



## Women In Business

THIS SECTION SALUTES THE  
BUSINESS WOMEN OF OUR  
COMMUNITY ..... 9

**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**CLOUDY** Rain returns late Sunday night  
HIGHS: 67-72  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 50-55

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 11

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

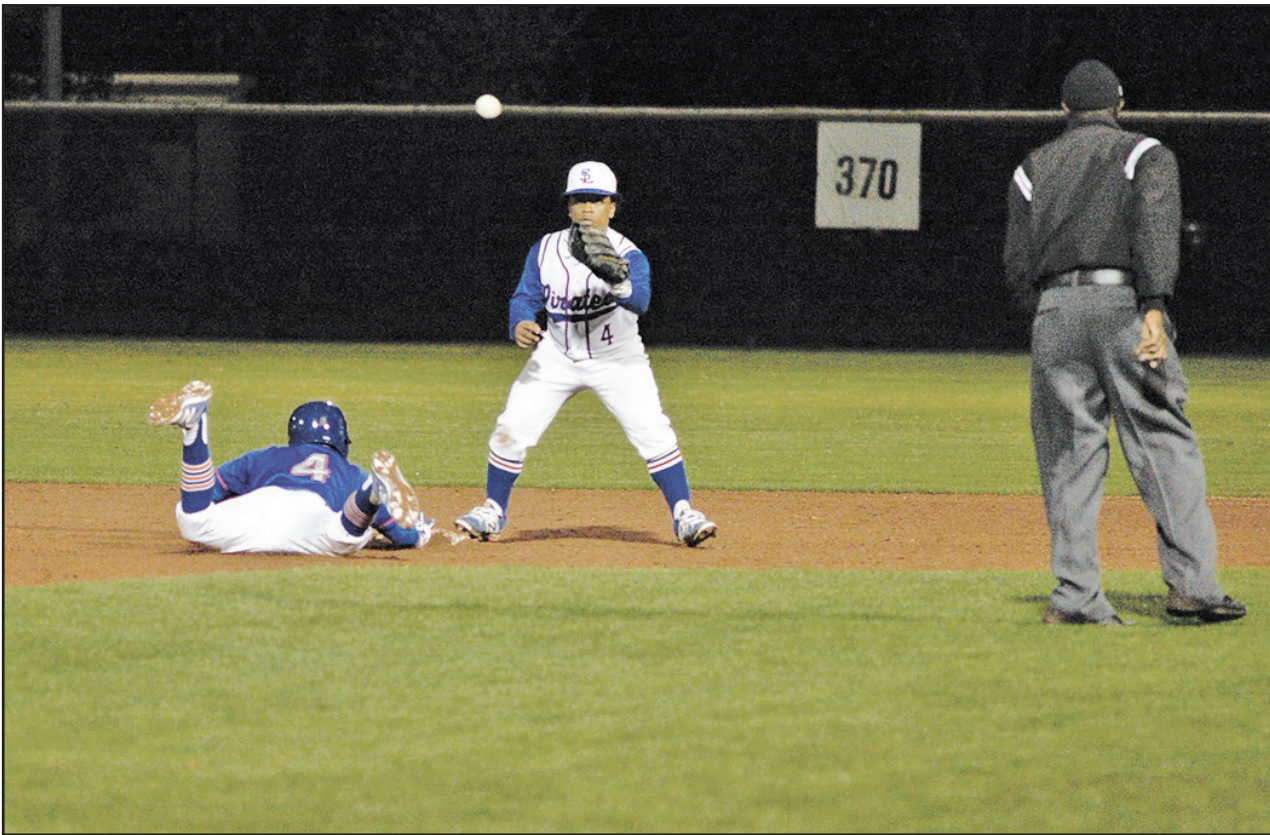


PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## Under the Lights

San Leandro second baseman Cris Delgadillo takes a throw from third baseman Trevor Krug to hold St. Joseph base runner Carson Bridges to the bag in a game the Pirates won, 15-1, on Tuesday. See story page 8.

## LifeLinks Golfers to Tee Off At Marina Course Next Week

After a winter hiatus, Holly Andersen is getting her chipping and putting back in shape to play in the Community Challenge Golf event Wednesday, March 22, at the Marina Executive Golf Course in San Leandro. Tee off time is 10:30 a.m.

Holly is part of a program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities operated by The Arc of Alameda County.

"I always loved hitting the golf ball as far as I can," said Holly, "but now I like to putt, too. It's hard to do but I like it."

Director of Public Information, Dick Fitzmaurice said this is the 5th time The Arc has brought together golfers from the San Leandro and Tri-Valley campuses. "With the help of volunteer coaches, our clients practice all year long at the driving range at Monarch Bay and at Las Positas

in Livermore," he said. "Today, they actually play on a real golf course. We thank Fremont Bank for sponsoring the event and making it all possible."

The Arc calls the golf program "LifeLinks." It was created to enhance the motor skills of Arc clients and offer an exercise program in an integrated setting. Staff soon realized that golf also increased clients' confidence levels, improved their attention spans and social skills.

Noting the event takes place during National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Arc President and CEO, Ronald Luter, said when LifeLinks started, no one believed clients would be successful at hitting a golf ball.

"Our golfers proved them wrong," said Luter. "They can do so much more than we think, even getting and keeping a job. With



TIMES FILE PHOTO

Channel 5 anchorman Ken Bastida plays in the LifeLinks golf tournament with Arc clients each year, as seen here in the 2015 tourney.

support, our clients are amazing."

Clients are paired with a non-disabled golfer for the 9-hole alternate-shot event. KPIX news anchor Ken Bastida will partner

with a client on the course then hand out awards after the round. It's the third time Bastida has been part of the event.

see LIFELINKS, page 8

## Much of Creek Trail Doesn't Follow Creek

Revised plan for creek trail to follow Estudillo Avenue

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

After years of planning and meetings, the city of San Leandro has a preliminary plan in place for a proposed bicycle and pedestrian trail along the creek.

After complaints from homeowners near the creek, the revised version of the trail veers away from the water and onto city streets – but the trail study also details alternative routes closer to the creek, which may become a reality sometime in the future.

San Leandro Creek runs just over six miles from Lake Chabot to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland.

Currently, there are short patches of trail along the creek – notably at Root Park and along Creekside Plaza – but the city wants to link the whole thing up and create a recreational asset for San Leandro, similar to the popular Iron Horse Trail that runs between Pleasanton and Concord.

When the idea of a creek trail was first made public, homeowners from along the creek were largely negative, citing concerns that the trail could attract crime, giving a getaway route for home burglars, and that homeless people live in the creek and would have access to their yards.

"From the very first meeting – it was a loud meeting – this has been a process," said Mayor Pauline Cutter as the new plan was

unveiled at a special City Council workshop on Monday night.

The latest version of the trail plan involves the trail running only on land that it not privately

see TRAIL, page 14

## PG&E Raising Rates Again

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

As of March 1, PG&E has raised utility rates and adjusted its tiered pricing model. So while some heavier energy users may see their utility bills go down, people who use less electricity may actually have their bill increase, depending on where they fall in the new tiers.

PG&E had been operating under a three-tier pricing structure that was created during the 2001 energy crisis and which is now out-dated, according to the utility. They now will operate under a two-tier system so those who were in the middle may find themselves in a different tier when their receive their next bill.

see RATES, page 8

## INSIDE YOUR TIMES

### MUSIC

Bands to play in benefit for school music. **Page 2**

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Fire on Fir Street contained to outside the home. **Page 3**

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Hocus-Focus heads out on the trail. **Page 6**

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San Leandro Times

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

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# Hospital Auxiliary Offering Healthcare Scholarships

The San Leandro Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary is now accepting applications for its annual health care scholarship program. Applications are available at the information desk or in the gift shop in the lobby of San Leandro Hospital, 13855 East 14th St. Students can also request an application from a career counselor at San Leandro or Arroyo high schools.

Each year, the auxiliary awards scholarships to college students and graduating high school seniors pursuing medical careers. To be eligible, students must live in San Leandro or San Lorenzo and enroll in health-care-related studies. Scholarships will be awarded in June for studies in the fall.

The Auxiliary awarded \$7,850 in scholarships last year and since its inception in 1972, has awarded over \$495,750 to students. Past scholarship recipients have gone on to become physicians, nurses and allied health professionals.

The deadline to apply is April 7. For more information about the San Leandro Hospital Auxiliary scholarship program or if you are retired and interested in volunteering at the hospital, call 667-4501 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The San Leandroids will play along with several other bands on Saturday night in a benefit for music programs in San Leandro public schools.

# Music Fest to Raise Funds For School Music Programs

Come to see San Leandro bands at the Cherry City Music Fest 2017 at The Englander, 101 Parrott St., this Saturday at 6:30 p.m. to benefit music programs in San Leandro schools.

Rockin' Foundation, benefit music at San Leandro public schools.

Join the fun with the bands the San Leandroids, Future/Past, Pugsley & the Dugger Brothers, and In Your Head.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Donation of \$25 at the door, or \$10 for students.

All the proceeds from this show, organized by Keep Music


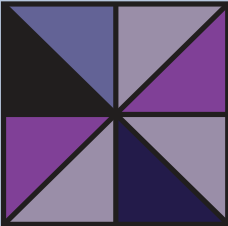
Youth Soccer League Registration

The Southern Alameda County Youth Soccer League will hold sign-ups for the upcoming season at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro on Saturday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. Sign up before April 1 in person or online to get \$15 off the registration fee. The league's website is [www.sacysl.com](http://www.sacysl.com).

# Adult School to Host Career Technical Education Open House

San Leandro Adult School, 1448 Williams St., will host a Career Technical Education (CTE) Open House on Thursday, March 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn about the following certificated training programs: Medical, Business, Accounting, and Computers. Meet the instructors.

Most classes begin April 3. For more information, call 667-6250 or go to [www.sanleandroadultschool.org](http://www.sanleandroadultschool.org).



San Leandro City Council

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter

Vice Mayor Lee Thomas, District 3

Deborah Cox, District 1

Ed Hernandez, District 2

Benny Lee, District 4

Corina N. López, District 5

Pete Ballew, District 6

City Manager Chris Zapata

To receive City Council and Commission agendas and meeting materials, press releases, quarterly newsletters and City sponsored information, you can subscribe at [sanleandro.org/mycity](http://sanleandro.org/mycity).

For more information, contact Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton, Communications and Community Relations Manager at 510-577-3372 or [swalton@sanleandro.org](mailto:swalton@sanleandro.org).


Para Asistencia en Español  
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(510) 577-3372

# SAN LEANDRO

# Connect

# Monthly

State of the City • Monday, March 27



Reception: 6:30 PM • Address: 7:00 PM

Main Library/Lecture Hall • 300 Estudillo Ave.

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter is set to deliver her State of the City Address. The event will begin with a reception featuring light refreshments at 6:30 PM and the Mayor's address will start promptly at 7:00 PM. Mayor Cutter will discuss her vision for the future and provide an update on a variety of topics important to the community.



Siempre Verde Park Renovation Wins "Project of the Year" from American Public Works Association

San Leandro was honored with two awards from the American Public Works Association of Northern California. The award recognizes excellence in public works projects and the Siempre Verde Park project was selected as "Project of the Year" and "Exceptional Performance Award". After a year of construction, Siempre Verde Park opened to the public on October 1, 2016. Over 800 children, parents and neighbors attended the much-anticipated grand opening of this beloved park. The park features new play equipment, ping-pong tables, barbecues, exercise stations and a drought-friendly field that is irrigated using a new subsurface well. Join us in congratulating our Engineering & Transportation Department!

The City is Now Hiring! Full-Time & Part-Time Job Opportunities Available

The Human Resources Division is now recruiting for a variety of positions that includes part-time Maintenance Aide and summer Recreation positions.

For detailed information about all job opportunities and to apply, please visit: [sanleandro.org/depts/hr](http://sanleandro.org/depts/hr)

City Council Adopts Resolution Declaring San Leandro a Sanctuary City

San Leandro continues to be one of the most diverse cities in the country. Approximately half our local households speak a language other than English at home and over 35% of our residents were born abroad. The City values the importance of building community by creating a safe and inclusive environment. To that end, the City Council unanimously voted to declare San Leandro a "Sanctuary City" on February 21st, thereby affirming current City practices that prohibit local Police Department actions based solely on an individual's immigration status. Nevertheless, anyone who commits a crime in San Leandro will continue to be arrested and prosecuted.

The City continues to monitor unresolved questions such as the possible withholding of federal funding. In short, the resolution affirms current practices that are already in place to protect public safety, while making clear that everyone is welcome in San Leandro, regardless of residence status.





PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

## Report Storm Damage

The county is asking for people who have storm damage to their property to report it. Sheriff Gregory J. Ahern, as Director of Emergency Services, has proclaimed a local emergency for Alameda County in response to the winter storms. As a result of the proclamation, the Alameda County Office of Emergency Services is seeking damage assessments from local residents and businesses related to the series of storms. If your property or business experienced storm-related damage, contact the Office of Emergency Services at 2017stormdamage@acgov.org. In your reporting please include your contact information, address of damaged property, type of damage, photographs and repair estimates. A representative will contact you.

## Fire Contained Before It Hit Duplex

A one-alarm fire broke out outside a duplex on the 1500 block of 150th Avenue Sunday morning.

The fire started at around 6:30 a.m. and was contained before it got the inside of the home, though some items being stored on the property were damaged.

Three women who lived at an adjacent apartment on the 1500 block of Fir Street were displaced when smoke entered their home from a broken window.

No one was injured and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

## Check Your Batteries When You Change Your Clocks

Daylight saving time began last weekend and the Alameda County Fire Department reminds everyone one that's a perfect time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. Install smoke alarms in all sleeping rooms, hallways that lead to sleeping areas, basements and each additional level of your home.

## WATCH BATTERIES DONE RIGHT

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## Public Invited to Comment On County Sheriff's Office

On Sunday, April 2, a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive to examine all aspects of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services.

As part of the on-site assessment, interested agency employees and the public are invited to offer comment at a public meeting to be held on Monday, April 3 at 4 p.m. The meeting will be located at the San Lorenzo Village Homeowners Association, 377 Paseo Grande in San Lorenzo.

The accreditation process recognizes professional excel-

lence achieved by adhering to law enforcement best practices. Accredited agencies undergo periodic assessment to verify their adherence to specific standards.

Accreditation lasts for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards under which they were originally accredited.

People who are unable to attend the public meeting may phone in their comments at (925) 803-7886 on Tuesday, April 4 between the hours of 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The telephone line provides the caller with direct access to the CALEA assessors.

Telephone comments, as well

as appearances at the public meeting, are limited to 10 minutes in length and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA standards. A copy of the standards will be available at the meeting. Those interested in reviewing the standards prior to the meeting are encouraged to call (510) 208-9830.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments about the Alameda County Sheriff's Office's ability to comply with the standards of accreditation may mail them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc., 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155.

## DA Settles \$14 Million Suit with BP

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley announced recently a \$14 million settlement with BP West Coast Products LLC, BP Products North America, Inc., and Atlantic Richfield Company over allegations that the companies violated state laws regarding operating and maintaining motor vehicle fuel underground storage tank laws.

The suit alleged that BP failed to properly inspect and maintain underground tanks used to store gasoline for retail sale at approximately 780 gas stations in California over a period of 10 years and violated other hazardous material and waste laws.

The complaint alleges that, since 2006, BP has improperly monitored, inspected, and maintained underground storage tanks used to store gasoline for retail sale; tampered with or disabled leak detection devices; and im-

properly handled and disposed of hazardous wastes and materials associated with the underground storage tanks at retail gas stations throughout California.

BP currently owns or operates 73 gas stations in California.

## Job Opportunity — ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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Please email resume to:  
[claudettem@ebpublishing.com](mailto:claudettem@ebpublishing.com)  
or fax to 510-483-4209.



## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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## NEIGHBORS



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## Passersby & Tree Leave Their Mark

A tree that fell across Bancroft Avenue earlier this winter left a slight dent in the railing on the bridge over San Leandro Creek. And apparently, the sawed-off tree has turned into a platform for social media, the old-fashioned way.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### ❖ *The Maltese Bodkin*

#### at San Leandro Museum

The San Leandro Players present *The Maltese Bodkin* on Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April 9, and Fridays from March 31 to April 7, at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro. Written by David Belke and directed by Sage Hindley the play follows the intrepid gumshoe as he solves the mystery of the deadly bodkin amid savory and unsavory

characters from the realm of Shakespeare. Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for seniors, TBA members, under 12 and students. For more information or reservations, call 895-2573. Order tickets online at [www.slplayers.org](http://www.slplayers.org).

### ❖ *Morrisson Theatre*

The Morrisson Theatre Chorus, under the musical direction of César Cancino, will present "Spring Concert: Stage and Screen" on Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18, at 8

p.m.; and Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 adult, \$15 for under 30/over 60 and \$12 for students. For tickets or more information, go to [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org) or call 881-6777. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre is located at 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward.

### ❖ *Adobe Art Gallery*

The Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley, presents the works of Sorensdale Recreation Center in the upcoming exhibit *The Artist Within 2*, featuring a variety of media including two and three-dimensional work. The exhibit opens with an artists reception on Saturday, March 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. and runs through April 29. Hours are Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Sorensdale Recreation Center is a facility and program of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) that provides opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to learn and practice recreational, educational, daily living and community skills.

Keep your out-of-town friends and family informed with a subscription to the *Times*!



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## HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Keep an open mind about a suggestion you see as unworkable. Give it a chance to prove itself one way or another. The results could surprise both supporters and detractors.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** News about an upcoming venture causes you to make some last-minute adjustments in your plans. But the extra work will pay off, as you come to learn more about the potential benefits opening up.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** A more positive aspect grows out of your determination to reach your immediate goals. Continue to keep your focus sharp and on target by steering clear of petty quarrels and other pesky problems.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** By acting as a voice of reason, you can avoid adding to an already turbulent situation. You might have to shout over the tumult, but your words ultimately will be heard and heeded.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** The possibility of a new acquisition always makes those Leonine eyes light up. But be careful that what you see is what you want. Appearances often can be deceiving.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** No matter how much you might feel that you're in the right, resist saying anything that could reignite a still-unresolved situation. Let the matter drop, and move on.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Help with a personal problem comes from an unexpected source. You also find workplace pressures easing. Use this period of calm to restore your spent energies.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** You might have to share the credit for that project you're working on. But there'll be enough credit to go around, and your efforts will be recognized and rewarded.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Details need to be dealt with before you can move on to another area. Make sure you don't leave any loose ends that could later cause everything to unravel.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** News about a change in the workplace carries with it a challenge you could find difficult to resist. Check it out. It could be what you've been waiting for.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Allowing your artistic nature full expression will help restore your spirits and will put you in the mood to take on that new career challenge. A Libra creates excitement.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Expect to happily plunge right into a hectic social whirl starting at week's end. Your aspects favor new friendships as well as the strengthening of old relationships.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ❖ *Adult School Career Open House*

San Leandro Adult School, 1448 Williams St., will host a Career Technical Education (CTE) Open House tonight, March 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn about the following certificated training programs: Medical, Business, Accounting, and Computers. Meet the instructors. Most classes begin April 3. For more information, call 667-6250 or go to [www.sanleandroadultschool.org](http://www.sanleandroadultschool.org).

### ❖ *Native Sons Prawn Feed*

The Native Sons of the Golden West, Estudillo Parlor #223, will host a prawn feed on Saturday, March 18, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Cocktails start at 6 p.m. and dinner begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For tickets, call 760-1419 or email [fleischman@comcast.net](mailto:fleischman@comcast.net).

### ❖ *St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Dinner*

The St. Leander Conference of St. Vincent de Paul will hold a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser dinner on Saturday, March 18, at Ryan O'Connell Hall, 575 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. The social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. with corned beef or chicken, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, rolls, dessert, and coffee. There will be a raffle and door prizes. Tickets are available at the St. Leander's Parish office, 474 W. Estudillo Ave. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$7.50 for children under 12. Deadline to purchase tickets is March 16. For more information, call 895-5631.

### ❖ *Catholic Daughters Salad Bar Luncheon*

The Catholic Daughters, Court #2400, will host the 3rd Annual Salad Bar Luncheon and Bingo on Saturday, March 18, at the St. Felicitas Church Msgr. McGinty Hall on 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 and proceeds support the Rice Bowl Project. To reserve your seat, RSVP Kim at 940-5949 by Sunday, March 12.

### ❖ *The Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast*

The Hayward/Castro Valley Kiwanis Club will have a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 18, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Kenneth Aitken Senior Center, 17800 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. The cost is \$10 per person for adults, \$30 for a family of 4, \$5 for children from 5 to 10. Proceeds go to community projects and scholarships. Come join the fun with a cake walk, basket raffles, silent auction, and door prizes. For more information, call 886-1100.

### ❖ *The Cooler Art Show & Reception*

Meet local artist Bob Heubel at The Cooler pub, 1517 East 14th St. in downtown San Leandro, on Sunday, March 19, from 5 to 8 p.m. Now through the end of April, a collection of more than 40 paintings are on display from his "Landscapes & Mindscapes" exposition. The reception is free and open to the public but you must be 21 or older to attend.

### ❖ *Open Cockpit Day at Aviation Museum*

The Oakland Aviation Museum, 8252 Earhart Road (just off Doolittle Drive) in Oakland, will host an Open Cockpit day on Sunday, March 19, from noon to 4 p.m. Visitors can sit in famous aircraft, including the A-3 Skywarrior, A-4 Skyhawk, A-7 Corsair, Harrier and the MiG-15. Refreshments will be available and live music will be provided by The Friends of Ken Band, plus kids' activities, magic show, face painting and balloons, and a roller derby demonstration by the Quad City Derby Bombshells, and a drone demonstration. The Oakland Aviation Museum aims to educate the public on the de-

velopment of aviation at historic North Field. For more information, call 638-7100 or go to [www.oaklandaviationmuseum.org](http://www.oaklandaviationmuseum.org).

### ❖ *San Leandro Swim Team Tryouts*

The San Leandro Swim Team will hold tryouts for the upcoming season on Monday, April 3, at 6 p.m. at the San Leandro High School Pool, 2200 Bancroft Ave. All swimmers ages 4 to 18 interested in joining the team come prepared to demonstrate your skills. Swimmers should be comfortable in water and able to swim 25-50 yards unassisted. For more information, go to website - San Leandro Drowning Darryls - Team Unify or call 913-0850.

### ❖ *Ecumenical Good Friday Service*

All are welcome to an Ecumenical Good Friday Service on Friday, April 14, at noon. The gathering will be hosted this year at All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro. This service will include familiar hymns and reflections on Christ's "Seven Last Words" by clergy from different congregations throughout San Leandro as well as from the CEO of Davis Street ([www.davisstreet.org](http://www.davisstreet.org)), Rose Padilla Johnson. A special collection will be taken to support Davis Street's services to low income residents of our community.

### ❖ *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.

### ❖ *4th Sunday Breakfast for Veterans*

American Legion Post 117 will host breakfast from 8 a.m. until noon every 4th Sunday of the month at the San Leandro Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1105 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The menu will be eggs-to-order, bacon/sausage, hash browns, toast and coffee. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior and veterans, and \$4 for children under 12. Everyone is welcome.

### ❖ *SL High Class of 1987 Reunion*

San Leandro High School Class of 1987 is having its 30th reunion on Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Dublin, 6680 Regional St. in Dublin. See old friends and raise a glass to our class. Early-bird ticket pricing is available until March 1. For more information and tickets, go to [www.nationalreunions.com](http://www.nationalreunions.com) or call 888-4-ALUMNI.

### ❖ *Pacific High School Class of 1967 Reunion*

Pacific High School Class of 1967 will have its 50th reunion in June at the Marriott Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road in Pleasanton. A meet-and-greet will be on Friday, June 16, followed by a dinner-dance on Saturday, June 17 (the date the class graduated), and a Sunday breakfast on June 18. No payments accepted at the door. To register, or for more information, call Sue Ferreira Nunes at 209-830-7415. Information can also be found at [PacificHigh-Vikings.com](http://PacificHigh-Vikings.com).

### ❖ *Soroptimists Yard Sale*

The Soroptimists will have a yard sale (weather permitting) on Saturday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 3841 Somerset Ave. in Castro Valley, with lots of good stuff, tools, shoes, clothes, sports gear. For more information or to donate, call Lynn Levin at 593-7377. The best time to drop off donations is Friday evening, March 31, after 5 p.m.

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.



## AUTOMOTIVE

## Acura Updates MDX Crossover

By Steve Schaefer  
San Leandro Times

**T**he MDX is Acura's midsize entry in the popular crossover SUV field. That segment remains hot, as more and more people skip the sedans and step up (literally) to the taller, roomier and, at times, thirstier rides.

The MDX got redone for its third generation in 2014, so it was time for an update. This refresh means that much of the structure is the same, including the engine and drivetrain, but there's significant new styling and features for 2017.

The most obvious change is the updated grille, hood, fenders and front fascia. It gives the car a more restrained and subtly handsome appearance. Acura has crafted the new hood and front fenders from lighter-weight aluminum, as part of a program of making many small changes to improve EPA fuel economy and environmental scores.

Those numbers, for my 4,215-pound tester, stood at 19 City, 26 Highway, and 22 Combined for fuel economy. I averaged 18.5 mpg during my test week. The green scores were 6 for Smog and 5 for Greenhouse Gas, not too bad for a six-passenger car of this size.

Other appearance changes are to the brand-unique Jewel Eye LED headlights, along with new side sills and rear fascia. And, upper-level models get new 20-inch alloy wheels, replacing the former 19-inchers.

The MDX offers one engine choice — a 3.5-liter V6, which puts out 290 horsepower and 267 lb.-ft. of torque. The power flows through a nine-speed automatic with steering wheel paddles to let you select the gear. Cruising down the road, it'll shift up, but when you need the power to accelerate onto the freeway, it'll drop down to give you the punch required.

The engine employs Variable Cylinder Management to widen the power band and maximize

fuel efficiency. When you start up or need instant power, the system uses all six cylinders, but during low or moderate engine loads, such as cruising, VCM uses just the front half of the cylinders.

The MDX comes in just one model, but you can upgrade it by moving from the standard front-wheel drive to Super Handling All-Wheel Drive (SH-AWD). On top of that, you can add the Technology Package, Advance Package and Entertainment Package in various combinations.

My White Diamond Pearl test car had SH-AWD and the Technology and Advance packages, so it was well stuffed with more items than I can list. But, for quick reference, here's roughly what you'll get when you order more than the basic car.

The Technology package adds stuff you'd expect — navigation, communication (real-time traffic with street and freeway conditions) and a premium 10-speaker audio system with HD Radio. You also get more convenience with remote engine start, three-zone climate control and rain-sensitive wipers. Safety includes the Rear Cross Traffic Monitor.

The Advance Package adds the luxury items, including perforated leather seats, second-row captain's chairs, real wood trim, parking sensors, foglamps, sun shades, and more. You can really load this baby up.

For safety, the next-generation Advanced Compatibility Engineering (ACE) front frame structure makes the strong MDX a top crash test scorer for frontal collisions. For other crashes, including

The restyled 2017 MDX's diamond pentagon grille represents the new face of Acura.



Miles Per Gallon	
19 CITY	26 HIGHWAY
COMBINED: 22 MPG	
EPA Green Vehicle Scores	
Smog:	6
Greenhouse Gas:	5

from the side, Acura's steel door stiffener ring protects occupants in a crash or a rollover. In fact, the MDX, along with its smaller RDX sibling, received TOP SAFETY PICK+ ratings from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

The AcuraWatch features provide Adaptive Cruise Control, which keeps a set distance from the car in front. Other electronics warn you when you're crossing a lane line — and can gently move you back in. There are warnings for imminent front collision, too.

Inside, the MDX is a fine cruiser and commuter. The seats are super comfortable and the look is way upscale. On cold mornings, the heated steering wheel — with its control right there on the wheel itself, was a dream.

Typical for a crossover, you sit up high, and can see ahead. Acura has all the information you need on a center-mounted information screen, but the instrument panel itself is a clean and simple white-



A large storage area in the center console can accommodate a purse and even tablet computers.

on-black.

With the nine-speed automatic controlled with paddles, there's no lever on the center console — just a line of differently shaped buttons. Dynamic Mode lets you select Comfort, Normal or Sport mode. I pretty much left it in Normal, but for curving back roads you could go for Sport, and perhaps dial in Comfort on long freeway jaunts.

Prices start at \$44,990 for the front-wheel-drive model with no

extra packages. With lots of useful and safety-enhancing extras, my tester came to \$57,340. Both prices included nearly \$1,000 for shipping.

At this price, Acura is competing with BMW, Mercedes, Lexus, Cadillac, and other upscale brands that market midsize crossovers. They're hoping that you like their new look, long list of features, and the general goodness of the Honda lineage.

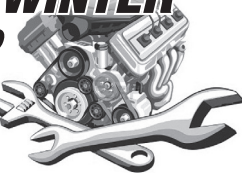
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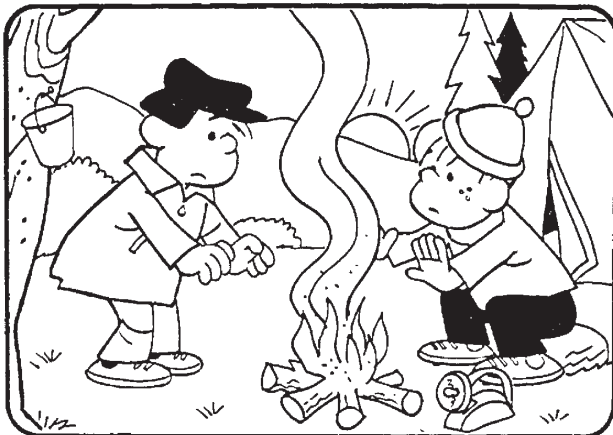
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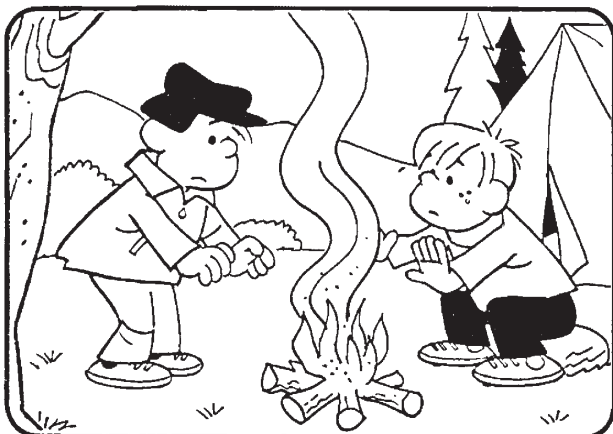
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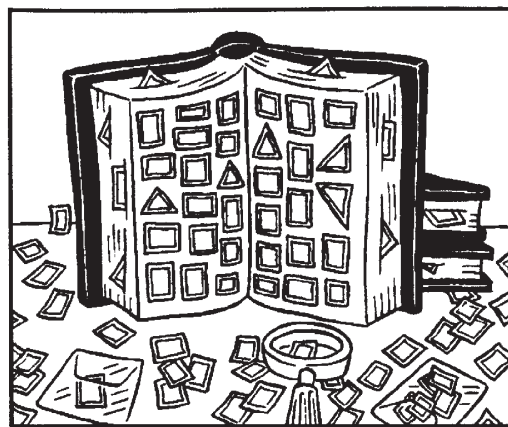
BY  
HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sap is missing. 2. Coat is shorter. 3. Sun is missing. 4. Hat is missing. 5. Tent flap is different. 6. Flashlight is missing.



**A STAMP STUMPER!** You have 30 seconds to lick this challenge. See if you can correctly count all the postage stamps pictured.

Answer: Our count was 80. Did you miss any?

### FIND THE HIDDEN CITY

in this man's sentence!

THE NEW TESTING METHOD CAUSED MY SCORES TO BE SWOLLEN IN GRADE SCHOOL!

Answer: The city is ... LEN IN GRAD ... (Russia).

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

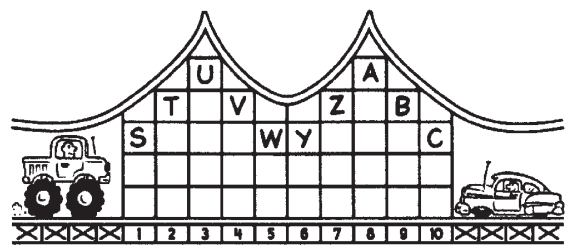
Answers: (Across) bat, rue, ire, man, (Down) Brim, aura, teen.

BRUNET

	A	
R		E
I		
M	A	



### A WORD BRIDGE



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

1. A gullible person (sl.).
2. Able to speak without offending.
3. To turn over.
4. To change direction; swerve.
5. A humorous person.
6. Wild, shaggy-haired animal.
7. Spirited enjoyment; gusto.
8. Unpleasantly sharp taste or smell.
9. Found on a radar screen.
10. A shy or modest person.

Answers: 1. Sap. 2. Tact. 3. Upend. 4. Veer. 5. Wit. 6. Yak. 7. Zest. 8. Acrid. 9. Blip. 10. Coy.

Illustrated by David Coulson



## How to Stop The Snoring

By Jim Miller  
Special to the Times

Snoring is a very common problem that often gets worse with age. Around 37 million Americans snore on a regular basis, according to the National Sleep Center.

Snoring occurs when the airway narrows or is partly blocked during sleep — usually due to nasal congestion, floppy tissue, alcohol or enlarged tonsils.

But snoring can be much more than just an annoyance. It can also be a red flag for obstructive sleep apnea, a serious condition in which the snorer stops and starts breathing during sleep, increasing the risks of cardiovascular disease, stroke, cardiac arrhythmia and hypertension.

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, 34 percent of men and 19 percent of women who snore routinely have sleep apnea or are at risk for it.

### Self-Help Remedies

Even if you are unsure whether it is a primary snoring problem or sleep apnea, sleep experts suggest you start with these steps.

- **Open a stuffy nose:** Over-the-counter nasal strips such as Breathe Right may help. Or, if allergies are the cause, try saline nasal sprays.

- **Elevate the head:** Buying a foam wedge to elevate a person's head a few inches can help reduce snoring, or buy a contoured pillow to lift the chin and keep the tongue from blocking the back of the throat during sleep.

- **Sleep on side:** To prevent back sleeping, which triggers snoring, place a pillow against your partner's back to keep them from rolling over.

- **Avoid alcohol before bed:** Alcoholic beverages can relax the muscles in the throat, and constrict airflow.

- **Lose excess weight:** Fat around the neck can compress the upper airway and impede airflow.

- **Quit smoking:** Smoking causes inflammation in upper airways that can make snoring worse.

### Need More Help

If these lifestyle strategies don't make a big difference, your partner should see the doctor, a sleep specialist or an otolaryngologist who may recommend an overnight study to test for apnea.

For primary snoring or mild to moderate sleep apnea, an oral appliance that fits into the mouth like a retainer may be prescribed. This shifts the lower jaw and tongue forward, keeping the airway open.

Other options are Theravent snore therapy (theraventsnoring.com) and Provent sleep apnea therapy (proventtherapy.com), which are small nasal devices made to improve airflow.

But the gold standard for moderate to severe sleep apnea is a continuous positive airway pressure, or CPAP, device. This involves sleeping with a mask and is



## Advance Planning Still Required for Medi-Cal Eligibility

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

**Q:** A while back, you wrote an article advising that the obligation to repay Medi-Cal for benefits received during life changed as of January 1, 2017. Does that mean that we no longer need to include Medi-Cal planning powers in our estate planning documents?

**A:** Not at all. While the rules requiring "payback" to Medi-Cal have changed dramatically for persons dying after January 1, 2017 (making only estates that go through probate subject to recovery), there is still a need to plan ahead for Medi-Cal eligibility and those rules have not changed.

**Background:** Elders in need of nursing home care face costs of \$9,000 per month or more, and risk running through a lifetime of savings to finance that care. Fortunately, the Medi-Cal program offers a safety net, helping those who qualify avoid financial ruin.

However, Medi-Cal has strict resource caps to qualify: \$122,900 in non-exempt assets for a married person, and only \$2,000 for an unmarried person.

Persons over the resource caps must either shoulder the entire financial burden themselves until they "spend down" to the caps, or engage in proactive Medi-Cal planning to bring themselves under these caps.

However, to engage in this planning, the applicant must either have full mental capacity at time of need or have legal documents in place — with special provisions — so others can do so for them.

Consider these examples:

(1) **Mary: Married Person:** \$300,000 in Cash Assets: In this case, Mary and her spouse are over the Medi-Cal resource cap by \$177,100, and she would not qualify for a Medi-Cal subsidy.

However, there may be lawful strategies that could be used to bring the couple's assets down be-

low the resource caps. Examples: give away the excess to children, albeit in a very special, Medi-Cal compliant manner; use the excess funds to purchase a special kind of annuity; or, convert excess cash assets into exempt assets, such as by paying down a home mortgage.

However, if Mary is incapacitated, she may be unable to join in these actions, unless special powers were included in her Power of Attorney and/or Trust authorizing others to do so for her.

(2) **John: Single Person: Home Sale Contemplated:** Let's suppose John cannot live safely at home. He anticipates the need to sell his home, worth \$750,000, to finance care in an Assisted Living Facility ("ALF") on a private pay basis.

If his care needs later increase and he needs nursing home care ("NH"), the sale proceeds would then likely place him over the Medi-Cal resource cap and render him ineligible for a NH subsidy.

A better plan: If a special

Medi-Cal Asset Protection Trust ("MAPT") were created to hold title to the home, and the home were placed into this trust before its sale, then the sale proceeds would not go to John, but rather to his Trustee, who could use them initially for John's care in the ALF.

When he later needed a Medi-Cal NH subsidy, the proceeds would not be treated as owned by John. He might then qualify for a NH subsidy if his other resources were below the cap, and thereby preserve his estate for family.

However, if John lacked capacity, this option may be unavailable, unless he had advance planning documents in place to permit others to create the MAPT.

In sum, it is still wise to include special Medi-Cal planning powers in your estate planning documents, for possible future need.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).

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## Rates: 'Increases add up'

continued from front page

In addition to the modifications to the pricing system, PG&E customers will also see another 2.1 percent increase in their electric bills as "transmission rates" have increased.

### Utility Reform Advocates Critical of PG&E

Advocates for utility reform have criticized PG&E, not for the pricing on the actual energy, but for the reliance on rate hikes to pay for their aging infrastructure.

Also as of the first of the month, PG&E has begun a "high use surcharge" for homes that use more than four times the baseline amount of electricity for their locations and season.

The utility estimates that less than 10 percent of the residential

customers will be hit with the surcharge.

All these changes come on the heels of two separate rate hikes from PG&E in the past year — one 7 percent increase on gas bills last August and one \$3 monthly change that began in January.

A dollar here or there may not seem significant, but all those rate increases add up over time, according to consumer watchdog group, The Utility Reform Network (TURN).

"The numbers may seem complex, but the conclusion is a simple one," said Marcel Hawiger of TURN in a written statement. "PG&E's gas transportation rates, reflecting prices that are fully under PG&E's control, have skyrocketed. When I started

working on natural gas issues back in the early 2000s, the rule of thumb was that the 'procurement' and the 'transportation' rates were each about half of the bill. Today, the transportation rate, which is wholly driven by spending under PG&E's control, is more than two-thirds of the total rate."

The utility points out that, although rates are going up, the average PG&E customer will still pay less than the nationwide average for utilities.

## LifeLinks: A day on the golf course

continued from front page

To support the LifeLinks program, a \$25 donation will buy a custom tee sign for the tourney.

To purchase a customizable tee sign, visit <https://arcalameda.org/event/save-date-community-challenge>. "Here's to a hole-in-one for everybody" could be one message. Another might be "Keep Your Head Down," the perennial bit of advice amateurs give to beginning golfers.

## Comedy Night for St. Felicitas

St. Felicitas School CYO will host a comedy night fundraiser this Saturday at 8 p.m. at The Englander Pub, 101 Parrott St. in San Leandro, starring Rudy Ortiz & Friends. Tickets are \$25 or \$40 per couple. Sorry, no kids allowed for this show.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

San Leandro High starting pitcher Jordan Woods threw four scoreless innings in a win against St. Joseph's last Tuesday.

## Pirates' Bats Come Alive Under the Lights

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

Alex Perreira went 4-for-4 as the San Leandro bats came alive in a 15-1 win over St. Joseph's in a game played at the College of Alameda last Tuesday.

The evening game — pre-Daylight Savings Time — extended into the darkness and Perreira said that suits him fine.

"There's something about playing under the lights I really like," said the Pirates catcher.

Behind the plate, Perreira worked with Jordan Woods who pitched four innings of shutout baseball before he was replaced by a reliever.

"Jordan had good stuff tonight," Perreira said. "No runs and no walks allowed. He shut 'em down."

San Leandro jumped out early with a big second inning to take a 9-0 lead. That inning was

highlighted by a 2-run double by Gerald Nervis and a RBI single by Cris Delgadillo.

Ferreira led off another big inning in the fourth with a base hit through the hole to left. Before the inning was over, OJ Aihie had driven in a run, and Nervis and Josh Campuzano both had 2-run doubles.

Campuzano had three hits in the game, two of them doubles.

Nervis chalked up the big score as a comeback from the day before when San Leandro was on the losing end of another lopsided game, a 17-3 loss to Moreau Catholic.

Hector Abarca pitched in re-

lief in the fifth for San Leandro, and Camari Delgadillo pitched the sixth and seventh innings.

Abarca started off a little loose, giving up walks to load the bases. But then he came through with a strike-out to end the inning with the bases full.

The Pirates pulled off a smooth 4-6-3 double-play to end the third inning with the bases loaded. Second baseman Delgadillo fielded a sharp grounder, flipped the ball to shortstop Jamie Garcia at second who whipped the ball back to Tyler Hidalgo at first for the final out.

This week, San Leandro will host Hayward on Friday at 4 p.m.

## Pirates Pancake Breakfast

The San Leandro High baseball team is hosting its 6th Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser this Saturday, March 18, from 8 to 11 a.m. in the SLHS cafeteria,

2200 Bancroft Ave.

Tickets will be available at the door: \$8 for adults, \$6 for kids 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under.

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Born and reared in San Leandro, I was exposed to Real Estate my entire life, as my father, Al Rinetti, opened the doors to Rinetti & Co in 1970! I joined the family business in 1999 and now, 17 years later, I find myself appreciating everything that I have been taught, learned and loved doing on a daily basis is still very much alive within me. We have a fantastic team of professional associates, both family and friends that have made the success of my father's business survive and thrive for many years beyond his mentoring. We continue to make a difference in our community by helping sellers with the difficulties in selling their homes and buyers navigate through the stresses of entering into the market. This career is much more than a business to me, it is a life I chose to dedicate my time, love, patience and professionalism to.



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Over the years, I've navigated many industry changes, each time acquiring new skills and problem-solving abilities. I consider those skills "tools" for use in the future, adding them to the knowledge I've gained throughout my career. Consistently overcoming the challenges of an ever-changing business makes me better able to meet the needs of my clientele.

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### Terry Martinez

Broker / Owner / Notary

So much of Real Estate is relationships. San Leandro has been my home for 18 years. Being local gives me more than just a competitive edge... it also means I have a vested interest in our community. I have worked hard at establishing my career as a Broker and business owner in the same community where I live, shop and am raising my five children! I get great pleasure from seeing past clients at community events, and knowing that business can evolve into friendship.

It has been said that it is not work if you love what you do. That is exactly how I feel! As always, see you in the neighborhood!



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### Teri Martinez

Registered Dental Assistant

Teri has been the "Right Hand Person" for Dr. Bruce Stephenson in San Leandro for almost 20 years. Since July 2013, the two of them have formed an entirely new dental practice limited to only Invisalign, Clear Braces and Cosmetic Dentistry. "I love this aspect of dentistry," says Teri. "Often people are not too crazy about going to the dentist but our patients are really happy about it! Every time they see us, we make their smile better! Because we treat so many patients with Invisalign and other types of clear braces, we have the experience to do cases that other dentists thought were impossible. It's really fun and very rewarding!" When Teri is not busy creating great smiles, she enjoys all the myriad activities in San Francisco where she lives and staying in great shape doing "boot camps" and "extreme workouts."



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Lynn is a multi-million-dollar producer with a focus on service and real estate with "a personal touch". She brings over 30 years of experience selling residential real estate in this area. She has been awarded the Bay East Association of Realtors' Grand Master Award and is a consistent Top Producer in her area. Lynn has been the President of Soroptimist International of the East Bay and currently is their Membership Chair. A few years ago she served as the district's Fellowship Director awarding over \$100K to women completing their doctorates. Soroptimist is a worldwide group founded in Oakland in 1921 and dedicated to helping women and children locally and throughout the world. At the local level, the group's focus is on helping raise money for the indigent, battered and elderly members of the community. A recent addition is helping at-risk women become free from trafficking in the East Bay. Born in New York City in 1947 to an Italian-American family, Lynn attended Hunter College and then went on to own her own ethnic music store in Greenwich Village, "the House of Musical Traditions." She was an accomplished craftsperson, building dulcimers, and later did music management. Lynn has one son who she home schooled and who graduated from Dominican College on a tennis scholarship with a degree in business. And, of course, saving the best for last — 8 years ago, she was blessed with a beautiful granddaughter.



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### Stephanie Christmas

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- Certified Pricing Strategy Advisor (PSA)
- Certified Accredited Staging Professional (ASP)

Stephanie has had the pleasure of representing buyers and sellers throughout the Bay Area and beyond, including Alameda, San Francisco, Contra Costa and Lake counties. In 2008, she achieved Broker status and opened Six Degrees Realty, a comprehensive boutique real estate brokerage. Stephanie is a shrewd and conscientious negotiator. From providing expertise in first-time home buying programs, to assisting seniors through the process of real estate transition, Stephanie's expertise spans the spectrum.

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## WOMEN IN BUSINESS

*Don't miss out on the opportunity to be in our next special section published on Oct. 12, 2017.*



# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## Who Pays for Inspection Reports?

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

Buyers looking to buy a home must not only ensure they have enough cash for the down payment, they must factor in one-time closing costs. Ranging between \$7,000 to \$12,000, fees include title insurance, escrow and loan costs and a multitude of other transaction charges. Buyers paying cash fare better because they have no loan-related costs.

While closing costs remain reasonably consistent, and there is clear delineation between buyers and sellers as to who pays for what, there is one area that fluctuates based on market trends. It's viewed as a wildcard because there can be questions as to who will end up paying. The expense?

Inspections.

Normally, buyers pay for property, roof and termite inspection reports and can include others if deemed necessary. It's assumed that since the buyer is the one making the purchase, they have the highest level of interest in determining the overall condition of the home.

In a hot market, however, sellers have figured out that they can obtain significant leverage by obtaining the reports up front.

The logic is straightforward: By providing a full battery of inspection reports, along with all the rest of the mandated disclosures, they add an extra level of disclosure which allows a buyer to write more intelligent offers.

With full disclosure, buyers can therefore remove their inspection contingency from the beginning, significantly strengthening their offer.

There is an additional bonus. I've seen transactions blow up when inspections, done after entering escrow, have revealed serious issues that scared away the buyers.

With the inspections prior to marketing, there are no report-related surprises in escrow since everyone knows the condition from the beginning. Since this gives the owner a chance to address any serious issues prior to going on the market, it further enhances their selling position.

It also provides an environment where a buyer can write an offer that is completely "as-is," meaning that they will not be coming back later to ask for any repairs.

Some sellers still push back at the idea of paying for upfront reports, insisting it's customary for buyers to pay, and pay they must. Savvy sellers have realized, however, that with a small upfront investment, they can end up with substantially higher offers because they have effectively removed a primary excuse buyers use to write lower offers.

With comprehensive disclosures and reports in hand, sellers end up smiling all the way to the bank.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association at [www.ccmgtoday.com](http://www.ccmgtoday.com).



### 4119 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton • Open Sunday 1-4

Upgrades completed on this 3-bedroom 2-1/2-bath Pleasanton townhome located just a very short walk from downtown and excellent schools. Features include custom tile flooring, expensive carpeting and unique lighting throughout. Offered by Matt Jones of Robert Jones and Associates with offices located in the heart of downtown San Leandro at 142 Joaquin Ave. For more information, call 357-0120.



## Mortgage Rates Hit 2017 High

Thirty-year fixed mortgage rates hit their highest mark of 2017 last week when they surged to 4.21 percent from 4.10 percent a week earlier. At this time a year ago, the 30-year rate averaged 3.68 percent.

The 15-year fixed-rate loan

jumped to 3.42 percent from 3.32 percent. A year ago at this time, the 15-year rate averaged 2.96 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.23 percent, up from 3.14 percent.

## Slow Garage Door Signals Torsion Spring Issue

By Samantha Mazzotta  
Special to the Times

If your garage door has been opening very slowly lately, or you have to push the remote button several times to get it to move, your garage door probably needs some overall maintenance.

Having to mash the remote operating button several times could indicate that the garage door's sensor eye is dirty or misaligned. Or, the battery on the remote might need changing.

However, the door's slow opening speed indicates a more serious problem. One of the door's torsion springs — a pair of large coils straddling the horizontal bar at the top of the door that helps control opening and closing — may be broken or on its way out. A broken spring can't be repaired; it must be replaced.

You'll probably read plenty of warnings on the internet about



Removing and replacing the torsion springs of your garage door can be dangerous. It's best to have a pro do it.

attempting to replace them yourself. Since the coils are under tension, especially when the garage door is closed, removing them can be dangerous.

I don't have enough space to tell you how to do it safely, but if you're interested in what it takes to change these out, a detailed description can be found at [DDMGarageDoors.com](http://DDMGarageDoors.com). DIYer Richard Kinch provides even more good info in "How I Replaced Deadly Garage Door Torsion Springs and Lived to Tell the Tale," found here: [www.truetex.com/garage.htm](http://www.truetex.com/garage.htm).

If you decide against repairing the door yourself, contact a

licensed garage-door repair professional to inspect the door and its hardware and estimate the cost of repairs.

As with any repair that you need to hire someone for, follow the "rule of three" — contact three different professionals and get a written estimate from each before allowing any work to be done.

While you're waiting for the repair, do not open or close the door. Park your car in the driveway for now. Operating the door with a broken torsion spring can cause further damage, including misalignment or derailment.

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## Expect Plenty of Snails, Slugs; Transplant Christmas Cactus

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** I think snails and slugs are going to be a big problem this year because of all the rain. Is there a way I can eliminate them before I plant?

**A** Yes, snails and slugs will be a huge threat to plants this year. Unfortunately, your chances of eliminating or eradicating them from any garden are nil as they're a permanent pest.

Snails feed at night on herbaceous plants rather than on woody ornamentals. As the sun comes up, they look to hide in cool, dark areas. They also hide in the canopy of ornamentals like citrus, camellias, and others where they feed on the leaves.

Each adult snail lays less

than a hundred eggs. A young snail takes four months to two years to mature, depending on the availability of food and moisture. Because of our climatic conditions, it's sooner rather than later.

After the rainy season concludes, an adult snail retracts into their shell in dry non-irrigated areas. They close off the opening with a mucus seal that hardens. Snails can remain dormant in this condition for up to four years. Hence, they are a year-round problem.

Watering in the evening hours contributes to their activity while a soil surface that is dry will limit their movement.

You can control snails and slugs with a variety of organic methods such as hand picking, stale beer, egg shells, copper tape and organic baits. Sluggo is the organic bait safe to use around edibles and non-edibles along with kids and pets.

Copper tape is recommended for controlling snails in or-



naments. The tape is attached to the main trunk, about two feet off the ground. It prevents the snails from advancing into the canopy. In addition, bait the area under the canopy for an additional layer of protection.

There is no advantage to baiting ahead of planting as there is nothing to attract the snails, unless you're applying it to a ground cover. So, I'd wait until planting and spread the bait over a wide area and repeat monthly.

During the summer and fall, you can reduce the size of the application area to those areas under irrigation.

**Q** When would be the best time to transplant my Christmas cactus and what type of soil should I use?

**A** Christmas Cactus can be transplanted year round. This is done every three to four years, or you may prefer

to wait until you notice a few roots growing through the drainage hole. They're divided after they finish blooming and before the flush of new growth.

Transplanting a Christmas cactus is a pretty straightforward task. The diameter of the new pot shouldn't be any more than two inches larger than the old container, with a drainage hole in the bottom.

The root ball is placed about an inch below the rim of the new pot. The fresh potting soil is added to fill in the void and tamped down to remove any air pockets. Any of the commercial potting soils will do.

And, finally, water and, if necessary, add some additional soil.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers. His web address is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com). Email questions to [dirtgarden@aol.com](mailto:dirtgarden@aol.com) or go to [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero).



## RECENT HOME SALES

### San Leandro

2273 Bermuda Avenue	94577	\$606,000	3 BD - 1,129 SF - 1962
129 Broadmoor Boulevard	94577	\$555,000	3 BD - 1,991 SF - 1912
2354 Claridge Place	94577	\$492,000	N/ABD - 1,659 SF - 1977
186 Estabrook Street	94577	\$451,000	2 BD - 1,352 SF - 1935
1547 Hays Street	94577	\$696,000	3 BD - 1,655 SF - 2008
2466 Marineview Drive	94577	\$887,273	4 BD - 2,433 SF - 1962
224 Oakes Boulevard	94577	\$660,000	2 BD - 1,256 SF - 1925
1526 Pierce Avenue	94577	\$515,000	2 BD - 840 SF - 1942
14145 Trinidad Road	94577	\$650,000	3 BD - 1,336 SF - 1961
1451 142nd Avenue	94578	\$505,000	2 BD - 816 SF - 1942
768 Begonia Drive	94578	\$755,000	4 BD - 2,741 SF - 1979
486 Olive Street	94578	\$450,000	2 BD - 865 SF - 1947
14792 Crosby Street	94579	\$610,000	3 BD - 1,148 SF - 1956
680 Fargo Avenue #21	94579	\$350,000	2 BD - 840 SF - 1965
670 Fargo Avenue #6	94579	\$388,000	3 BD - 1,136 SF - 1965
15244 Laverne Drive	94579	\$680,000	4 BD - 2,243 SF - 1958
2220 Oceanside Way	94579	\$709,000	4 BD - 1,923 SF - 1999

TOTAL SALES: 17

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$350,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$606,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$887,273 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$585,840

### San Lorenzo

2193 Corte Hornitos	94580	\$490,000	3 BD - 1,548 SF - 1956
716 Via Pacheco	94580	\$295,000	3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1944

### Sheffield Village

3145 Middleton Street	94605	\$740,000	3 BD - 1,964 SF - 1947
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### Castro Valley

19548 Alana Road	94546	\$650,000	4 BD - 3,157 SF - 1947
19525 Barlow Court	94546	\$825,000	4 BD - 2,000 SF - 1960
21786 Dolores Street	94546	\$580,000	2 BD - 996 SF - 1948
18450 Dominic Lane	94546	\$1,025,000	5 BD - 3,434 SF - 1993
18239 Maffey Drive	94546	\$820,000	3 BD - 1,906 SF - 1961
4537 Sargent Avenue	94546	\$565,000	2 BD - 748 SF - 1945
17714 Trenton Drive	94546	\$750,000	3 BD - 1,826 SF - 1961
20192 Wisteria Street	94546	\$550,000	3 BD - 1,248 SF - 1937

TOTAL SALES: 8

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$550,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$700,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,025,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$720,625



Josefin Junsay

## Junsay Installed As President of Asian Real Estate Association

Residential and commercial real estate broker Josefin Junsay of Realty One Group in San Ramon, a long-time resident of the East Bay, was recently installed for a second term as president of the Asian Real Estate Association of the East Bay (AREAEB).

Junsay also received a Certificate of Commendation from California Legislature Assemblyman Ron Bonta, City of Alameda Mayor Trish Spencer and City of Oakland Councilmember Abel Guillen.

Junsay and the board of directors plan to meet the ever-changing global real estate market by offering seminars and workshops, and expanding their community-service projects.

Junsay can be reached at 510-938-5732. Visit the AREAEB website at [www.ARAEB.org](http://www.ARAEB.org).



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P	—	1-4	4119 Stanley Blvd.	\$703,000	3/2.5	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Matt Jones	357-0120
H	—	1-4	26270 Parkside Drive	\$995,000	4/2.5 - 1 acre	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy P.	925-251-2536
C	—	1-3	8585 Norris Canyon Road	\$1,299,000	5/2.5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy P.	925-251-2536

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## Trail: Construction years away

*continued from front page*

owned, meaning that it will veer off the creek for large stretches, notably on Estudillo Avenue from East 14th Street all the way to the Lake Chabot park entrance.

The study also lays out an alternative route that matches the city's original plan to run the trail along the creek, which planners say could eventually be constructed in the future.

"We listened to the residents and focused on the public right-of-way, away from houses," said Anjana Mepani, a senior planner with the city.

The key was finding safe and

scenic routes that runs along the creek as closely as possible without disturbing private residences, according to Melissa Dugan, who works for Stantec, the engineering company contracted to create the plan.

"We don't want to build a trail that goes nowhere," said Dugan. Though the alternative routes closer to the creek are also documented in the plan.

The city received \$200,000 from Caltrans, \$40,000 from the city of Oakland, and put in \$10,000 of city funds in order to complete the study.

Constructing the trail would

cost an estimated \$21 million, with San Leandro paying about \$12.5 million and the city of Oakland paying the remaining \$8.5 million.

Any construction on the trail is likely years away. The next step is securing funding and then another series of meetings to collect more public opinion. The project will have to get permits, pass environmental standards, and be approved by both the San Leandro and Oakland city councils.

You can view the entire creek study including the proposed alternate routes online at [www.sanleandro.org/slccreek](http://www.sanleandro.org/slccreek).



Small portions of the San Leandro creek already have pedestrian access, like this stretch near Creekside Plaza.

## LOCAL DEATHS

### Joseph (Joey) Alves

August 3, 1953 – March 12, 2017  
Resident of San Lorenzo

Joey Alves passed away on March 12 at the age of 63. After years of suffering, he succumbed to his illness.

He is survived by his sisters, Nancy Teixeira and Janis Barnett; and many nieces and nephews.

Joey enjoyed movies and sports. He was a professional recording artist in the local rock band Y&T. He was a 1971 graduate of Arroyo High School.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 30, at noon at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 26320 Mission Blvd., in Hayward.



### SAN LEANDRO 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. Brief death notices are published free. Longer-length notices, including pictures, are available for a fee. For further assistance, call 510-614-1555.

### CARLSON, Earl L.

**■ CARLSON, Earl L.**, passed away on March 4, 2017 at age 89. He was a beloved husband, father, uncle and friend. Earl was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy. A service celebrating his life will be held at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro on Saturday, March 18, beginning at 10 a.m. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary (510-483-0123, [santos-robinson.com](http://santos-robinson.com)).

### Susan Lee Smith

age 72 of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on Sunday, December 11, 2016. She was born October 29, 1944 in Oakland, California to Russell and Lucille Smith. She was a graduate of Pacific High School in San Leandro.

Susan retired from Xerox Corporation before spending many years as an instructional assistant for developmentally disabled children in local school districts. Once fully retired, Susan became an artist in many realms, including painting, glass, jewelry making and more. Art became her passion.

Susan cherished her family, especially her nieces. She loved her animal family, taking her beloved Oscar to the San Leandro Marina for sunsets and snacks. She was a lifelong active member of All Saint's Episcopal Church in San Leandro before moving to Eugene, Oregon to be near her brother, Tom Smith, his wife, Stephanie, and their daughter, Sydney.

Susan made friends easily with her disarming smile and ability to strike up a conversation with anyone. She is deeply missed by many.

Susan is survived by her brother, Thomas (Stephanie); her cousin, Jim (Joyce); nieces, Stephanie (Jory), Michelle (Adam) and Sydney; great-niece, Emmalena; and cousins, Joey (son Cory) and Christine Smith.

Her memorial service will be held on Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m. at All Saint's Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd., in San Leandro.

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## Preschool Directors Win Achievement Award

Broadmoor Preschool co-directors Dale Gregory and Colleen Trujillo received the Teacher/Director Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools last week. The award honors those who have devoted a significant portion of their lives in service to the parent participation movement. Broadmoor Preschool is a play-based, parent-operated, cooperative preschool, which for nearly 80 years has fostered the development of parents and children within our families, at school, and throughout the broader community.

## Man Murdered On Selborne Drive

A 41-year-old man was found dead in his home on the 16000 block of Selborne Drive in unincorporated San Leandro on Monday afternoon, the victim of a homicide.

Deputies were called to the area at around 1:45 p.m. on March 13. They noticed a trail of blood leading to a residence and a large amount of blood near the door of the home, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Inside they found the victim, identified as Don Castillo, on the floor of the residence.

Castillo had significant injuries and it is believed that both a gun and knife may have been used in the crime, Kelly said.

Castillo was pronounced dead at the scene.

Kelly said that the investigation is ongoing, but the sheriff's office has developed information that leads them to believe that Castillo and his killer knew each other.

"The reason and the motive remain unknown but detectives are actively looking for the person believed responsible," said Kelly.

The name of the suspect won't be released until he is in custody, Kelly added.

Anyone with information or residential security footage from the area is asked to call the sheriff's office at 667-3636.

— Amy Sylvestri



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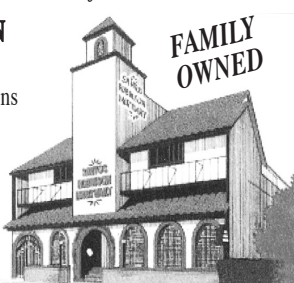
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# OPINION

## 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.

### Asks: Whatever Happened to the American Way of Doing Business?

Editor:

It's time to tell Big Brother to stay out of the back yard.

So now our esteemed City Council wants to create a new ordinance that will assess landlords a penalty if they raise rents.

This is just another step towards Big Brother telling people what they can and can't do when it comes to their business decisions. Whatever happened to the American way of doing business? It's called supply and demand.

Rents are based upon short-term conditions, i.e. one year or less, and the market will determine if the rates go up or down. If you don't like the new terms, move. It's that simple, as the rates will always be in line with market conditions and no landlord wants a vacancy by over-charging.

My question for the City Council is: Will your next move be to set home selling prices? And, if sold at a higher price, will you assess a financial penalty to the seller?

—Brent Heath  
San Leandro

### Speed Limit Changes Seem to Have Little Effect on Safety

Editor:

Get ready to slow down because of newly posted speed limits ("Speed Limits Reduced on Major Streets," Page One, The Times, March 9)?

Not so fast – if data coming from a recent speed report by the City of San Francisco is any indication.

San Francisco has one of the most comprehensive programs to eliminate pedestrian and bicycle rider deaths and serious injury through its Vision Zero plan adopted in 2014. Some of the earliest findings coming out of Vision Zero are relevant to San Leandro. Consider the findings of a November 2016 report: "Impact of Speed Limit Changes in San Francisco."

This study looked closely at nine busy streets with speed limit reductions. The data revealed that, though speed limits were reduced, the number of pedestrian and bike rider collisions on these streets remained steady. Furthermore, it wasn't clear from the study that cars were actually driven at slower speeds after the change.

This study also looked at eight residential streets where traffic-calming measures were installed.

On those streets, car speeds were significantly reduced, particularly high rates of speeding, which dropped 77 percent! This is important because the likelihood of death or serious injury increases dramatically with speed.

In the future, the authors anticipate that speed surveys and speed limit reductions will remain infrequent, owing to the state's "85th Percentile" law which governs those two types of actions. The biggest changes will

come from targeted initiatives in areas such as traffic calming, Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE), transition to proactive (as opposed to application-based) traffic calming, and other means coming from Vision Zero.

It is felt that these actions will occur more quickly and be more effective than merely enacting speed limit reductions stemming from speed surveys. We encourage leaders in San Leandro to watch San Francisco as efforts accelerate and speed the arrival of a city with zero traffic fatalities.

—Leah Hall  
—David Stevens  
—Donna Chang  
San Leandro

### Korematsu Disobeying Unjust Law Should Be Inspiration to Others

Editor:

In response to Ms. Melendy's letter regarding Fred Korematsu ("Calls Korematsu 'a Criminal,' Not a Civil Rights Pioneer," Letters, Feb. 16), it should be noted that he was arrested in downtown San Leandro and detained in the San Leandro jail.

We can agree that Korematsu was convicted of violating Public Law No. 503, which criminalized violations of Executive Order 9066. That Executive Order allowed the military to forcibly relocate 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were American citizens, to internment camps.

Korematsu, who was born in Oakland, appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the conviction in a split decision.

In his vehement dissent, Justice Frank Murphy called Roosevelt's Executive Order "one of the most sweeping and complete deprivations of constitutional rights in the history of this nation." The Korematsu decision is now widely regarded by legal scholars as one of the worst decisions ever by the Supreme Court.

Korematsu lost at the Supreme Court because the U.S. Government suppressed its own reports concluding that Japanese-American citizens posed no danger, and therefore, there was no justification for their compulsory removal from the West Coast and incarceration.

In 1983, Korematsu's conviction was rightfully overturned after these reports were discovered. President Clinton awarded Korematsu the Presidential Medal of Freedom, this country's highest civilian honor, in 1998.

When the newest San Leandro High School campus was named after Fred Korematsu in 2009, it was a unanimous decision after an open and public process. There was no "dissent."

Because of his belief in the U.S. Constitution, Korematsu disobeyed an unjust law and believed he would be vindicated. I hope that others will be inspired by Korematsu "so this will never happen again to any

American citizen of any race, creed or color."

—Mike Katz-Lacabe  
San Leandro

### Says Melendy's Letters Typical of Political Discussion in US Today

Editor:

If anyone is still bewildered about what this nation did last November, when over 60 million voters elected a bigoted dunce to the Presidency, I would suggest they read the two letters written by Ms. Cynthia Melendy in recent weeks.

The misinformation, half truths, and outright falsehoods spewed in the two diatribes contributed by Ms. Melendy are typical of what passes for political discussion in today's America.

Ms. Melendy's belligerent declaration that "I haven't changed my mind" isn't surprising in the least. She has over 60 million fellow travelers, who wear their ignorance like a badge of honor

—Vernon S. Burton  
San Leandro

### Thanks to All Who Helped Raise Funds for 'Ghost Ship' Victims

Editor:

On behalf of Zocalo Coffeehouse, I would like to thank everyone who attended our Oakland Ghost Ship Fire Relief Fundraiser on Friday, January 27.

We would also like to thank the Fundudes Band for volunteering their time to play music for the event. With the help of people from the community, we were able to raise over \$500 in just a few hours for the victims of the fire and their families.

A special thanks goes to Perry Lightfoot, a member of the Fundudes, for coordinating the event with me. When I asked him why he thought of putting on this event, he responded with, "Our reason for having the benefit is to support the families and loved ones of our brothers and sisters in the art community; also to help maintain and build stronger community involvement, outreach and support."

The money was donated to the Fire Relief, Recovery, and Resilience Fund for Oakland Fire via You-Caring. This fund is still collecting donations for this cause. We encourage everyone who couldn't make it to the event to donate online.

—Jazz Hathorn, Event Coordinator  
Zocalo Coffeehouse  
San Leandro

### Recognizing 150 Years of Portuguese Contributions

Editor:

I am writing to congratulate San Leandro's Portuguese community for their contributions to a series of Bay Area events.

These events, held from March 4 through 12, honor the positive roles past and present immigrants of Portuguese descent have played in the development of our nation, California and San Leandro.

In 1967, then-Governor Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation that declared the second week of March each year to be Portuguese Immigrant Week in the State of California. In his proclamation, Governor Reagan noted San Leandro as the

home of the proud statute of the Portuguese Immigrant. More recently, we also became the home of the Grand Migration of the Monarch Butterfly mural commissioned and completed by famous Portuguese artist Rigo 23. This art was funded by a fund-raising campaign which included St. Leander Catholic Church, the Portuguese community (led by former Mayor Tony Santos), the San Leandro Improvement Association and the City Council.

From San Diego to San Leandro, and for over 150 years, the Portuguese community has contributed notably to the growth and development of California. On Saturday,

March 4, Mayor Cutter, along with the San Francisco Portuguese Consulate, again participated in the annual wreath laying and community reception at Root Park. This ceremony kicked off activities ranging from high school celebrations in Tular to book presentations in Santa Clara as well tours of the Portuguese Historical Museum in San Jose and J.A. Freitas Library at 1120 E. 14th St. right here in San Leandro.

Please join me in bringing awareness and celebration of the 50th year anniversary of Portuguese Immigrant Week.

—Chris Zapata, City Manager  
San Leandro

## INQUIRING REPORTER

### Who has it better, men or women?

— Asked around town

Men, because they're stronger and get paid more and they can walk away from their family. The Bible says to take responsibility for your family. You don't see women walk away from their children.

**Hermena Parham**  
San Leandro



I think it's equal. Women have about the same opportunities as men today.

**Tammy Stovall**  
Oakland

All of us are feeling the negativity in the world after this presidential election. The shootings on the freeways, there's more violence than I've seen in years. People aren't as friendly and they're more cautious.

**Nicole Reals**  
San Leandro

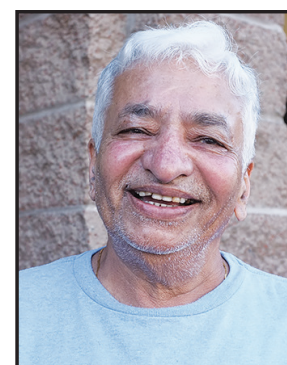


Men, because we know how to work things out. Women get too emotional. That's the way I see it.

**Richard Houston**  
San Leandro

I think it's equal, but women are at an economic and sociological disadvantage. If you ask a women out for a drink, people make assumptions that they wouldn't if you asked a man. It's the nature of the relationship that hinders acceptance of women as equals.

**Kanti Rawal**  
San Leandro





# Former Y&T Guitar Player Joey Alves Dies

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

Joey Alves, former guitar player of the hard rock band Y&T, died on March 12 at the age of 63.

Alves grew up in San Lorenzo and was a 1971 graduate of Arroyo High. In 1974 he joined the hard rock/heavy metal band originally called Yesterday and Today.

The band began writing their own songs and recorded several albums on A&M Records, led by singer and guitarist Dave Meniketti, who is still keeping the band going today.

The band's highest charting

album, *In Rock We Trust*, was released in 1986. The band toured extensively and fans would cheer for an encore by chanting "Y&T, Y&T, Y&T."

Alves sister, Janis Barnett, remembers him playing guitar when they were kids in their living room in San Lorenzo.

"I was his go-go dancer," Barnett said. "He played guitar and I danced. I kind of introduced him to my kind of music, old-time rock 'n' roll."

Alves also enjoyed movies and sports. He is survived by his sisters Nancy Teixeira and Janis Barnett



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANIS BARNETT

Joey Alves grew up in San Lorenzo and went to Arroyo.

and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 30, at noon at Holy Angels Funeral & Cremation Center, 1051 Harder Road in Hayward.

## Library to Show Movies on Haiti

The San Leandro Public Library will show two of San Leandro filmmaker Kevin Pina's films at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., this Saturday, starting with a talk by the filmmaker at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

The films are *Haiti: Harvest of Hope* (1994) and *Haiti: We Must Kill the Bandits* (2007). The screening is sponsored by Read the Book—Join the Conversation, a San Leandro Public Library community read for 2017.

Kevin Pina is a journalist, filmmaker and educator. His first Haiti documentary, *Haiti: Harvest of Hope*, focuses on the formation of elected President

Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Lavalas political movement, the military coup of 1991 and Aristide's eventual return from exile in October 1994.

The film was released for distribution in the U.S. in 1997. Pina notes: "Although this documentary is a chronicle of oppression, the courage and hope of the poor masses of the Haitian people is by far the most unforgettable element of the story."

*Haiti: We Must Kill the Bandits* (2009), also produced and directed by Pina, tells the story of the 2004 forced ouster of Aristide and the terror of the Haitian citizens that followed.

## Cherry City Toastmasters To Host an Open House

The Cherry City Toastmasters invites residents to its open house to meet members and watch special guest speaker Michael Notaro, Distinguished Toastmaster, talk about "Three Keys to Building Self Confidence" on Tuesday, March 21, from noon to 1 p.m. After the speech, members and guests will enjoy a regular Toastmasters meeting that will include prepared speeches, Table Topics (impromptu speeches) and

evaluations.

For more information, email Laura Fultz at [lfultz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lfultz@sbcglobal.net), or see the club's website at [www.cherrycitytoastmasters.org/](http://www.cherrycitytoastmasters.org/).

"Cherry City Toastmasters provides a supportive and positive environment where members have the opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills," says Fultz, club president for Cherry City Toastmasters."

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