

Cuatro de Mayo?

CITY TO CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO A DAY EARLY THIS YEAR 8



Pirates Soar

SAN LEANDRO TRACK AND FIELD JUMPER TAKES FIRST IN MEET 14

WEEKEND WEATHER


CLOUDY Winds kick up to 15 mph on Sunday

HIGHS: 66-71


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

LOWS: 49-54


FRIDAY



SATURDAY



SUNDAY



San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 28 • NO. 18

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO COURTESY OF MERCY SHIPS

Kevin So of San Leandro said the most inspiring thing in his life was working on a hospital ship that treated the people of Cameroon in the West Coast of Africa.

Nurse Makes Life-Changing Voyage

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Kevin So wasn't sure he made the right decision when he left his job at the Stanford Hospital Emergency Department to wind up on a ship halfway around the world.

But So wasn't exactly going on some luxury cruise liner. He left his job to work on a Mercy Ships hospital ship to bring

medical care to some of the poorest parts of the world.

There's no pay. The hospital workers even have to pay for their own room and board while working on the ship.

So spent two months working on the ship docked in Cameroon on the west coast of Africa. And he says it's about the best experience of his life.

"It goes to the roots of why so many medical people go into the profession, to help people," So said. "When that goal is so well defined – not for money, not for fame – it's always a dream to help people's lives, but here you really see it."

Kevin So grew up in San Leandro and attended Chinese Christian School on Fargo

see NURSE, page 5

City Programs Promote Youth Outreach

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The City says that if San Leandro wants to have a solid foundation, it's important to reach out San Leandro's kids – what the city calls their "youth diversion programs."

"It helps them be a part of their city," said Mayor Pauline Cutter.

Taking inventory of what San Leandro is doing for youth was the idea of Councilman Lee Thomas who said he wanted to do more for young San Leandrans as he began studying tobacco policies and saw some grim statistics. He said he wanted more positive opportunities for young people so they wouldn't get involved with smoking, drugs, alcohol or crime.

The city says three departments mainly deal with kids in town: recreation, libraries, and the police. At a recent City Council meeting, the council heard from all three.

City Recreation Director Jeanette Dong says that her department works to have as many free and inexpensive classes and programs for kids under 18 as possible.

Fong said that on the surface, these things are lots of fun, but they also serve as a place for kids who come from vulnerable backgrounds. The city gives kids a chance to have something as simple as a movie night or a holiday cookie celebration for free when they otherwise might not be able to afford it.

"Our organization was not

created as a safety net, but we know now that it is a safety net," said Dong.

Similarly, librarian Bill Sherwood says that San Leandro's libraries give a safe, comfortable space for young people to do homework and have internet access.

Sherwood says there are 6,100 active library card holders in San Leandro under the age of 16

see OUTREACH, page 16

Oro Loma Open House Saturday

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The Oro Loma Sanitary District is inviting the public to an Open House this Saturday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at their treatment plant at 2600 Grant avenue in San Lorenzo.

Visitors will have a chance to get a first-hand look at how the water treatment facility works by taking a tour. There will also be hands-on activities including robotic sewer inspection camera and a visit by a Waste Management truck.

And Oro Loma will be offering complementary treats to guests, including hot dogs, cookies, shaved ice, and drinks.

Curious about what happens to your wastewater between the time it leaves your house and the time it is released into the

see OPEN, page 16

Travel Ban is Personal for SL Shopkeeper

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Normally, Essa Alharbi would be busy ringing up customers at his store in downtown San Leandro during the Tuesday lunch hour.

But on April 24, he locked his doors and turned away business from noon to 1 p.m. as part of a national protest by Yemeni shop owners.

Alharbi and his family own the Cigarette Max in the Downtown Plaza where you can find him and two of his brothers behind the counter. But their other

brother is stuck in an embassy in Djibouti, running from Yemen's civil war and unable to come to America due to President Donald Trump's travel ban.

Last year, after a previous version of the travel ban was announced, an estimated 8,000 Yemeni-owned stores shut down in a similar protest, mostly on the East Coast. Alharbi says he is participating because of his family's situation and also as a sign of solidarity.

"Every Yemeni business is doing it," said Alharbi.

The third version of the travel ban is now in front of



the Supreme Court this week and this current iteration prevents most travelers from the primarily Muslim countries of Yemen, Iran, Libya, Somalia,

and Syria as well as North Korea and Venezuela from entering the United States.

Alharbi says it's a twist

see BAN, page 5

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Teens go on day-long crime spree **Page 3**

SPORTS

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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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Newspaper
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Tour Local Native Plant Gardens this Weekend

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour's Native Plant Extravaganza and the tour itself take place this weekend.

You can still register for the Sunday, May 6 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Garden guides are no longer being mailed, but you will receive links to a PDF of the guide in your confirmation e-mail.

This Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., a Native Plant Extravaganza will take place in conjunction with the tour. Take advantage of this opportunity to shop for unique or hard-to-find native plants that are not normally available in most nurseries. In addition to shopping, free talks on gardening for pollinators, designing a native plant garden, dying with natives, the best choices for lawn conversions and more will be given at Ploughshares, Oaktown, Markham, East Bay Wilds, The Watershed Nursery, and Green Thumb Works on the week-end of the Tour.

Over 35 beautiful native plant gardens will be open for viewing.

Nature-themed art will be sold at eleven gardens; nature lovers will enjoy the handcrafted art, botanical and wildlife illustrations, cards, coasters, pouches, and more—purchase your Mother's Day gift here and a percentage of the proceeds will

go to support the tour.

Talks by local artists on how to make garden art mosaics, and how to get started with nature journaling will be offered on the day of the tour.

Jazz, bluegrass, guitar, sitar, woodwinds, and more will be performed at seven gardens. You can hear the award-winning Jazz Messengers (recently voted the best middle school jazz band in the nation), and the bluegrass playing, award-winning Barefoot Quales, among other excellent musical offerings.

Forty talks will be given in the gardens on the day of the tour.

Children's activities will be offered at Leslie Buck's Berkeley garden, where your children can roast marshmallows in the fire pit, and color native plant sheets in the art area. In San Lorenzo children can play Native American games, do make and take arts and crafts, make a wildflower seed pot to take home, and view the transparent bee hive of Joe's Honey all day. Children 16 and under do not need tickets; just close supervision.

A \$15 per person donation is requested to help cover the cost of putting on the tour. Please help ensure the tour's continuation by donating generously.

For more information or to see the full schedule at bringbackthenatives.net.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRING BACK THE NATIVES

A bee does what comes naturally in an East Bay native garden. Check out 37 gardens in the Bringing Back the Natives tour this weekend.

Celebrate Asian American Heritage

Commemorate Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with the Hayward Area Historical Society (HAHS).

Loyal Americans: Japanese American Imprisonment During World War II is the current exhibit in the special gallery at the HAHS Museum of History and Culture, 22380 Foothill Boulevard in Hayward.

An exhibition of artifacts and stories of people whose civil

rights were violated that also shows the courage and bravery of ordinary Americans in extraordinary circumstances.

This exhibition is supported by the Eden Township Japanese American Citizens League.

On Thursday, May 10, HAHS celebrates Children's Day from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Children's Day is a Japanese holiday to celebrate children and express gratitude towards

mothers. Join HAHS for stories, crafts, and fun.

Geared toward children ages 1-5 and their caregivers.

Older siblings are always welcome; \$5 suggested donation.

On May 12, HAHS hosts *Stories from Camps* at 2 p.m.

Hear stories from WWII internment camps from family members of internees as well as those who experienced the camps first hand; \$5 suggested donation.

San Leandro Downtown Association presents



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www.BikeSL.org

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Check-in 9:00 a.m.

START at 9:30 a.m.

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Route #2 to Marina Park

Check-in 9:30 a.m.

START at 10:30 a.m.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

Backseat Drivers

Anybody who has ever seen a fire truck pass by with a firefighter steering in the back has probably wanted to give it a try. Last Friday, the current Alameda County Fire Department class of recruits went to the Alameda Naval Air Station so they would have plenty of room to practice how to "tiller," or drive from the rear seat. Recruits practiced how to drive forward and backward in a straight line, forward and reverse serpentine, and random approaches to obstacles. Recruits also trained on high and low speed for avoidance and adapting to variations in approaches.

Kids Take Over SL City Hall

City Hall is usually full of grownups, but last Thursday it was overrun by dozens of enthusiastic kids as the city celebrated "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day."

The special day has been a national event for over 20 years, designed to get kids to consider what they want to do for their careers.

In San Leandro, this was the sixth year for the program and over 60 kids participated. The event is organized by Doreen Bueno, who works in the human resources department.

The kids had a chance to check out the City Council Chambers, look at police equipment, and get some hands-on time with the Public Works Department.

Red Cross Seeks Volunteers

The American Red Cross wants people to volunteer their time at "Sound the Alarm" home fire safety and alarm installation events planned for the Bay Area this month.

Help install alarms or donate. To sign up and to learn more about the Home Fire Campaign, visit soundthealarm.org/norcalcoastal.

CROSSWORD ANSWER

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Three Teens Arrested After an All-Day Robbery, Burglary Spree

Three 17-year-old boys were arrested in San Leandro on April 17 after an all-day crime spree that included multiple auto burglaries and strong robberies, police say.

San Leandro police officers were in the area of the Greenhouse Marketplace shopping center conducting a crime suppression operation at around 10 p.m. when they noticed the suspects acting suspiciously, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

Over the past few months, this area of the city has seen an increase in crime ranging from auto burglary to robbery, Benabou said.

During the patrol at the shopping center, officers noticed a vehicle parked in the lot occupied by three male teenagers.

After running the license plate, officers learned that the vehicle was wanted by another police department in connection with several auto burglaries earlier in the day.

While officers were watching the car, a victim from the 99 cent

store called 911 to report that she was robbed of her purse at the same location.

Officers then watched as one of the occupants exited the vehicle and committed burglary from a nearby parked car in the Foodmax parking lot, Benabou said.

At this point, several officers convened on the suspect and the suspect vehicle and took all three teens into custody.

Officers said that the robbery that occurred moments earlier at the 99 cent store was in fact committed by these suspects and the victim's purse was located in the vehicle. Also, officers found several other stolen items inside the vehicle belonging to victims from surrounding jurisdictions.

Detectives from other agencies responded and worked with SLPD investigators to sort out numerous alleged crimes.

"Our officers did an excellent job identifying a crime trend and appropriately executed a plan to catch the suspects," said Benabou in a written statement. "We will not stand idly to these criminals while our citizens are victimized."

A well planned, pro-active police operation led to the arrest of these perpetrators."

All three juvenile suspects were arrested and confessed to the crimes.

The San Leandro police department does not disclose the names of juvenile suspects.

The Alameda County Juvenile District Attorney charged all three suspects with the felonies. Many related cases are still under investigation, according to the police department.

ACSO Bucket Fundraiser On CV Blvd.

On May 4 from noon to 7 p.m. and May 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., you'll find Alameda County Sheriff's Office employees collecting your spare change with all proceeds benefiting Special Olympics at 3473 Castro Valley Boulevard.

Stop by, say hi, and toss your spare change in their collection buckets.

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NEIGHBORS



Sisters Awarded Scholarships

Congratulations to Alessandra and Sofia Sotelo, who have each been awarded \$1,000 scholarships for private piano lessons.

These grants are two of five in the state awarded by the Music Teacher's Association of California to dedicated students.

The Sotelo Sisters are well-motivated, and committed piano students of MTAC member Dr. Maureen Spranza, of San Leandro, with whom they have been studying for more than two years.

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Wauson Liang of San Leandro was named to the dean's list for the fall semester of 2017 at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Liang is enrolled in the university's School of Engineering and Applied Science. To qualify for the dean's list in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 12 graded units.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Taking advice isn't always easy for self-assured Rams and Ewes who think they know what's best. But it wouldn't hurt to listen to what close colleagues have to say.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You know how to balance life's practical aspects with the poetic. This gives you a special edge this week in both your professional endeavors and your personal life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Focus on keeping a balance between your home-related activities and your workplace responsibilities. Be mindful of both without obsessing over one or the other.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A change in plans is likely as you discover more facts about a possible commitment. Continue to ask questions and, if you're not sure about the answers, demand proof.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be careful not to let that Leonine pride keep you from seeking wise, experienced counsel before making an important decision. A family member once again seeks your help.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) That surge of Virgo energy drives you to take on more work assignments. Be careful you don't overdo it, or you might find yourself overdone: i.e., burned out.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your decision to be upfront with colleagues on a touchy matter causes some consternation at first. But in the end, your honesty wins their trust and admiration.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) As in the past, someone again wants to share a secret with you, knowing it will be safe. But do you really want to be this person's confidante? Think about it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) As one of nature's straight shooters, you seek to correct misconceptions about a project. Do so, of course, but without giving away too much too soon.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Creative pursuits continue to be strong in the gifted Goat's aspect. New friendships can come from sharing these experiences with like-minded art aficionados.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Resolve lingering grumblings over your way of doing things by keeping your mind open to suggestions while continuing to show how your plans will work.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The perceptive Piscean might find that changing course in midstream isn't as workable as it would seem. Explore this option carefully before making a decision.

❖ SL Players Present *Death by Design*

The San Leandro Players present *Death by Design*, a comedy/mystery with surprising twists, running through May 6 at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. Show times are Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., plus a Friday show at 8 p.m. on May 4. Tickets are \$20 general, \$15 seniors, TBA members, under 12, students. For more information or reservations call 895-2573 or online at www.slplayers.org.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ❖ Retro Juke Box Band at SL Library**

In celebration of Older Americans Month, the Retro Juke Box Band will perform at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Saturday, May 5, from 2 to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Retro JukeBox Band is a top dance band with an immense repertoire covering multiple genres including timeless 1920s to 1960s jazz, blues, Motown and retro versions of today's hits. For more information, call the information desk at 577-3971.
- ❖ Oro Loma Sanitary District Open House**

Learn about the services and meet the staff at the Oro Loma Sanitary District open house on Saturday, May 5, (rain or shine) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2600 Grant Ave. in San Lorenzo. See how the pipes, pumps and equipment are maintained, tour the plant and displays, and introduce young people to great career opportunities, a fun and informative day for everyone.
- ❖ S.L. Readers Roundtable**

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable will meet on Saturday, May 5, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., to discuss *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter, the story of three generations of a Polish family who survive the Holocaust. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase in the Library's Booktique bookstore.
- ❖ All Saints Episcopal Church Food Pantry**

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro will host a food pantry on Saturday, May 5. Food is available to residents of Alameda County and volunteers are always welcome. Volunteers report at 11:30 a.m. The Hospitality Room with snacks for guests opens at 12 p.m. Food distribution is from 1 to 2 p.m. Cleanup generally ends by 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit saintsalive.net and click "Social Ministries."
- ❖ Bike San Leandro**

Bicyclists will roll en masse on Sunday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. as BikeSL (Bike San Leandro) comes back for its ninth year. This year's ride will start and end at Casa Peralta, 384 Estudillo Ave. Over 150 bicycle riders are expected to make the family trek to the San Leandro Marina and back, or the advanced trek to Lake Chabot and back. Registration starts at 9 a.m. for all. The advanced bike ride to Lake Chabot will leave at 9:30 a.m. and the family bike ride to the San Leandro Marina and back will leave at 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ 71st Annual Spring Rose Show**

Hundreds of blooms from local gardens will be on display at the East Bay Rose Society's 71st Annual Spring Rose Show on Sunday, May 6, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. in Oakland. Admission is free. Come talk to the growers, ask questions of trained rosarians, purchase rose plants, bid in a silent auction and vote for the people's choice winner.
- ❖ Equal Means Equal Film**

The Castro Valley Community Alliance and the Castro Valley Library will host *Equal Means Equal*, a film that depicts women's rights, the ERA, income inequality, and other issues on Sunday, May 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave. in Castro Valley. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Aisha Wahab, who is running for Hayward City Council.
- ❖ Native Plant Sale**

The San Lorenzo High School environmental club will have its native plant sale and garden tour on Sunday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the San Lorenzo High School, 50 E. Lewelling Blvd. Over 60 native species (500 plants) propagated by the students will be on sale at bargain prices. There will be garden talks by experts including "How to get rebates for lawn conversion" by East Bay Mud. There will also be children's activities and a fund raising Mexican lunch by the La Raza Club. For more information, visit www.bringingbackthenatives.net.
- ❖ Multicultural Night at Woodrow Wilson**

The Parent Teacher Committee of Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, 1300 Williams St., presents a Multicultural Night on Friday, May 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room. Enjoy an evening of food, activities and culture with Wilson School families. Admission is free and there will be \$1 food tickets available to purchase. All families welcome.
- ❖ The Musical *Peter Pan***

The Principled Academy Performing Arts Club presents the musical *Peter Pan*, Friday, May 11, and Saturday, May 12, at 7 p.m. at 2305 Washington Ave., San Leandro. Tickets are only \$7 (3 and under FREE) and are available at the school office or online at <http://www.principledacademy.org/tpa/html/performance.html> or at the door. For more information, call 351-6400.
- ❖ Alameda County Food Bank Drive**

Paramedics Plus wants you help to fill an ambulance with food to deliver to the Alameda County Food Bank. The emergency medical service for the county, will host a food drive during the month of May. The goal is to fill 96 boxes of food – 192 cubic feet inside an ambulance. A donation of non-perishable food can be dropped off at the Paramedics Plus office at 575 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during May.
- ❖ Neuropathy Support Group**

The Neuropathy Support Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Hayward, 2490 Grove Way in Castro Valley. Neuropathy is the tingling, numbness, burning pain in your feet, legs and or hands. There are 123 different illnesses that cause neuropathy. Let's talk. Join the discussion and learn multiple ways to deal and live with neuropathy. For more information, call Joy at 842-8440 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Hearing Loss Association Meeting**

The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, May 12, at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Refreshments are at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting at 10 a.m. Mariam Hambarchyan from NeoSensory will demonstrate their wristbands which capture sounds and translates them to vibrations. Hear through your skin. It works. Parking is free in the old garage across from Howe Street. For more information, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 886-4717.

Calendar items should be submitted at least one week prior to the desired edition of the Times, which is published Thursdays. Space limitations require we print items of the most general interest.

Nurse: Amazed at what humans can endure

continued from front page

Avenue, which has since moved to Alameda. He was on the San Leandro "Drowning Darryls" Swim Team's 200 meter freestyle relay team that set a record in 2010, the year he graduated from high school.

He got a bachelor's degree in nursing at Dominican University of California and then began working at Stanford. He plans to go back to work this summer, but he couldn't pass up the chance to work on the Mercy.

So's favorite patient on the ship was a woman named Yaya, who for 10 years had hidden her face behind her clothing because of a large tumor in her jaw.

"She described her life to me as being over," So said. "She thought there was no future and that no one would accept her. And unfortunately, a majority of that was true."

When So asked her who were the strong people in her life, she replied her mother, father and her husband.

Yaya had two surgeries, one to remove the tumor, and a second to graft part of her hip bone to the titanium which would regrow her jaw.

So remembers just before Yaya was discharged from the hospital and they took the elevator up to the deck for some fresh air and the elevator got stuck.

"She was laughing so hard in the elevator that I couldn't figure out how to open the door!" So exclaimed.

With Yaya, and all the people in Cameroon, So was amazed at their toughness.

"It's amazing how high the pain tolerance and perseverance through suffering is. It puts it into perspective what humans are capable of conquering," So said.

A lot of Yaya's personality changed after the surgery, So said. She was more open to showing her face.

"I think it really changed her

life," So said. "It's unfortunate that so many people don't have access to health care. Her situation is unique but not uncommon."

"You can't change the world, but you can change one person's world – their future is now changed for the better," So said.

Mercy Ships is a Christian-based global charity that since 1978 had delivered medical services to over 2.6 million people, treated over 163,000 dental patients, and performed 89,000 life-changing or life-saving operations such as cleft lip and palate repair, cataract removal, orthopedic procedures, facial reconstruction and obstetric fistula repair.

But the ship's goal is to also longterm, training over 6,000 local professionals, including surgeons, and taught over 223,000 local people basic health care.

Mercy Ships was founded in Switzerland and operates four hospital ships. It's funded mainly through private donations, foundations and corporate donations. Volunteers working on the ships pay monthly fees, enabling Mercy Ships to deliver medical service at a fraction of the usual cost.

So did fundraising with family and friends to help pay his costs to work on the ship. Everyone on the ship pays, not just doctors and nurses, but housekeepers, I.T. people, and engineers.

"Doctors and nurses get the spotlight but it's the people behind the scenes that make it work," So said. "And they're from countries all over the world."

Though Mercy Ships is a Christian-based program, you don't have to be Christian to work on the ships or to be a patient.

"A lot of people in North Cameroon are Muslim, but that doesn't exclude anybody," So said. "That was inspiring to me – the whole idea of mercy, providing free health care with no strings attached."

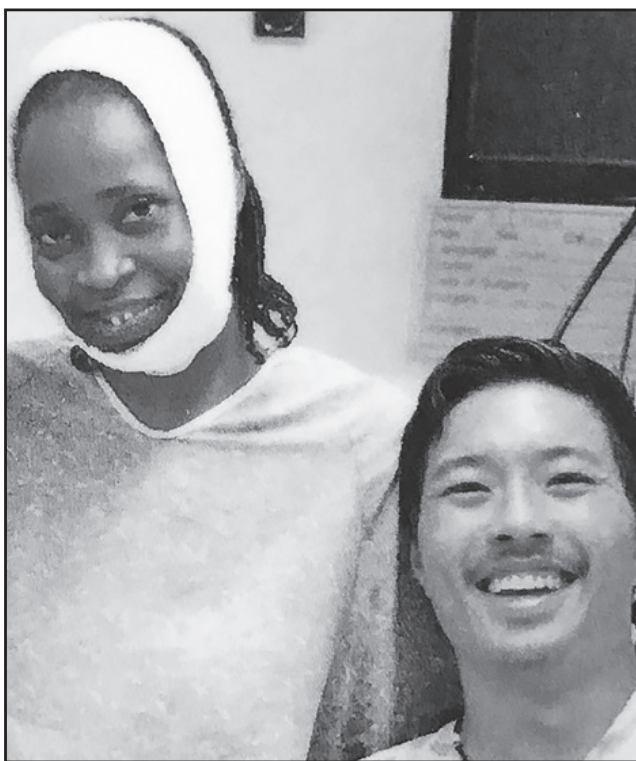


PHOTO COURTESY OF MERCY SHIPS
Kevin So (right) with Yaya after her surgery having fun on the hospital ship after the kids on the ship insisted on painting So's thumbnail.

Ban: Brother stranded

BAN continued from front page

of timing that kept his older brother Jamal, his wife, and five kids from entering the county. Essa and his other siblings became U.S. citizens when they were born because their father had already secured American citizenship but because Jamal as already born, he did not automatically. The rest of the Alharbis have been in America since the year 2000 when Essa was 10-years-old.

The Yemeni Civil War has been going on since 2015. According to the United Nations, approximately 13,000 people have been killed during the conflict including more than 5,000 civilians.

Alharbi says his brother and his family had already fled Yemen and were months into the immigration process when the travel ban came in 2017. They had already gone through medical evaluations and interviews at the American Embassy in Djibouti.

"They were close to getting visas almost a year ago," said Alharbi. "They are running away from violence. It costs us \$2,000 or \$3,000 per month to send them rent and other help but we aren't considering having them go back to Yemen. No way."

Alharbi says another family-member's wife and kids are stuck in a similar situation at an embassy in Malaysia.

"They got plane tickets to where they could to get out of Yemen," said Alharbi. "That's our personal problem, but you've got to see it's happening to so many people."

Alharbi says he's gotten a lot of support from his customers as his family goes through this even when his store was closed for business.

"Our neighbors have been great," said Alharbi. "Most people came back after the protest was over to support us. But even if we did take a loss, that's not a loss for me if our voices were heard."

**Saturday,
May 19**

Neighborhood Cleanup Day

Keep your neighborhood clean and green! Pull out your old, unused items from the attic in preparation for San Leandro's annual Citywide Garage Sale and Spring Cleaning Event.



EVENT FEATURES

Citywide Garage Sale ~ 8am - 1pm

Host a garage sale at your home. The City will provide free advertising, including a map and listing in the May 17 edition of the *San Leandro Times*.

Spring Cleaning Event ~ 10am - 3pm

Bring appliances, mattresses, electronics, scrap metal, clean wood/yard trimmings, tires household batteries and fluorescent lamps. Residents may also drop off cell phones, chargers, CDs, DVDs and audio and video tapes for recycling.

SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE

You can sign up online or complete and submit this form by May 9th to receive free garage sale advertising and/or access to the recycling event.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I would like to participate in:
(check all that apply)

- ☐ Citywide Garage Sale
☐ Spring Cleaning Event

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AUTOMOTIVE

Mini Electrifies Countryman

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

The Countryman is the largest of the four MINI models and is also the brand's only all-wheel drive offering. Now, it's also MINI's first electrified model sold to consumers. It received major changes for its second generation, which was introduced in stages last year.

While MINI's EV excitement is focused on the upcoming all-electric small hatchback, the Countryman offers a taste of electrification to urban folks who want what plug-in-hybrids (PHEVs) are known for — electric commuting during the week and unlimited travel on the weekends. That's better than a regular hybrid, which has no plug, and combines a gasoline engine and electric motor to improve fuel mileage ratings.

PHEVs offer varying amounts of battery power. The Countryman's 7.6-kWh lithium-ion battery, which hides under the rear seat, provides an EPA-rated 12

miles of all-electric range. That's low on the list, as most other PHEVs offer EV ranges in the teens and twenties, or as much as 53 miles in the Chevrolet Volt. That makes a difference on how much pure electric driving you can do.

My Melting Silver Metallic test car, for example, got me about 2/3 of the way to or from work before the petrol began to flow. I dutifully plugged in at each end, and fully charged the small battery overnight on 120-volt current at home or by lunchtime on the 240-volt Level 2 ChargePoint chargers at work.

The Countryman cleverly delivers all-wheel drive by placing a 134-horsepower 1.5-liter gas engine up front, driving the front axles, and an 87-horsepower electric motor in back, driving the rear ones. The total system horsepower is 221, and 284 lb. ft. of torque, enough to send the Countryman from 0-60 in a satisfying 6.8 seconds. The system switches back and forth based on road conditions

to provide extra traction when needed.

Naturally, how you drive determines how long your battery power will last. You can also use three different settings to configure how it's used. In AUTO eDRIVE, you get pure electric driving up to 55 mph, and the gas engine kicks in when needed (or when the battery is depleted). In MAX eDRIVE, you can drive in pure electric mode up to 78 mph (illegally), with the engine dropping in only if you exceed that. The SAVE BATTERY mode uses the engine only, keeping the battery charged above 90 percent for use later, for example, in town after a long freeway trip, where the EV mode is most effective.

Like most PHEVs, the Countryman's instrument panel provides some feedback on energy use and regeneration. A gauge on the left has a Power section, when the energy is flowing out of the battery, and a Charge section below it for when coasting or braking is generating power. The eBoost area of the dial shows when the motor is working with the engine for maximum performance.

The EPA gives the S E Countryman ALL4 (the plug-in-model) ratings of 65 MPGe for Electricity + Gasoline, and 27 MPG for when it's using gas only. I averaged 35.5 MPG during my test week.

The Countryman is just slightly bigger than the new Clubman, making it the largest MINI ever (a Maxi?). The main differences between the two big MINIs are the Countryman's all-wheel-drive capability, and its 4.6-inch taller stance.

The new Countryman is also



The MINI Cooper S E Countryman ALL4 is the first model of the British brand to have a plug-in hybrid drive that is purely electric and therefore emissions-free.

larger than its predecessor. It's 8.1 inches longer on a 2.9-inch longer wheelbase, which translates into substantially increased rear legroom. It's 1.3 inches wider, which adds up to two inches of shoulder room. Despite these increases, the car is still relatively compact, although the efficient space utilization makes it technically a midsize car per the EPA.

Since the brand re-emerged in the U.S. in 2002 with its all-new Cooper hardtop (hatchback), it has appealed to people looking for motoring joy with a side of quirkiness. The large central dash display now holds audio and other information rather than the speedometer, but it has colors that react to setting changes. It still features toggle switches for windows and even the ignition.

The Countryman is assembled in Born, Netherlands, and contains half German parts, including its engine. The six-speed automatic



The cockpit features a yellow start/stop unit and a performance display in the instrument cluster.

transmission is Japanese.

My test car, with several options, including the \$500 paint color, came to an even \$40,000, including destination charges. The base price is \$36,800.

The Countryman will surely win over its traditional audience — stylish urban folks who

want a slightly taller and roomier crossover vehicle with the MINI charms — and a small nod towards environmentalism. The EPA assigns the car just a 3 for Smog, but a commendable 8 for Greenhouse Gas. If you have a 10-mile commute, you could be driving the MINI as an EV all week.

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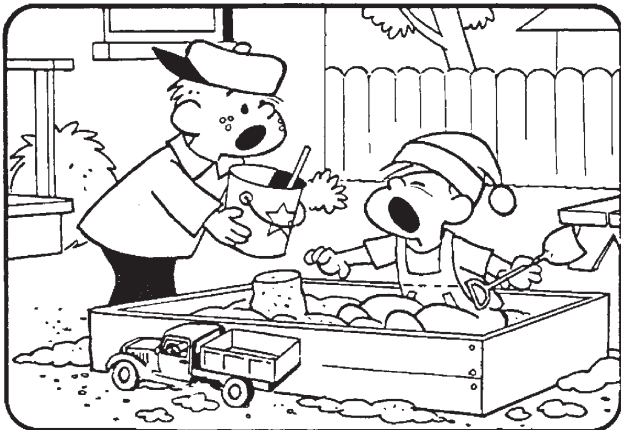
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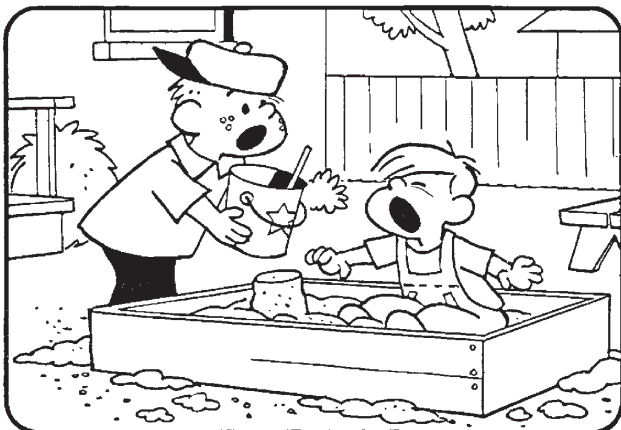
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BY
HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Falling is lower. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Truck is missing. 4. Fence top is different. 5. Cap is missing. 6. Shovel is missing.

RIDDLE CARD

1. When was beef the highest?
2. What does the cartoonist like to draw best?
3. When is a doctor most annoyed?
4. Which burns longer, a wax candle or a tallow candle?
5. What can turn without ever moving?



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Answers: 1. When the cow jumped over the moon. 2. His salary. 3. When he's out of patients. 4. Neither. They both burn shorter. 5. Milk; it can turn sour.

PITCH AND SPELL! Using the baseballs, knock down one pin at a time so that a new word is spelled out on the remaining pins.



Answer: One solution is: Hearth, heart, heal, eat, at, a.

PUZZLERS, START YOUR ENGINES! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid B.

1. Where bears live.
2. Cost per item.
3. Dull pain.
4. Clothing or accessories.

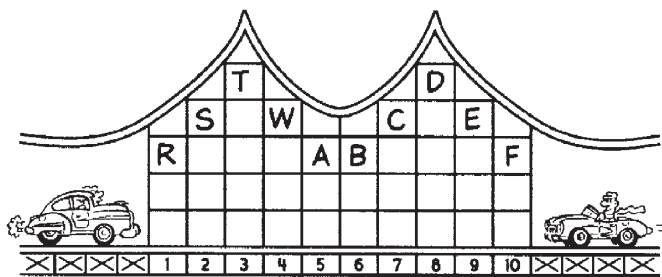
GRID A				
D				
R				
A				
G				

GRID B				
S				
T				
E				
R				

Answers: 1. Dens-send. 2. Rate-send. 3. Ache-tear. 4. Gear-rage.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

A WORD BRIDGE

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

1. A type of saw.
2. A type of paper.
3. Something forbidden.
4. To become smaller.
5. To feel poorly.
6. A type of window.
7. Used in basket-making.
8. Found in history books.
9. Speaks all languages.
10. A bad thing to do.

Answers: 1. Rip (ripsaw). 2. Sand (sandpaper). 3. Taboo. 4. Wane. 5. All. 6. Bay. 7. Cane. 8. Dates. 9. Echo. 10. Fib.

Join the City for a Cinco de Mayo Celebration Tomorrow

The City of San Leandro's 20th Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration is tomorrow, May 4 at 6 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Boulevard.

The free fiesta will feature mariachi music, regional Mexican Aztec dances, and theatrical performances by the Ballet Folklorico Costa De Oro.

Children will have the opportunity to make traditional Mexican arts and crafts. Spanish

translation and an ASL sign language interpreter will be available. Light refreshments will be served and photo booth pictures will be available for purchase.

"San Leandro is one of the most diverse cities in the United States, and this event represents yet another great occasion for us to celebrate that diversity," said Mayor Pauline Cutter. "These types of city-sponsored activities always provide a fun, fam-

ily-friendly opportunity for the public to come out and spend times with their neighbors and fellow community members."

This event is made possible by the City of San Leandro and donations from several local businesses and individuals including the The Optimist Club of San Leandro, Ballet Costa De Oro, A Time to Remember Photo Booths, Los Pericos, and Roccab's Cafe and Deli.

Town Hall for Districts 1, 2, and 5

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter and the San Leandro City Council announced that a Town Hall meeting will be held on Monday, May 14th from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM for residents of San Leandro City Council Districts 1, 2 and 5.

The meeting will take place at the Senior Community Center located at 13909 East 14th Street.

The event is being hosted by District 1 Vice Mayor Deborah Cox, District 2 Council Member Ed Hernandez and District 5 Council Member Corina Lopez.

The agenda for the evening

includes updates from each of the three council members on various projects that are occurring throughout Districts 1, 2, and 5, as well as substantial open time for questions from the public on any topics concerning city government.

Staff from all city departments will be in attendance throughout the event in order to provide additional information or answer questions. Refreshments will be available.

For San Leandro community members who may be unsure of

the specific City Council district in which they reside, please visit the city's website at www.sanleandro.org under the City Council tab.

Another meeting focusing on Districts, 3, 4, and 6 hosted by council members Lee Thomas, Benny Lee, and Pete Ballew will be scheduled in the coming months.

For additional information about the event, please contact Eric Engelbart, Deputy City Manager at eengelbart@sanleandro.org or (510) 577-3391.



TIMES FILE PHOTO

The celebration will include mariachi music, regional dances, and performances by the Ballet Folklorico Costa De Oro.

Jewish Films at the SL Museum

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Avenue is featuring two films this Saturday, May 5, back-to-back at 11:15 a.m. and again at 2 p.m.

Joe's Violin, nominated for the 2017 Academy Awards in the Documentary Short category, will be shown first, followed by the full length film *Nora's Will* by award winning Mexican director

and writer, Mariana Chenillo. *Nora's Will* (Cinco Dias Sin Nora) is in Spanish with English sub-titles and is not rated (parental guidance is suggested). Admission is free, no tickets required.

Joe's Violin tells the story of 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Joe Feingold and 12-year-old Brianna Perez. The two are brought together by chance after Feingold

donates a violin to an instrument drive for public school students held by a New York City public radio station. The film weaves Feingold's history of fleeing the Nazis as a teenager in Warsaw, his years in a Soviet labor camp in Siberia with Perez's story as the daughter of immigrants from Dominican Republic.

Nora's Will is Mariana Chenillo's first feature film as a director and writer. Before dying, Nora schemes to make José, her ex-husband, take care of her corpse.

But the only flaw in the plan - a photograph forgotten under the bed - will lead to an unexpected outcome reminding us that the biggest love stories are sometimes hidden in the smallest places.

For more information call 577-3991 or email asilveira@sanleandro.org.

San Leandro Times

PRESENTS

The Senior Guide



The bi-monthly Senior Guide is one of the San Leandro Times' most popular Advertising sections. The San Leandro area's sizeable senior population always makes this guide a great advertising vehicle.

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Senior Center Open House Today

The San Leandro Senior Community Center celebrates Older Americans Month with an Open House today, May 3 from 4p.m. to 6 p.m., 13909 East 14th Street.

Come explore the center and learn how to "Engage at Every Age," this year's theme for Older Americans Month.

Enjoy light refreshments and tour the Center, stopping to view various classes and activities in action - everything from Alexander Technique to Zumba Gold.

Nobody's Perfect Dog rescue group will have adoptable dogs available to meet and greet.

No pre-registration is required - drop in event.

For more information, call Customer Service at 577-3462.

Avoid Financial Scams

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.

Special to the Times

Q: My 91-year-old father has a substantial brokerage account and likes to manage it himself. Yet I worry that he could easily fall victim to financial scams. Is there anything I can do to protect him?

A: Yes, there may be. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), which regulates firms and professionals selling securities in the United States, recently received permission from the SEC to activate two new rules to protect senior investors:

One rule now requires member brokers to make reasonable efforts to ask investor clients, age 65 years and older, to designate a Trusted Contact Person (TCP) whom the broker may contact if the broker reasonably believes that financial exploitation has occurred or may be attempted, or where the investor shows signs of dementia or diminished capacity.

Where exploitation is suspected, a companion rule authorizes the broker to place a temporary hold on the disbursements of funds from the customer's account, pending further investigation.

These two rules are the result of a growing realization that financial exploitation of seniors is a very real problem, not only for the senior investors, but also for the brokerage firms when financial abuse is suspected.

Previously, there were issues of privacy which prevented the broker from contacting family members when suspicious activity was detected, and prior FINRA rules prevented brokerage firms from halting suspected transactions without risking liability.

The scope of the problem became apparent to FINRA after it placed into service its Securities Helpline for Seniors in April 2015: during its first two years of its operation, it fielded more than 8,600 calls seeking help and recovered more than \$4.3 million for seniors. For Senior Helpline, call 1-844-574-3577.

For now, the new rules only apply to new accounts or to accounts that are updated, but not yet to existing accounts. That said, it is anticipated that the rule will soon apply, as well, to existing accounts even without an update.

The new rules protect not only seniors, but also younger persons aged 18 and older whom the bro-

ker reasonably believes have a mental or physical impairment which renders such individuals unable to protect their own interest.

I sense from your question that your father might take offense if you asked permission to monitor his accounts.

The nice thing about the new FINRA rules is that the request will come from the broker, rather than from you, and to that extent may be more palatable to your father and other senior investors.

Where the brokerage firm suspects financial exploitation, and initiates a hold on disbursements, it must immediately begin an investigation to determine whether the hold may be extended.

The initial hold is limited to 15 days, but may be extended an additional 10 days if there is sufficient cause. A hold can be further extended by court order where the facts so warrant.

Another option is to consider elder protection monitoring through services such as EverSafe. This account monitoring sends alerts when suspicious activity is detected showing unusual withdrawals, deposits, changes in spending patterns, changes in passwords and identity theft.

EverSafe also enables subscribers to designate trusted advocates to receive these alerts, and can assist with creating a recovery plan in the event of loss.

Monitoring is on a paid subscription basis, and customers of some brokerage firms can qualify for a discount, e.g. Fidelity customers.

For more go to www.EverSafe.com or call 1-888-575-3837.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com

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New Shingles Vaccine Protects Seniors Better

By Jim Miller

Special to the Times

If you're 50 or older, there's a new shingles vaccine on the market that's far superior to the older vaccine, so now is a great time to get inoculated. Here's what you should know.

Shingles, also known as herpes zoster, is a burning, blistering skin rash that affects around 1 million Americans each year.

The same virus that causes chickenpox causes shingles. What happens is the chickenpox virus that most people get as kids never leaves the body. It hides in the nerve cells near the spinal cord and, for some people, emerges later in the form of shingles.

In the U.S., almost one out of every three people will develop shingles during their lifetime.

While anyone who's had chickenpox can get shingles, it most commonly occurs in people over age 50, along with people who have weakened immune systems. But you can't catch shingles from someone else.

Early signs of the disease include pain, itching or tingling before a blistering rash appears several days later, and can last up to four weeks.

The rash typically occurs on one side of the body as a band of blisters that extends from the middle of your back around to the breastbone. It can also appear

above an eye or on the face or neck.

In addition to the rash, about 20 to 25 percent of those who get shingles go on to develop severe nerve pain (postherpetic neuralgia, or PHN) that can last for months or even years. And in rare cases, shingles can also cause strokes, encephalitis, spinal cord damage and vision loss.

New Shingles Vaccine

The Food and Drug Administration recently approved a new vaccine for shingles called Shingrix (see Shingrix.com), which provides much better protection than the older vaccine, Zostavax.

Manufactured by GlaxoSmith-Kline, Shingrix is 97% effective in preventing shingles in people 50 to 69 years old, and 91 percent effective in those 70 and older.

By comparison, Zostavax is 70 percent effective in your 50s; 64 percent effective in your 60s; 41 percent effective in your 70s; and 18 percent effective in your 80s.

Shingrix is also better than Zostavax in preventing nerve pain that continues after a shingles rash has cleared — about 90 percent effective versus 65 percent effective.

Because of this enhanced protection, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone age 50 and older, receive the Shingrix vaccine, which is given in two doses, two to six months apart.

Even if you've already had



shingles, you still need these vaccinations because reoccurring cases are possible. The CDC also recommends that anyone previously vaccinated with Zostavax be revaccinated with Shingrix.

You should also know that Shingrix can cause some adverse side effects for some people, including muscle pain, fatigue, headache, fe-

ver and upset stomach.

Shingrix is (or will soon be) covered by insurance, including Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, but be aware that the shingles vaccines are not always well covered.

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

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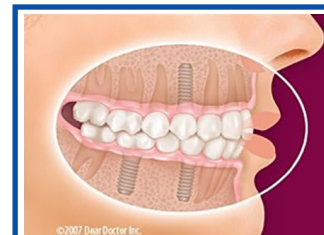
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REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Show Me the Money, Honey

With home prices soaring like a SpaceX rocket, it should be no surprise appraisers are having difficulty appraising homes at current contract prices.

Since the current inventory of homes-for-sale is at an all-time low, buyers, scrambling to get a home before they are priced out, are throwing money willy-nilly at every decent home they can find to compete with multiple offers.

Result? Appraisals are coming in low and buyers must make up the difference from their pockets if they want to complete the sale.

If they can.

And there's the rub. It's what separates buyers that land a home from those who do not. In a nutshell, it's cash. Lots of it. In fact, in many parts of the Bay Area, sellers are insisting that all offers come with no appraisal contingency.

In other words, regardless of the appraisal value, by removing the appraisal contingency buyers are stating that they will not use a low appraisal to try to renegotiate the price or cancel the contract.

In addition to removing the appraisal contingency, we are currently seeing many offers with all contingencies removed, which means that buyers will make up the difference between a low appraisal and the contract price or stand to lose their deposit.

As an example, if a buyer with an 80% loan and 20% down writes an offer for \$900,000 on a home listed at \$800,000, their down payment will be \$180,000 and the loan will be \$720,000. If the home only appraises for \$800,000, however, the lender will only lend 80% of the appraised value, which is \$640,000. This means the buyer will need to come up with an additional \$80,000 in cash to make up the difference.

Fine if the buyer has the cash. If not, the transaction is in trouble.

To prevent this from happening, listing agents are requesting that offers be accompanied by a buyer's verification of available funds. They want to see recent statements for bank and/or investment accounts actually showing the required amount of liquid

cash.

Our team went a step further and developed an appraisal calculator that, once the offer price, projected appraisal price and available funds are entered, tells us immediately whether a deal will fly or not.

While some buyers object to revealing financial statements, sellers are saying, "Show me the money, honey." It's the only way they can be sure the offer is viable or not.

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.

Mortgage Rates Jump to Highest Level in More Than Four Years

Demand remains high despite borrowing costs

Average mortgage rates last week continued their upward trajectory, rising to highs not seen since late summer of 2013, according to Freddie Mac's weekly survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.58 percent last

week, up from 4.47 percent the week before. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 4.03 percent.

Fifteen-year rates averaged 4.02 percent, up from 3.94 percent. A year ago at this time, the 15-year rate averaged 3.27 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.74 percent last week, up from 3.67 percent.

"Mortgage rates are now at their highest level since the week of August 22, 2013," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac chief economist. "Despite the increase in borrowing costs, demand for home purchase credit remains solid."

The Mortgage Bankers Association reported in their latest mortgage applications survey that activity was up 11 percent from a year ago.



Single-level Home with Lots of Upgrades — Isn't That What You've Always Wanted?

No more climbing stairs. This beautiful single-level home in the prestigious Bay-O-Vista neighborhood is ready for a new owner. Located at 1572 Benedict Drive in San Leandro, this fine home features a completely remodeled kitchen with new appliances, beautiful hardwood floors, energy-efficient double-pane windows and new interior doors. In over 2,110 sq. ft., other features include 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, family and formal dining rooms, 2 fireplaces and large backyard with fruit trees. Asking Price: \$774,975. Presented by "The Realtors In Motion." Take a Virtual Tour at www.ListedByAntonio.com. Open Sunday Noon to 3:30 p.m. We'll show your house to the world! For more information, call Antonio M. Cardenas at 510-326-4263.

RECENT HOME SALES

San Leandro

1326 Ardmore Drive	94577: \$915,000	3 BD - 2,667 SF - 1957
109 Dabner Street	94577: \$570,000	2 BD - 992 SF - 1898
493 Dolores Avenue	94577: \$766,000	3 BD - 1,314 SF - 1900
285 Elsie Avenue	94577: \$659,000	3 BD - 1,228 SF - 1946
730 Oakes Boulevard	94577: \$1,004,000	3 BD - 2,476 SF - 1941
1222 Seeley Street	94577: \$367,000	3 BD - 1,026 SF - 1951
2077 Washington Ave	94577: \$372,500	2 BD - 888 SF - 1984
1221 136th Avenue	94578: \$625,000	3 BD - 1,638 SF - 1950
1470 164th Avenue	94578: \$680,000	3 BD - 1,564 SF - 1963
15956 East 14th Street	94578: \$415,000	2 BD - 918 SF - 2008
935 Figueroa Drive	94578: \$710,000	3 BD - 1,435 SF - 1955
1554 Oriole Avenue	94578: \$600,000	7 BD - 2,133 SF - 1951
1644 Oriole Avenue	94578: \$610,000	2 BD - 1,022 SF - 1946
14068 School Street	94578: \$665,000	3 BD - 1,376 SF - 1956
15482 Blue Heron Court	94579: \$690,000	3 BD - 1,321 SF - 1999
15452 Heron Drive	94579: \$740,000	4 BD - 1,651 SF - 1998
1136 Mersey Avenue	94579: \$650,000	3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1950
1146 Mersey Avenue	94579: \$679,000	3 BD - 1,148 SF - 1950
1936 Vining Drive	94579: \$740,000	3 BD - 1,524 SF - 1958
14647 Wiley Street	94579: \$675,000	3 BD - 1,492 SF - 1951

TOTAL SALES:	20
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$367,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,004,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$670,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$656,625

Castro Valley

19527 Center Street	94546: \$1,000,000	2 BD - 1,259 SF - 1925
2303 Farley Street	94546: \$800,000	3 BD - 996 SF - 1948
17370 Robey Drive	94546: \$660,000	3 BD - 1,307 SF - 1948
2742 Sydney Way	94546: \$758,000	4 BD - 1,635 SF - 1952
2845 Sydney Way	94546: \$875,000	4 BD - 1,856 SF - 1992
17793 Vineyard Road	94546: \$719,000	3 BD - 1,427 SF - 1957
2537 Watson Street	94546: \$620,000	2 BD - 1,016 SF - 1948

TOTAL SALES:	7
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$620,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,000,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$758,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$776,000

3253 Jamie Way	94541: \$750,000	3 BD - 1,640 SF - 1984
3024 Rafahi Way	94541: \$700,000	3 BD - 1,278 SF - 1955
22652 Sonoma Street	94541: \$675,000	3 BD - 1,262 SF - 1989
21990 Thelma Street	94541: \$610,000	3 BD - 1,200 SF - 1955
28760 Barn Rock Drive	94542: \$1,160,000	4 BD - 3,045 SF - 1996

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Mold Is Hazardous to Home and Health

By **Samantha Mazzotta**
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

If you've been noticing a mildew odor in your bathroom, that smell is most likely from mold growth. If you can't visually locate a patch of mildew or mold, such as in lower corners of the wall or the shower, contact a plumber. It's very likely that a water leak somewhere behind the wall is causing the mold problem.

Even a small amount of mold in a home can trigger allergies or breathing problems in many people. It's also a warning signal

that water is damaging important parts of your home – not just the drywall but the wood framing, sheathing, foundation and more.

A leaky supply or drainpipe can mean water is dripping behind the walls. A plumber can inspect these pipes without causing damage to the rest of the bathroom. The plumber will then recommend the best action to take to stop the moisture damage and remove the mold. If mold is affecting carpet or wallpaper in the area, you'll need to replace those items as well.

If dampness is a constant prob-

lem in the bathroom, make sure the room is getting adequate airflow, even if the original problem is repaired. An exhaust fan is fairly inexpensive and quickly removes humidity from the bathroom – for example, after a hot shower. In most states a fan is required by building codes, and the plumber likely will recommend you install one if there isn't one already.

Home Tip: Clean up mold with a mild detergent rather than bleach, which can irritate your lungs.

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A	—	12-3:30	1572 Benedict Dr.	\$774,975	3/2.5	RE eBroker Group	Antonio Cardenas	510-326-4263
C	1-4	1-4	2464 Mikemary Ct.	\$799,000	3/2	Berkshire Hathaway	Cathy Brent	510-381-1065
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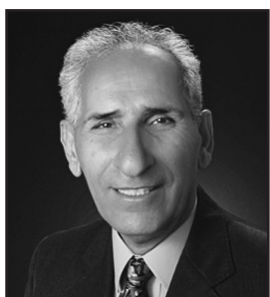
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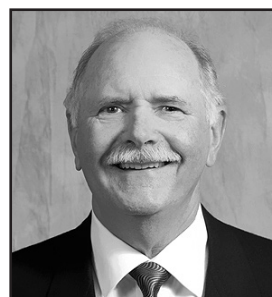
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San Leandro Times / Castro Valley Forum

San Leandro Competes at WACC Center Meet

By Andrew Joseph
San Leandro Times

Varsity boy and girl athletes from San Leandro High and Castro Valley High competed in the West Alameda County Conference (WACC) track and field meet with four other schools on Thursday at Hayward High.

Senior Pirate Jeremy Washington placed first overall in the long jump with 22'1". The jump was his season best until Saturday, when he jumped his new season record 22'5" at the Sacramento Meet of Champions.

"It takes a serious mind state to compete at a high level in this league," said Washington. "The goal this season is to personal record in everything, more so my jumps. To win big this year at WACC and NCS we have to stay healthy, stay away from injuries, and get stronger."

Other notable performances for the varsity men include Pirates' senior Dale Hodges who placed sixth in the long jump with a jump of 19'8", Castro Valley's Jared Flemming who placed second in the discus with a throw of 125'2" and second in the shotput with a distance of 44'6.5", San Leandro senior Jesse Reynoso who finished fourth in the 200 meter dash with a time of 23.50 and second place in the 400 meter dash with 53.94, Trojans' sophomore David Elliott who won the pole vault with 11', the Pirates' 4x100 team that placed

third with a time of 44.77, and Castro Valley's sophomore Caleb Davis who won first place in the high jump with a leap of 5'8".

"For me personally the focus today is to do my best and win, the focus as a team is to try to get first and second in the long jump with me and Jeremy," said Hodges. "Confidence, hard work, and strength is what it takes to perform well in the WACC."

Nearing the close of the regular season with WACC and NCS championships around the corner, this meet gives a preview of what the finals may be like this year. Though he did not compete in his signature event 100 meter dash at the WACC Center meet, San Leandro senior Femi Ajose will be a factor to watch for in the next few weeks during championship runs.

"It takes a lot of effort, concentration, and simply just showing up ready to practice," said San Leandro head coach Richard Ellison. "We're just looking to finish this season strong in the best position that we can."

Notables for the varsity women include Pirates' junior Kayla Lee who placed fourth in the 100 meter dash with 13.16, Castro Valley sophomore Nyah Paulding who placed first in the 200 meter dash with a time of 26.35 and first place in the 400 meter dash with a personal record of



PHOTO BY ANDREW JOSEPH

San Leandro No. 1 singles player Ben Duong hits a forehand in his match against Austin Ralleta of Mt. Eden on Tuesday.

1:01.37, San Leandro sophomore Mehkyla Clarke finished third in the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.64, and senior Trojan Allanah Lee who won the 100 meter hurdles with 16.12, won the triple jump with a distance of 40'1" and also won the long jump with a leap of 16'6.75."

"It takes passion, drive, initiative, and practice to do well at this level of competition," said San Leandro varsity girls' 4x100 team member Nichole Fairly. "My goal this

season is to break 12 seconds in my 100 meter time and break one minute in my 400 meter time. I think we can make it all the way to CIF State in the 4x100 if we can get out hand-offs right and get out knees up."

The Pirates look to make a statement this year at WACC, NCS and state finals with athletes like Ajose and Washington already making pace to perform well.

San Leandro's next meet is next Thursday at day one of

the WACC Championships at UC Berkeley and the CIF State Burrell Field, with day two on Championship finals are on Saturday, May 12. The NCS finals are on Saturday, May 26, at High School in Clovis.

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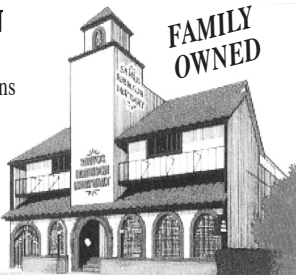
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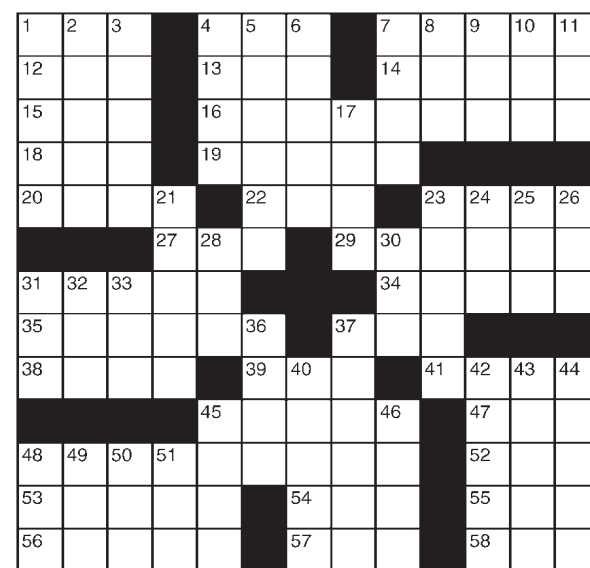


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THE TIMES CROSSWORD



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ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

Eva Lorraine Gill

Eva Lorraine Gill passed on April 26, 2018 at the age of 91 in Castro Valley, Ca. She was born on March 18, 1927 in Chicago, IL. She graduated from San Leandro High School, College of San Mateo and College of Notre Dame with a Masters degree.

Lorraine worked for and retired in 1991 from the County of San Mateo, serving in various departments throughout her career. In her retirement years she volunteered for the Senior Center, helping seniors understand the aspects of using a computer, earning a Volunteer of the Year Award. She was also a volunteer for the Friends of the Library which brought her many hours of pleasure.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Olga Frey and father, Henry Frey and former husband, Chester Gill. She is survived by her daughters, Christine Snyder, Janet Guthrie, granddaughter, Jennifer Dooley and brother, Vernon Frey. Also survived by the lovely ladies of the Library, Carol, Sue C., Sheila and Sue W. who provided her with many hours of companionship in her last year.

Mom is finally out of pain and at peace. She will be missed. At her request, there will be no services.

Free Citizenship Application Event Tomorrow

Ohlone College at 39399 Cherry St. in Newark will host a free Citizenship Application Day tomorrow, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

Interested persons will be able to review the step-by-step process of naturalization, meet with evaluators to assess their ability to naturalize, get application preparation and have applications reviewed by an immigration attorney or qual-

ified legal representative.

Those attending will need to bring two copies of their green card (front and back), a list of all the addresses where they have lived in the past five years, all the trips they have taken into and out of the US, and other documentation as specified when you register for the event.

The citizenship application fee (check or money order) is

\$725 if you are under 75 years of age, or \$640 if you are older. Application fee waivers are also available for low income individuals.

Pre-registration is recommended. To register, or for more information, call 510-251-2846, or, if Spanish-speaking 510-540-5296), or visit: www.ebnatz.org.

Parking at the campus is \$4 per car.

Food Pantry Saturday

All Saints Episcopal Church at 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro will host a food pantry this Saturday, May 5, when food will be available to Alameda County residents from 1 to 2 p.m.

Volunteers are welcome and should report at 11:30. The Hospitality Room with snacks for guests opens at noon. For information visit saintsalive.net and click "Social Ministries"

Arts Awards Nominations Invited

Alameda County residents are invited to submit nominations for the 2018 Alameda County Arts Leadership Awards, which will recognize five people for their achievements and contributions impacting the arts.

Nominees must be residents of the county who are involved in any arts disciplines including music, dance, visual arts, literature, theater, film and video, crafts and new media.

Nominees may be artists, staff

or board members, volunteers, donors, supporters or advocates.

For official nomination instructions, phone 510-208-9646 or visit www.acgov.org/arts/awards. Nominations must be submitted online by Tuesday, May 15.

The Alameda County Arts Commission will review the nominations in June. Award recipients will be recognized in early October in conjunction with the County's celebration of California Arts Day and National Arts Month.

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.

Says Union Power Declines in Joint Ventures with Management

Editor:

John Sherr's letter ("Calls for Support for Parcel Tax to Continue School Improvements," Letters, April 26) calling for a parcel tax to "build upon" the "quiet renaissance" in the San Leandro schools reflects the conservative approach of today's union leadership.

Sherr boasts of the collaborative relationship between the teachers' union and the district management. This Team Concept approach, working as a partner with management as opposed to confronting them as an organized independent force, is a major contributor in the decline of union power and living standards.

Now Sherr, the SLTA leadership and management are joining forces to increase taxes on workers and the middle class to place a local band aid over a nationally failing education system.

Recent events have shown us what works and what doesn't. In West Virginia, the official union leadership was brushed aside by a movement from below as education workers struck in a state where striking is illegal winning wage increases for themselves and all state workers. Teachers from Oklahoma to Arizona have been in the streets in unprecedented numbers shutting down state schools and for more funding.

All school districts will be slashing education further in the coming downturn as school board representatives carry out the dictates of big business.

Building on the recent events of mass action and linking with other forces fighting austerity is what will make real improvements in education. Building the movement to combat these assaults on working people will not be made easier by taxing ourselves.

There is no shortage of money as the \$800 billion offense budget or the \$786 million one billionaire made in 2017 shows.

The California Teachers Association to which the SLTA is affiliated, has 330,000 members and is part of the National Education Association with 3 million members.

This is where our power lies, fighting from a position of strength, not in joint ventures with management.

—Richard Mellor
San Leandro

The Smallest of Things that Bring Hope to the Hopeless

Editor:

May is Mental Health Month and San Leandro residents should be proud that their city is supporting innovative efforts that make mental health care easily accessible for those needing it most.

Thirty-one percent of Americans in poverty say they have, at some point, been diagnosed with depression, compared with 16 percent of the general population. Single women of color have the highest rates of poverty and depression in the country.

Women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with depression. Tragically, they are the least likely to receive mental health care because it is so hard to find a clinician who understands their culture, speaks their language and accepts their government insurance.

Without care, many of these women will turn to unhealthy coping mechanisms that exacerbate their condition.

Through financial support from the City of San Leandro, Eden Health District and others, Restore Women's Wellness Centers is providing psychotherapy and therapeutic support groups through a team of clinicians - six African Americans, one bilingual Spanish speaking Latino and one Caucasian.

The women we serve are on Medi-Cal, Medi-Care or HealthPAC, which means they live at or below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level guidelines. On a daily basis they are seeking work while coping with single parenthood, bills, depression and anxiety, violent and toxic relationships, poor health conditions, lack of sleep and constant stress.

They often arrive at our office hungry, having not had time to eat, or no money to purchase food.

It's hard to concentrate when

you're hungry, but through the generosity of the City of San Leandro we are able to offer them granola bars, cheese crackers, nuts, and other small food items.

Sometimes it's the smallest of things that bring hope to the hopeless.

—Carole Fong
Executive Director
Restore Women's Wellness Centers

Calling for New Green Jobs Isn't

Editor:

In Jim Knowles' article ("Swalwell Calls for Assault Gun Ban," Page 1, The Times, April 26), Congressman Eric Swalwell stated that the key to green energy is tying it to new jobs.

Representative Swalwell is right: any solution to climate change that doesn't harness the power of the economy is doomed. But calling for new green jobs isn't enough.

Solar energy is poised to create thousands of new jobs, but the industry is throttled by policies that support and subsidize fossil fuels over renewable energy sources.

The real key to green energy and new jobs in the green economy is a Carbon Fee and Dividend plan, in which oil-producing and oil-importing companies would pay a fee (not a tax) into a fund from which a monthly dividend is paid to every person in the country, regardless of their energy use.

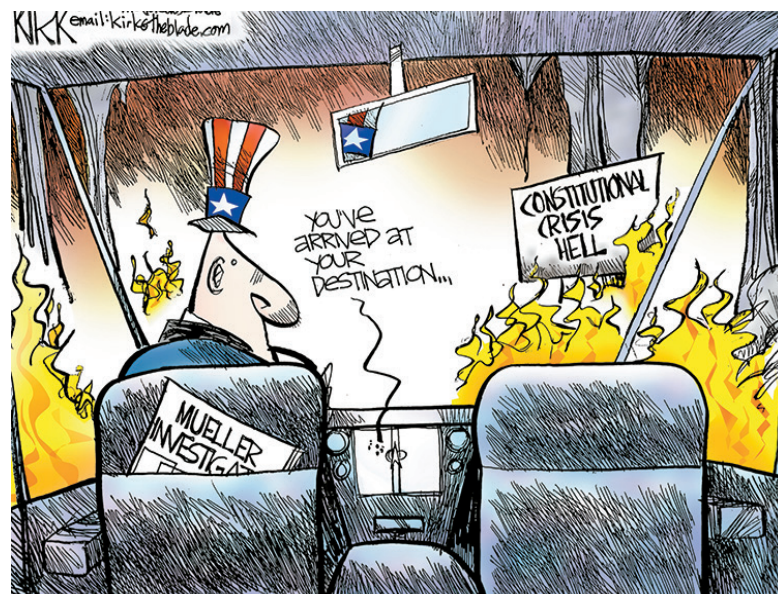
Such a plan will encourage oil companies to explore greener energy sources in order to reduce their fees, which in turn will create jobs in the renewable energy sector.

It will also encourage consumers to use more renewable energy in order to save on gas and oil, which will become slightly more expensive as a result of the fee (though this slight increase will be more than offset by the dividend). The minute oil companies start to profit from green energy development is the minute the tides of climate change will turn.

Market forces have the best chance of slowing climate change. Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation is supported by the Climate Solutions Caucus, a bi-partisan group of Congressional Representatives, of which Congressman Swalwell has applied to be a member.

It's time to take legislative action to leash the power of market forces to save our planet.

—Mal May
Castro Valley



SURVEY: MILLENNIALS HAVE A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST



Outreach: Cops interact with SL youth

continued from front page

18 and he wants to implement a pilot program so kids can use their school IDs as library cards to make library access even easier. He estimated that 35,000 young people attended 738 event at city libraries last year.

Sherwood says the library has programs from teen book groups down to baby story time, with Lego club and doggie reading buddies in between.

Councilwoman Deborah Cox said that the city's libraries can't be overestimated as resources for San Leandro youth.

"You at the library probably watch more kids after school than most after-school programs," said Cox.

And San Leandro police go directly to San Leandro classrooms as early as preschool to connect with young people.

That practice has caused some pushback from the public in the past, though police say fostering strong community relationships helps keep kids out of trouble and prevents crime.

In 2016, dozens of parents attended school board meetings, urging the board not to allow cops into the classroom as part of the Gang Resistance Education

and Training or "GREAT" program. There is also "recess with the cops" where officers come to schools to play and field trip to the police station.

Proponents of officers in the classroom said it fosters healthy relationships between authorities and young people. Opponents said they didn't like to see lines blurred between teacher and police officer. Some parents questioned whether the officers would be gathering information on the students and their families during these informal interactions.

And the school board itself has been resistant in the past to allowing more cops in schools. In 2015, the San Leandro police department received grant money to double the number of officers on campuses from two to four, but the board unanimously voted against it.

But Captain Jamie Knox told the council that events such as Santa on Motors and National Night Out give young people and police a chance to interact in a less formal setting.

Councilman Pete Ballew also coaches San Leandro High football and said that SLPD Chief Jeff Tudor stops by the school often

to talk to his players.

"Our football players have the utmost respect for SROs (school resource officers)," said Ballew. "Those of us on the football team consider Chief Tudor a third SRO. I think that speaks to the culture of the police department."

But it couldn't go without comment that San Leandro police interaction with teens has gone wrong in the recent past.

Last November, former San Leandro police officer Marco Becerra, 26, was charged with statutory rape after allegedly having sex with a 17-year-old girl in the department's Explorer program for young people interested in law enforcement careers.

Becerra resigned from the department in October after admitting to having three sexual encounters with the girl last fall. Becerra had been a former Explorer himself.

Councilman Thomas asked what measures the department was taking to make sure nothing like that ever happens again.

"What is the SLPD doing about the safety of those in the Explorer program?" asked Thomas.

Knox that Explorers programs helped him and numerous other officers pursue their careers.

He said that Becerra's actions were an "isolated incident" and said officers have since received more training and held parent meetings. He added that their goal in the future is to have both male and female chaperones at Explorer events.

The City Council thanked Dong, Sherwood, and Knox for their departments' work and Councilman Benny Lee asked what more can be done in the future — he particularly wants more focus on kids in foster care and kids who come from families that don't speak much English at home.

"I am focusing on at-risk kids because I was an at-risk kid myself," said Lee.

Artful Steps Exhibition At Main Library Next Week

Beautiful, multi-media work created by Artful Steps artists with disabilities fills both the downstairs and upstairs galleries.

Special features in this exhibit include popular mosaics, original prints and a special series inspired by the work of famous artists.

The artwork will be showing until June 30th at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue in downtown San Leandro.

For more information, contact Missy Brooks, Artful Steps Director at 510-567-2621 or email mbrooks@steppingstones-growth.org.

Open: Oro Loma Tours Food, Fun

continued from front page

Bay? A tour of the plant will help people understand how the process works.

Oro Loma's staff will be on hand during the open house to talk with young people about careers in operations, pipe maintenance, and more.

The Oro Loma Board of Directors will also be at the event to meet with the public and speak about Oro Loma's goals for the future, which include replacing at least 1.5 percent of its aging pipes annually while still maintaining the lowest rates in the Bay Area.

Visitors will also have a chance to speak with people from Save the Bay, who will be hosting a booth at their nursery site for native plants which is at the treatment plant.

Oro Loma handles waste and recycling and wastewater treatment for about 135,000 commercial and residential customers in parts of San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and Castro Valley.

Pets of the Week



Huxley



Koozo

The Pets of the Week from the Hayward Animal Shelter are Huxley the dog and Koozo the dog.

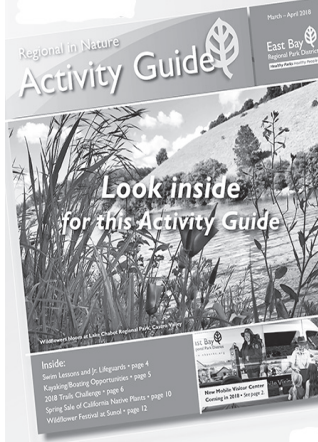
Huxley is a shy 2 yr old pup. Once he warms up, he loves to play, especially with balls. He gets along with other dogs, large and small. OK with kids 13 and older.

Koozo is a 4 yr old Chi, okay with teens and adults because he's not fond of a lot of handling. He enjoys walks and would make a great walking buddy.

Meet Huxley, Koozo, and lots of other adoptable pets at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward. For more information, call 293-7200.

This issue of the San Leandro Times contains the East Bay Regional Park District May-June 2018 Activity Guide.

If your copy of the Times does not include the EBRP Activity Guide, call 510-614-1555 or stop by the Times office (2060 Washington Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to obtain one.



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