medical attention and those who do not have a safe place to shelter-in-place during the day.

For seniors and staff who come to the sites, CEI created a highly controlled, very safe experience, implementing daily screenings, use of personal protective equipment and all CDC protocols for cleaning, sanitizing, handwashing, and social distancing.

"We redesigned all of our care systems to ensure the safety of staff and participants," said Dr. James Mittelberger, CEI's Chief Medical Officer. "Technology accelerates our ability to deliver quality care where it makes the most sense for every person we serve. We are providing the safest and the highest touch care to patients in the location that works best for them."

CEI helps at-risk seniors live at home, rather than in nursing homes, through its national model of integrated care known as PACE (the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly).

CEI clinical staff bring iPads

to seniors' homes for "virtual doctor visits," and just added the capability of listening to heart and lungs remotely, which is a key health status check during the pandemic. Language interpreters assist as needed, via Zoom or by phone during tele-health visits.

CEI's integrated care team of doctors, nurses, nutritionists, social workers, activity managers, therapists, and more is now doing most assessments using Zoom.

The focus of CEI's activity program is to reduce isolation. Setting up seniors case-by-case to use smartphones and iPads is now a daily routine for CEI's activity staff.

CEI offers 20 scheduled Zoom activities a week, from exercise to trivia games, karaoke, history discussions, cooking classes, arts and crafts, live music, spiritual counseling, and virtual Bingo.

Bringing people back into the centers in the future will require continuing to keep the risk of exposure as close to zero as possible. According to Dr.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CEI

**Fay Wong waves goodbye after a visit from CEI staff, delivering supplies, activities and lunch.**

Mittelberger, "We're never going to be okay with a few people getting Covid-19, if we can possibly prevent it."

CEI is planning to group participants and staff into social pods of the same 10-12 people together at the center every time. "Being in a huge room at our centers, with all the enhanced safety precautions, means exposure is very unlikely. If a pod member were to get sick, the small group makes contact tracing a lot easier," adds Dr. Mittelberger.

CEO Trowbridge is proud of the staff as they provide essential services on the front lines.

"Everybody has been all in from the start, and no one is afraid to get out there," she says. "They just want us to make sure we do it safely."

PACE provides full medical, dental, vision, podiatry, home care and case management services reimbursed by both Medicare and Medi-Cal. For more information, visit elders.org or call 510-433-1150.

## San Leandro Duo Mixes a Variety of Musical Styles

Local duo Solcraft put their latest song on Youtube and they say the timing is right because it fits the crazy time we live in.

The song is a hybrid of rock and hip-hop, plus rap, spoken word and a Gregorian chant, said Anthony Medina of San Leandro.

Medina plays the drums, keyboard and sings. His bandmate Leo Evans is on guitar, keyboard and vocals.

Their song, "20th Century Man," is about how de-humanizing and alienating today's society can be. It's about a man from the last century trying to cope in today's world, Medina says.

The song can be found on Youtube under "Solcraft-20th Century Man." Look for the "Big Brother is Watching You" poster that comes up at the start of the song. Medina admits that he didn't know that the Kinks already recorded a song by the same title, or he would have named it differently. But it's already on Youtube now, so there it is.

"In today's musical landscape almost anything goes," said Medina. "You don't have to have bass, drums and guitar. You can break down barriers."

Medina said they recorded the song at a studio in San Leandro called Royal Productions in a building at East 14th Street and Hesperian Boulevard.

"Everybody tells us it's not like anything else they've heard," Medina said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANTHONY MEDINA

**Leo Evans sings in the studio, below, with Anthony Medina.**



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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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C	O	O	K	T	I	T	L	E		
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A	N	T	M	O	M	S	G	E	N	T



# Task Force: Council decided to form citizen budget task force

continued from front page

two appointees must live within a council member's district. One appointee may, but need not, be a representative of a San Leandro business.

The council approved opening an application period for the Task Force by Aug. 1 and accepting appointments for 30 days afterward. The appointments would be tentatively ratified at the Sept. 21 City Council meeting. Interested persons can contact their council member or visit the city's website ([www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org)) starting next week.

org) starting next week.

Councilman Victor Aguilar, who voted no, said he is concerned that lack of transparency in the process would only frustrate residents who are counting on the city to spend the \$1.7 million previously earmarked for the police department on community efforts.

"I want the committee to meet and take seriously this responsibility," Aguilar said during the council's discussion. "The task force needs to have access to the expenditures, to take a deeper

**"The next two-year budget will be difficult."**

— San Leandro City Manager Jeff Kay

look at these expenditures, and to make sure we know what we are spending our money on. They need to see what is necessary,

what is not and where we can focus our efforts."

Aguilar also said he wants the task force selection process to be fair and exclude people who are already on a committee or are elected officials.

Transparency and integrity for the task force were common sentiments echoed by nearly an hour of public comments during the meeting.

"Those who are under-represented in the community should be represented in this task force, but 28 is too many. Even grand

juries are limited to 19 people," said Steven Michael Cho of San Leandro during public comments. "The other biggest concern is that the City Council will pick favorites and/or candidates that are unlikely or unable to challenge the status quo."

San Leandro resident Cynthia Chandler says San Leandro's diverse talent is continually overlooked in favor of working with what she calls, "power players like the police or out-of-city big business interests."

"I am most concerned that the vote reflects a lost opportunity and a gross act of police overreach and corruption," says Chandler. "It is absurd to put our community's financial future in the hands of police, who are not trained in city budgeting and who have a personal conflict of interest, or out-of-town big business owners."

Emily Griego, president and CEO of San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, said the business

community supports a budget task force considering it contributes, "significantly to the community and to the city funding, not just because of the business sales tax but the jobs they provide and the investment they make in the city."

"As a Chamber of Commerce, we support the San Leandro Police Department," Griego said. "We feel they require adequate financial resources to carry out their work. And we do feel there is some internal work that they need. There is an evolution that they need with their use of force and their de-escalation practices. Aside from defunding, which we don't feel is a necessary tactic here, we would like to push for reevaluating how they conduct their practices as they go about their work."

Creation of the Task Force came at the request of the City Council back in June after it approved its \$120 million fiscal year budget. City Manager Jeff Kay said he anticipates an ongoing revenue shortfall because of revenue lost due to the coronavirus and expected recession stemming from the pandemic.

"The next two-year budget will be difficult," Kay said during the Council Meeting. "The more we can do to engage the community the better because budgeting will become harder with limited resources."

A draft of San Leandro's next biennial budget is expected in Spring 2021.

## LOCAL DEATHS

### Julian Polvorosa

Julian Polvorosa left this earth on July 21, 2020. He was 85 years old.

His shortcuts were never short and his stories were always long. Also long was his list of friends. He was a retired barber of 55 years. Julian loved his hometown of San Leandro and was a member of the SL City Council. He was active in Rotary and the SL Boys and Girls Club. He proudly served in the Marine Corp. He loved fishing and hunting with his dogs.

Julian is survived by Isabel his devoted and loving wife of 61 years, daughter Dawn, siblings Danny and Helene, granddaughters Jilian and Lauren, great granddaughter Nicole, sons-in-law Frank and Leroy, nephews Danny, Julian, and Matthew, nieces, Tambria, Jodell and Dana. Predeceasing Julian was his daughter Nicole.

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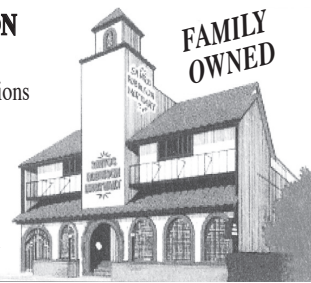
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## LOCAL DEATHS

**TIMES OBITUARIES** may be submitted online at [ebpublishing.com](http://ebpublishing.com), emailed to [obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com) or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number. For further assistance, call 510-614-1555.

### Eileen Patricia Williams

February 19, 1929 - July 20, 2020

Eileen fell asleep in death in her home with her children by her side July 20, 2020 at the age of 91. Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts Eileen was one of 3 children born to Joseph and Lillian Silva.

The Silva family settled in San Leandro California when Eileen was an infant. Eileen grew up, graduated San Leandro High, married and raised a beautiful family of 6 children with her husband Francis Williams of 55 years.

Eileen took with her the values her family had instilled in her as a young girl. She kept her family bonds strong which included besides immediate family, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces and Nephews with whom many she was extremely close.

Eileen was a devoted wife, mother, and friend. Love, generosity, hospitality, and always seeing the best in others defined her and contributed to her being a happy person despite difficulties.

Eileen loved to be surrounded by her family and friends enjoying good food good times and Loard's Ice Cream. She continued to tend to others literally right up to the very end.

Eileen began an earnest study of the Bible and dedicated her life as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1974. By continuing to learn and study the Bible she lived by those standards and principles and by doing this she enhanced and beautified the wonderful woman she had already become. She devoted much time and effort to helping others learn and benefit from Bible truths that she held dear. Many knew her from the San Leandro Safeway parking lot or the San Leandro Bart station where she would talk with ones she knew or anyone who would listen and share scriptures that offered comfort and hope for better times ahead.

Eileen made a good name for herself that will never be forgotten, by the way she lived her life, her values and the way she treated others.

Eileen was preceded in death by her husband Francis Williams, her parents Lillian and Joseph Silva and her brother Joseph Larry Silva Sr. She is survived by her 6 children Lana McDonell (Robert), Jan Eslinger (Everett), Claudia Yahnke (Glen), Leslie Rettig, Guy Williams (Amy) and Stacy Zaballos (Steven), her grandchildren Ryan, Sean, Carey, Andrew, Ashley, Casey, Chelsea, Jeslynn, Jaeda, Jennifer and Kaitlyn, her great-grandchildren Wyatt, Madeline, Robert, William, James, Jack, Eva, Quinn and Crosby and also her sister Patricia Acamo.

Eileen aka Mom, Mombo and Nanny will be deeply missed by all of her children, family and friends. A special thanks to Marlene Turic for being a true friend and companion when needed. Eileen taught others about the Bible's hope of a resurrection we are confident her hope will be realized and is just around the corner!



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### Timothy Edward Graney

July 12, 1949 - July 6, 2020

Tim was born and raised in Oakland, where he attended Bishop O'Dowd High School (Class of '67) and later UC Berkeley (Class of '73). Tim enjoyed playing basketball and was a Warriors season ticket holder for many years. He loved dogs, especially golden retrievers. He enjoyed restoring classic cars - Mustangs and Mercedes-Benz. He loved rhythm & blues music and was a gifted painter of portraits and landscapes.

Tim had a varied career. A long-distance runner, he owned a popular running shoes store in San Francisco's financial district; worked as a stockbroker; and was the national sales manager for a local auto parts company for 15 years.

Tim is survived by his wife of over 30 years, Maggie Pullman Graney, who he met in high school. He had two daughters: Megan Graney and Maureen Graney (Dan) Green, grandson Timmy and stepson Jason Rahlwes. Tim is also survived by three sisters: Michael Graney (Harry) Mulholland; Shawn Graney (Steve) Green; and Colleen Graney (Rick) Palia, nephew Chris and niece Becky. He was preceded in death by his younger brother Patrick, and parents Marion and Evans Graney. Tim is also survived by his brothers-in-law Barrett (Nicole) Pullman, Dave (Lorrie) Pullman; sister-in-law Patty Pullman Schoenstein; and nieces Lisa, Marcie and Sydnee and nephews Dan and Mike.

Donations can be made in Tim's memory to the American Heart Association.

**\*\* Forever in our Hearts \*\***





## 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](mailto: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.

**Budget Task Force a Stacked Deck?**

Editor:

Last Tuesday, the San Leandro City Council and Mayor Cutter failed our community.

They had a historic opportunity to bring together a skilled team from within our community to form a budget task force advising emergent needs posed by the pandemic and rising awareness of systemic racial injustice in our city.

The task force could have addressed emergent community needs along with decades-long budget inequities handing the lion's share of our budget to policing while crumbling roads and critical social services remain unfunded.

Instead, the City Council and Mayor Cutter voted last Tuesday to stack the community budget task force with city employees and big business interests, specifically including police officers and big business owners who do not live in our city.

At this moment of economic crisis, our residents and small business owners deserve a budget advisory team composed of experts who are part of this community, not business interests outside our community or police ill-trained in budgeting, both trying to make money off of us.

Including in the task force city employees whose livelihoods depend on allocations is a conflict of interest boondoggle.

Affirmatively seeking police to be appointed to the budget task force is perhaps the most glaring example of political corruption and police overreach in a 20-year pattern of city leaders handing over increasing responsibilities to high-salaried police for which they are not trained, at a tremendous fiscal loss to our community.

At this time of crisis when more and more of our residents are unemployed and facing eviction and hunger, our local small businesses are struggling, and our children are left without many services and educational opportunities. We deserve more.

Shame on Mayor Cutter and City Councilmembers Ballew, Cox, Hernandez, Lee, and Lopez — all of whom took campaign money from the San Leandro Police Union — for letting us down and handing our tax dollars over to special interests.

Thank you to Councilmember Victor Aguilar for being the lone vote opposing corruption.

In this same meeting, the City Council voted to put a new parcel tax on the November ballot. I cannot in good conscience trust city leadership to use this added tax wisely, which is devastating. They and their tax have lost my vote.

—Cynthia Chandler  
San Leandro

**Rating the SLPD**

Editor:

Quoting from the San Leandro Police Dept. website, "The San Leandro Police Department is committed to providing high quality police service to our community. In order to be responsive to community needs, it is

important to receive citizen input."

On July 24, 2020, residents launched an online tool to enable anyone to report and rate their interactions with the SLPD.

This tool is independent from the SLPD or any group. Our goal is to collect feedback from residents, anonymously, about their personal interactions with the SLPD. The information is publicly shared, in real time, to facilitate community conversations with the SLPD and make our community safer for all.

Just click on the "See Data Collected" link at the bottom of the tool. You can access the tool from your computer or mobile device at [www.rateslpld.com](http://www.rateslpld.com)

Similarly to how some workplaces have a big sign at their entrance, displaying how many consecutive days without an accident have been achieved, the [rateslpld.com](http://rateslpld.com) tool has a counter displaying how many days without a death caused by the SLPD has been achieved.

The last one occurred on April 18, 2020 when Steven Taylor was killed by an officer inside Walmart.

Please share the link with your social network. The more people use the tool, the more useful the data will be.

In addition, there is a conversation group in Nextdoor <https://nextdoor.com/g/h8gv2dthv/> where we are sharing thoughts about San Leandro policing, crime trends, police budget, etc. The goal is to help our community help the SLPD evolve so that neither our skin color nor our mental health determines how safe we are in San Leandro.

Thank you for your support. Stay safe.

—Antonio Mantilla  
San Leandro

**The Cost of the Protests**

Editor:

In keeping with the 1st Amendment, I fully support peaceful protests. However, when protests are not peaceful, it is not fair that the taxpayers, in one way or another, eventually will be paying for the damages, looting, and loss of business caused by out-of-control demonstrators.

May I suggest that the city, with guidelines, require a permit for large organized gatherings. Furthermore the city could consider that the organizers be bonded to cover potential damages.

Democracy is a system of government where the people intelligently chose their governing body. In order to elect a productive City Council, it is necessary that the voter knows if their representatives are making prudent decisions.

To prepare for the next election, I would like to know how my representative voted regarding critical issues. Will the San Leandro Times print a résumé of how City Council member's voted. One can not have a true democracy without transparency.

—F. D. Tomasello  
San Leandro

**Systemic Inequality**

Editor:

Is there any doubt systemic inequality exists at all levels of society? Do we deny systemic racism not only within police departments but in city, state, and local governments?

Do we acknowledge disparity in housing, health care, educational opportunities; social services in general? Do we find ourselves considering the race of an individual *before* we first think of them as a human being? Do we consider a homeless person's lack of a bath or their raggedy and filthy clothing *before* we consider each a human being?

Do we ignore or shun groups of people because of their religious affiliation, their differences in culture, language, or ethnicity? Do we fail to speak to one or more of our neighbors because...?

If any of these indicators are true (even if the answer is "yes, but..."), then, yes, there *is* systemic inequality all around of us and we play a major role in sustaining it — whether consciously or unconsciously.

The Civil Rights activism of the 1960s began a great, important, movement but society settled on a few legalistically mandated advances toward racial equality driving systemic racism and inequality below awareness; hiding its tendrils that continue to permeate and affect the lives of every individual to this day.

Of course, there are many who care, who understand and abhor injustice of every kind — the silent majority. And yet, it is the silent majority who has sustained and continues to sustain every evil that exists simply because of that silence.

Full and total social integration must proceed at every level! We are *all* human beings *first* and we must act together to end social injustices of all kinds. Find a protest and join in!

As Martin Luther King said in 1967, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal."

—Peggy Heubel  
San Leandro

**Don't Banish Leo**

Editor:

While I am no fan of Leo T. West's letter-writing, I disagree with having him banished from the pages of the San Leandro Times as suggested by Aaron Baldwin ("A Caustic Campaign in the Times," *Letters*, July 23).

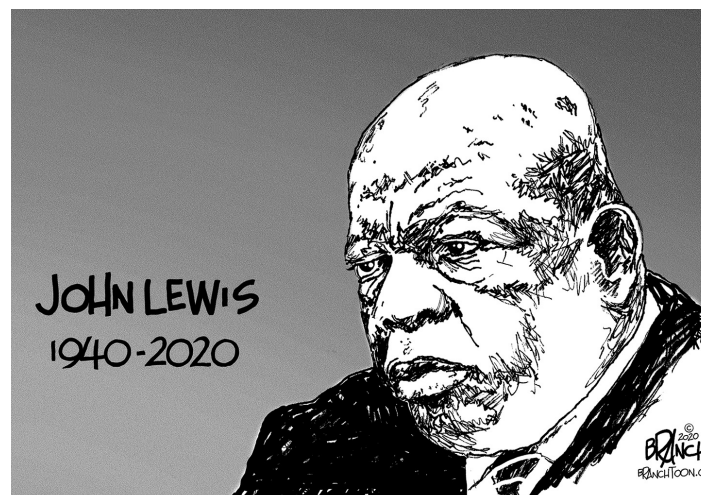
Censorship of Mr. West just because his opinions are inconvenient, wrong-headed, and/or annoying is inconsistent with the "free speech" traditions of this country and has been held unconstitutional by our courts.

If Mr. West's opinions are too upsetting to Mr. Baldwin, I suggest he follow my example and simply not read them.

—Jim Mehner  
Oakland



Send a Letter to the Editor  
[Letters@ebpublishing.com](mailto:Letters@ebpublishing.com)

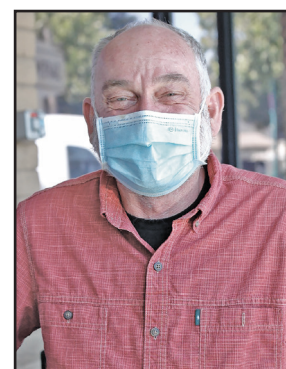


## INQUIRING REPORTER

## Who should be Biden's running mate?

— Asked at the Bancroft Safeway

Obama! ... I would like it to be Kamala Harris. I just like her politics.  
**Rick Murray**  
San Leandro



I think it should be Kamala Harris because she has the experience. She was an attorney and she was the state attorney general. And I wish Gavin Newsom would run for president the next time. We need some life.

**Judie Ware**  
San Leandro



Kamala Harris because she's outspoken and very capable and I believe they would make a good match to take care of our world. I would feel safe with them in charge. Or Cory Booker. He would be a good candidate, too.

**Patricia Mulder**  
San Leandro



Michelle Obama because she's a good person and she's very smart.  
**Shawana Monorease**  
Oakland



Anybody but Trump. Somebody that would support Biden's philosophy in uniting the country and be a reflection of diversity. It doesn't have to be a Black female, just somebody who complements his view.

**Marjorie Lee**  
Oakland



# Disability Rights Pioneer Honored; Helped Shape BART's Accessibility

By Melissa Jordan  
Special to the Times

This week marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), and members of BART's Accessibility Task Force (BATF) reflected on what the landmark legislation has meant in their lives.

Hale Zukas, a pioneering disability rights activist, was a founding member of the task force and serves on the advisory body to this day. He also worked behind the scenes to push for passage of the ADA, which turned 30 this past Sunday.

Zukas has Cerebral Palsy and uses a wheelchair. He communicates with the assistance of a helmet-mounted joystick and letterboard.

A Cal student in the 1960s, he co-founded Berkeley's Center for Independent Living (CIL) in 1971. The modern disability rights movement was born in Berkeley, and first-in-the-nation curb cuts were at the corner of Bancroft and Telegraph, based on technical designs by Zukas.

When asked what the ADA means to him, Zukas replied with a single word: "access."

Zukas helped to create that access. In what would become the longest occupation of a federal building in U.S. history, he and others from the movement staged a nearly month-long protest at a Health, Education and Welfare office in San Francisco in 1977. The sit-in brought worldwide at-

tention to the nascent movement for equality.

Zukas shaped the BART system since its early days, co-founding BART's accessibility advisory group in 1975. He was a driving force in designing the button placement inside BART elevators at a height that could be reached easily by someone in a wheelchair.

The BART Board recognized Zukas with unanimous passage of a resolution honoring him at its July 23 meeting.

BART became the first public transportation system to be fully accessible to people with disabilities, thanks to the advocacy of pioneers like Zukas and the late Ed Roberts, namesake of the Ed Roberts Campus Independent



BART PHOTO BY MARIA J. AVILA

**Hale Zukas at Ashby BART Station in July 2020.**

Living Center at the Ashby BART Station.

The disability rights move-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

**Hale Zukas, (center of photo with helmet) at 1970s protest in this photo by Anthony Tusler.**

ment continues, however, in ways large and small, at BART and throughout society.

*Melissa Jordan is a member of the BART communications staff.*

## Report: 'Officer acted in self-defense and the defense of others'

*continued from front page*

driveway of his mother's house.

On the afternoon of June 11, 2019, a group of kids apparently threw mustard on Gomez' mother's van in her driveway and a dispute broke out between the adults at the nearby residence and Gomez along with his mother, the report said. One of the residents called the police and said that Gomez had a machete and threatened to stab them and that he had dropped his pants and exposed himself in front of children, and threatened to attack the police if they were called.

When police arrived they saw Gomez walking with a machete

in his hand. They ordered him to drop the machete and he eventually did, the report said. But when police directed him to come to them he didn't comply and kept walking to his mother's front porch and sat down in a chair.

Police were worried that Gomez would go back into the house and barricade himself, and they were concerned someone else could be injured in the house, the report said. Police directed Gomez to come off the porch and he refused, saying, "That isn't going to happen." He also refused to put up his hands.

Police then developed a plan to take Gomez into custody and

a group of officers began to approach the porch, the report said, adding, "Officer Olivera touches Officer Woods' left shoulder and tells her she is assigned as lethal cover."

When they were about 30 feet from the porch, the report said, Gomez bent forward and reached downward behind a sign, but they couldn't see what he was reaching for.

"Mr. Gomez suddenly raised his right hand and began to stand up," the report said. "Mr. Gomez brought his hands together and extended his arms straight out from his body towards the officers."

Gomez was holding a dark

object in his hands and he positioned his legs in a shooting stance, and the actions were consistent with retrieving a handgun and pointing it at the officers, the report said.

At the same moment, Gomez yelled at officers, "Let's go, motherf---ers," according to the report.

"Officer Woods fires one shot almost simultaneously with Mr. Gomez' statement," the report said.

The District Attorney's 23-page report contains summaries of all the statements by witnesses and police officers involved in the shooting. It later refers to a United States Supreme Court

ruling on police officer's use of force, that "The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than the 20/20 vision of hindsight," and to allow for the fact that police are forced to make split-second judgements.

The conclusion said that the evidence shows that Officer Woods acted in self-defense and the defense of others, and the evidence does not support that the shooting of Gomez was criminal.

Officer Woods had been advised by dispatch that Gomez had threatened to kill the police, the report's conclusion said, adding,

"Officer Woods saw Mr. Gomez with a machete in his hand when she arrived and participated in efforts with other officers to de-escalate the situation by having Mr. Gomez walk toward them after he positioned himself of the front porch of his mother's residence."

The conclusion said, "Under the totality of circumstances, it is apparent that Mr. Gomez intended the officers to believe that he was armed with a firearm and intended to shoot the officers."

The District Attorney's report can be found in the police department's section of the City of San Leandro's website: [www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org).

### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Don't gnash those pearly whites because you might have to delay your plans. This could give the Lucky Lamb a better perspective of what's been done, and what still needs doing.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Scoring financial bull's-eyes is easy for the focused Bovine who knows the ins and outs of the marketplace. But even with your success record, caution is still the watchword.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** Watch that tendency to over-romanticize a situation that should be given closer scrutiny. Better to be suspicious now and ask for an explanation, rather than face a sad surprise later.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Bruised self-confidence can make things difficult unless you accept the fact that you have what it takes. Ignore the critics and concentrate on believing in yourself. Good luck.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Congratulations on what you've accomplished. But this is no time to curl up for some serious catnapping. Your rivals are probably already working on plans to overtake your lead.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Your adventurous side wants to play a more dominant role this week, and you might want to oblige. Try to arrange for some getaway time with that special person.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Taking logical approaches to pesky workplace issues can help resolve even long-standing problems. A shift in policy might catch you by surprise. Be alert to signs of change.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Your kindness and compassion are exactly what are needed in dealing with an awkward situation in the early part of the week. Share the weekend fun with family.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Keeping your focus straight and true is a good way of getting your points across. Save any variations for a later time. The musical arts are important this weekend.



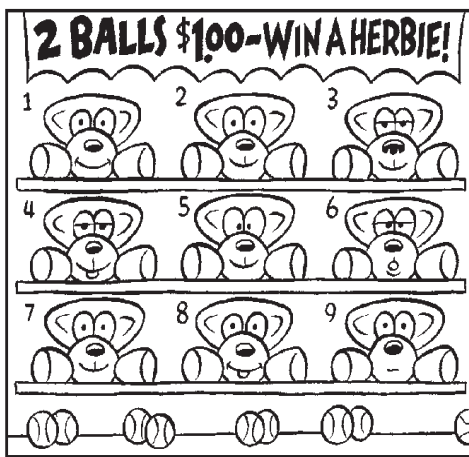
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Reject advice to cut corners in reaching your goal. Better to take a little more time to do the job as you promised. You'll gain new respect for your honesty and integrity.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Don't allow a troublesome situation to grow so big that it will be increasingly difficult to deal with. The sooner you speak up, the sooner everyone will be able to benefit.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Confronting someone who is making a lot of mistakes could be the kindest thing you can do both for that person and for anyone who could be adversely affected by the errors.



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**TWO OF THESE HERBIES** are exactly alike. You have two shots to knock them down.

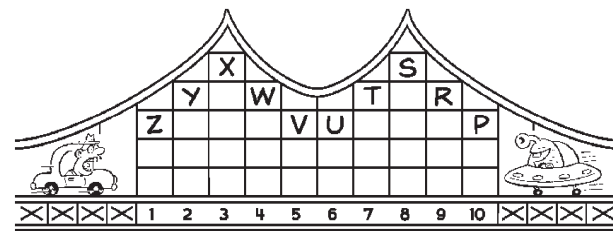
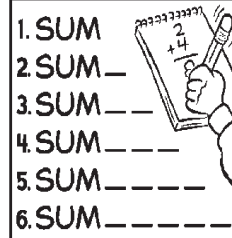
Answer: Numbers 2 and 7.

**A POSTAL PROBLEM!** Fred handed the postal person a one-dollar bill and said, "I'll have some 2-cent stamps, 10 times as many 1-cent stamps, and the balance in 5-cent stamps, please!" How many of each was he given?

Answer: 5 2-cent stamps, 50 1-cent stamps and 8 5-cent stamps.

**A SUMPTUOUS SELECTION OF SUPERLATIVES!** In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with SUM. Some hints:

- SUM (in place).
- Drainage pit.
- A small tree.
- A type of conference.
- A condensed report.
- One who calls forth.



### A WORD-BRIDGE!

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word plus plenty of hints.

- A sharp turn.
- A small sailboat.
- Type of gas.
- Found in garden.
- To annoy or puzzle.
- A container.
- Strained; tense.
- A small, rich pastry.
- Tough part of watermelon.
- Seed container.

9. Hind. 10. Pod. WRECK, S. VEA, O. DIRT, 7. TUB, O. SCULL.